

Parish Gardening Club

Meeting monthly on the second Saturday at 10:00am in the Church car park, starting on August 8th. The Club is being coordinated by Teresa Leese and Maggie O'Sullivan (to whom many thanks are due!)



All welcome.

Please bring hand tools and gloves!

A meditation from Anthony de Mello

Mother: What does your girlfriend like in you?

Son: She thinks I'm handsome, talented, clever and a good dancer.

Mother: And what do you like about her?

Son: She thinks I'm handsome, talented, clever and a good dancer.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation

It is still very unclear when we will be able to celebrate the First Holy Communion scheduled for May 2020, or what is going to be practical with regard to the celebration of Confirmation in the coming months.



So far as First Communion are concerned one challenge is the limited capacity of the church with social distancing, and another is how best to complete/conclude the preparation of the children concerned.

No firm plans will be made until schools return in the autumn, but in the meantime parents are welcome to speak with Fr Allen after Sunday Mass.

Preparation for First Holy Communion in 2021 begins in the autumn. Families whose children will be in year 3 in September should register as soon as possible. The form is available on the website, or in paper copy directly from Fr Allen after Sunday Mass.

Issues of capacity and preparation provide a change for next year's Confirmation programme also - only there is the additional issue of the impact of social distancing on the number of Masses that will face the bishop-elect, Rt Rev David Evans. So even more uncertainty here - but again, families whose children will be in Year 6 in September should register now: the form is available on the website, or in paper copy directly from Fr Allen after Sunday Mass.

Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for August is for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

More information at www.popesprayer.va



The Church's **Season of Creation** begins on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on October 4, the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi.

This year is the 5th anniversary of *Laudato Si'; On Care For Our Common Home*. CAFOD have resources to help us keep the season and progress to an ecological conversion.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Laudato-Si-encyclical>

What might we do as a parish for the season?

Opening parish rooms?

A number of people have asked when the Benedict Room might be opened again.

Helpful guidance has been provided from the Diocese as to how to open such rooms safely. However the present requirements are rather prescriptive, especially in a room as small as the Benedict Room.

When people are not wearing face-masks (as they would not be during coffee mornings), social distancing of 2 metres has to be observed in the room (meaning only c 6 people could use the room at any one time, and they would have to be 2 metres away from each other, which rather defeats the object.) So such meetings are out for the time being.

Meetings where people are wearing masks at all times can take place under the 1 metre rule. The room is available for groups of up to 10 or 12 people. The guidance is that refreshments cannot be served, and groups would need to follow parish rules about siting of tables/chairs, as well as taking responsibility for cleaning of room after use. So at present the restrictions are rather onerous. But if any parish group wishes to use the Benedict Room under these conditions they should contact Fr Allen to discuss things further.



On-line Support for Prayer: During lockdown began a series of weekly parish Zoom prayer meetings - on Sunday afternoons at 4pm for *Lectio Divina* and on Mondays at 7pm for Rosary.

These will continue until we are able to use the church and its meeting rooms more freely.

Zoom links are posted on the parish Blog on the day



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Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding: Ann Foulds (0121 355 7892) and Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)
Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

Mass of 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Introductory Rites

The Introductory Rites help the faithful to come together as one, establish communion and prepare themselves properly to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.

The Penitential Act

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

By hearing the word proclaimed in worship, the faithful again enter into the unending dialogue between God and the people of the covenant shared in Christ, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. The proclamation of the word is essential to the Mass

A brief time of quiet after the readings allows those present to take the word of God to heart and begin to prepare a prayerful response to what we have heard.

Isaiah 55:1-3

Thus says the Lord: 'Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Baptism's Back (and more!)

The gradual relaxation of lockdown continues.

Infant baptism is once more permitted in church, and so are marriages and funerals (although in each case the numbers who can attend are limited to 30 people.)

To arrange the baptism of children please contact Fr Allen as soon as possible.

Quite probably the next stage will be the relaxation of rules regarding meeting inside homes, and this is likely to allow us to return to bring holy communion once more to those who are sick and housebound. Fr Allen and ministers look forward to again being able to visit those they visited previously. *If you or others you know are in need of this ministry because you are confined to home, please contact Fr Allen as soon as possible.*

Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

Psalm 144(145):8-9,15-18

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

Romans 8:35,37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! *Alleluia!*

Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining; twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful (omitted at the Bishop's request)

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

For Catholics, the Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does, because at its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing and making available his saving work among us.

