

Parish Celebration

Sunday 19th September from 12noon in the Newman Community Centre (the former Carpenter's Arms) This is to allow us to celebrate three things.

First to have a parish get together to celebrate John Garvey's ordination as deacon back in November.

Second to celebrate Gary O'Brien's ordination as deacon earlier in September

And **third** - but not least - to celebrate all those in the parish who have enabled us to remain open during these months of the Pandemic by serving us all as stewards and church cleaners. Without them our parish church would have remained closed...

If you are able to attend and be part of the celebration, please do sign up on the list inside the church. This will help us greatly with catering.

Help is needed

- to set up the hall - putting out tables/chairs/covering tables etc; setting up for drinks
- to clear up afterwards
- to serve drinks during the celebration

If you can help in any of these ways please sign up - as soon as possible - on the sheet in the church.

Also if anyone is in a position to make a donation to help defray the expenses, that too would be very welcome. Any donations can be placed in the offertory basket.

Ordination to the Diaconate

Gary O'Brien will be ordained deacon by Archbishop Bernard at St Chad's Cathedral on Saturday 4th September at 12noon.

The ordination will be live-streamed on the Cathedral's website: www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/

Children's Liturgy of the Word

It is hoped to restart this Liturgy in October. It is for children who will be in Reception through to Year 2, and will be offered at the 9am Sunday Mass.

There will be training/refresher meeting arranged in September. To help ensure the Liturgy is offered regularly we need another two or three helpers on the team. Simply being willing to be there to help make up the numbers to meet our the staffing requirements under safeguarding regulation would be a great help. If you can offer this service to the children of the parish, even once or twice a month, please see Fr Allen

Reaching out to parishioners confined to their homes

The restrictions on the ministry of Holy Communion to those at home and in care homes, etc, have been relaxed recently.

Not everyone in this situation is ready to welcome ministers into their homes yet, and some care homes impose their own restrictions on access.

However if you or someone you know is not able to come to Mass, but is ready to receive communion at home - or wishes to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, please do let Fr Allen know.

It remains the case that visits to those in hospital by priests can only be made when a request has been made through the ward staff, but you can expect that the ward will give permission if there is need for end of life care, or for spiritual support more generally. The request will be passed to the hospital chaplaincy team, and you can be sure of prompt response. In addition to the appointed Catholic chaplain, most of the local priests, including Fr Allen, are part of the back-up bank of chaplains.

What do you think about the renewal of the interior of the parish church?

We can all see it is time to clean and redecorate the interior of our parish church. However as we prepare for that it is also opportune for us to consider all sorts of other things.

- Is this the time to renew our heating system, and put in a 'greener' system?
- Adaptability of the church for other forms of liturgy and prayer, and for use by small groups. Ease of access to building and worship space for those with particular needs - eg people using wheelchairs or other mobility aids.
- An alternative placement of the organ and musicians so we can be better served by them.
- The statue of our Lady was moved to its present place to provide better and safer access during the pandemic. Should it stay where it is now? Although the temporary arrangement can obviously improved on!) In addition the other statues in the church are not necessarily in the best place for their proper use.

There are surely other things to consider and improvements that might be made.

If you have comments or thoughts that you would like to be taken into account as this project develops, please write them down and put them into the comments box on the side of the left hand side aisle of the church.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US

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Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding: Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)

Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

Seating arrangements at Mass

As of today we have increased the seating available at Mass. Fully half of one aisle of the church remains reserved for those who are socially distancing. This will allow those who sit there to be seated fully 1-metre from those not in their 'bubble'. This block of 5 benches will be on the right hand side of the church beginning with the bench in front of the organ.

Relaxing the seating arrangements in this way is in line with Government guidance and in line also with the, stricter, Church guidance.

Making this change will avoid us having to turn people away from Mass because all seats are taken, as has happened over a number of recent Sundays.

This new arrangement will be kept under review. And should it be necessary to reinstate the tighter control over seating, we will of course do so.

- Track and trace will still be used for all those coming to church.
- Anyone coming into the church is required to apply hand sanitiser.
- All those attending are required to wear a face-mask while in church (unless they are under 5, or have written evidence of a medical exemption).

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made flesh: and dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Preparing for Sunday Mass

There are many things that we can do to help ourselves prepare for Mass. The simplest is perhaps to think of three things to bring to God during Mass - one thing we are thankful for, another that we are sorry for; and another that we ask for help with.

Add to this a brief quiet review of our week or our life - that will maybe bring up other and maybe deeper things to bring to God in prayer - and we have a very fine way of preparing.

When do we begin to prepare?

Sometime before Mass! Some will leave it to the last minute, until they are already in the Church. Well, better than never. But better to give time to it earlier, if we can. It gives us more time to ponder on what we do bring to God - joys and sorrows, and needs.

Prepare alone or with others? Some don't really have much choice and will almost always do their preparation alone. But it can be a good thing for families to prepare together - maybe to share with each other what they want to bring to God in prayer during the Mass - maybe even swapping the things they want to pray about so family members pray on behalf of each other.

Begin Saturday - and, perhaps, your preparation - with the Angelus Whether we prepare alone

or with others, it can be helpful on Saturday morning (a day and time traditionally associated with Our Lady) to pray the Angelus, and be reminded of the closeness now of our Sunday Mass.

The Angelus prayer sets before us both the faithfulness of Mary, and the way in which God gifts himself to us, unites himself with us and to our human living, through taking flesh in Mary's womb and living among us as Jesus Christ.

PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

Sa	14	6pm	ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	For the parish
Su	15	9am 11am		Margaret O'Brien RIP (O'Gorman) James Gallagher RIP (Lawlor)
There are no weekday services this week.				
Sa	21	6pm	21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Brideen Clark RIP (Platt)
Su	22	9am 11am		For the parish Don Skelding RIP (Lawlor)

Please pray for sick parishioners including Brenda Davies, Elizabeth Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for Irene McSheffrey who died recently and Margaret O'Brien whose funeral is here at 1045 on 25/8 and for Mary Harrison, Michael McInnery, Josie Garvey, Margaret Stroud, Ruth Loughran Smith and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

Lord, giver of lasting life,
satisfy our hunger
through Christ, the Bread of Life,
and quench our thirst with your gift of belief,
that we may no longer work for food that perishes,
but believe in the One whom you have sent.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Introductory Rites help us come together as one, establish communion and prepare ourselves 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: *The word of God invites us into the unending dialogue between God and his people, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. A brief silence after the readings helps us take the word of God to heart and begin a prayerful response to what we have heard.*

Apocalypse 11:19,12:1-6,10

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready.

Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

Psalm 44(45):10-12,16

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:
forget your own people and your father's house.

So will the king desire your beauty:
He is your lord, pay homage to him.
They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Mary has been taken up to heaven; all the choirs of angels are rejoicing. *Alleluia!*

Luke 1:39-56

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy - according to the promise he made to our ancestors - of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

The 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 Prayer of the Faithful

The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the re-presentation of the Sacrifice of Christ to the Father, and his gift of life renewed to the Church, for the service of his mission.

The Offertory: *There is no collection during Mass. Instead, please put your offerings in the basket at the entrance to the church as you arrive, or as you leave.*

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer 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 Lord offers reconciliation in and with the invitation to share in the food and drink that is his Body and Blood. Love and mercy are the condition and the fruit of communion in the Lord.*

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion: *Please keep social distance of 1m when processing to receive Holy Communion.*

Prayer after Communion

The Concluding Rites send us out live in our daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ we have celebrated. Our mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

Blessing and Dismissal

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Leading Others in Prayer

Time was when