There is no offertory collection at this time. Instead, you are invited to place your offerings in the basket at the entrance to the church as you arrive, or as you leave.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer, the centre and summit of the entire celebration is a memorial proclamation of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation, a proclamation in which the Body and Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and the people are joined to Christ in offering his Sacrifice to the Father

The Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The eating and drinking together of the Lord's Body and Blood in a Paschal meal is the culmination of the Eucharist. The themes underlying these rites are the mutual love and reconciliation that are both the condition and the fruit of worthy communion and the unity of the many in the One.

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

*After the prayer and its response "Behold the Lamb of God...Lord I am not worthy," the priest holds up the Host to the Congregation and says **The Body of Christ** to which the people respond **Amen**.*

*In the same way, he elevates the chalice and says, **The Blood of Christ** and again the people respond **Amen**.*

For the distribution of Holy Communion to the Faithful a small table has been placed before the Sanctuary to socially distance the priest distributing Holy Communion and communicants.

Please wait in your pew until instructed by the Stewards to move forward to the priest for Holy Communion, always aware of the regulations on social distancing in the orderly queue.

When you approach the priest, please do so with arms at "full stretch" so that there is a good distance between you and the priest.

Communion will be given silently, and in the hand only. (Your hands, palms upwards, one of top of the

other, should be extended as flatly as possible.)

Having received Holy Communion, please return to directly to your place.

Prayer after Communion

The Concluding Rites

The brief Concluding Rite sends the people forth to put into effect in their daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ which they have celebrated. Their mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

Blessing

Dismissal

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Parish 50/50 Club

The draw for all months up to August inclusive have been made (under close supervision!) and cheques issued to the lucky winners. Thank you to Mary Rose for her careful stewardship of the Club and its draw!

Catholic Universe

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Financial support for the Church

You will appreciate that parish income has been cut right back over the past months, but our bills have not reduced by anything like as much!

If you are in a position to help, you might like to consider the following.

- **GIFT AID** allows the Church reclaim tax paid on your offering, to raise a further 25% for the church at no further cost to you. **STANDING ORDERS** are a very helpful way of making your offering. *Forms for GA and SO are available from Fr Allen or the parish website.*
- **GIFT AID OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** Numbered envelopes are available from the Stewards for those in the Gift Aid scheme who still use the envelopes.
- **PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES**, too, are available for other parishioners - who are not in the gift aid scheme. Again, please speak to a steward.

THE GOOD NEWS

God has revealed his love, and from the depths of the divine plan comes forth the newness of the Christian proclamation, "we can tell all peoples: 'God has shown himself. In person. And now the way to him is open. The novelty of the Christian message does not consist in an idea but in a fact: God has revealed himself.'" (Pope Benedict) Precisely because it unveils a life - this proclamation is beautiful: "The forgiveness of sins, eternal sanctification, redemption, adoption as children of God, the inheritance of heaven, kinship with the Son of God. What news is more beautiful than this? God on earth and man in heaven!" (St John Chrysostom)

The Christian proclamation communicates the divine plan, which is:

- a mystery of love: human beings, loved by God, are called to respond to him, becoming a sign of love for their brothers and sisters.
- the revelation of the intimate truth of God as Trinity and of humanity's vocation to a filial life in Christ, source of his dignity;
- the offer of salvation to all people through the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ, gift of God's grace and mercy, which implies liberation from evil, from sin, and from death;
- the definitive call to reunite scattered humanity in the Church bringing about communion with God and fraternal union among people already in the here and now, but to be fulfilled completely at the end of time.

The passage above comes from the Church's new Directory on Catechesis. It reminds that our faith is not in doctrine but in Jesus and the life he leads us to. It reminds faith grows not in learning more as much as deepening our relationship with him. It reminds that faith grows as it is shared.

- *Who would you be comfortable talking to about Jesus?*
- *Who would you hold back from? Why?*

MASS DURING THE HEALTH CRISIS

On days when there is no public Mass (because no volunteers for stewarding/cleaning) Fr Allen celebrates Mass 'privately' in the church usually at 0830.

Sa	1	6pm	18TH SUNDAY <i>Psalter Week 2</i>	Helen Wynne RD
Su	2	9am 11am		Mrs Duncan RD (Drozd) For the parish
M	3	10am		
T	4	10am	St John Mary Vlanney	
W	5			
Th	6		<small>Feast of the</small> Transfiguration	
F	7	7pm		
Sa	8	6pm	19TH SUNDAY <i>Psalter Week 2</i>	Gerry Coyle RD (Wilkinson)
Su	9	9am 11am		For the parish

NB There are no weekday Masses during week of 10 August. The next parish mass will be on Saturday 15th at 6pm. That Mass, and those of the Sunday will be a celebration of the Assumption of Our Lady.

Please pray for sick parishioners including Frances Raczka, Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke, Peggy Gallagher. Please pray for all whose anniversaries of death are at this time, including Frances Bryan, Michael Lawlor. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**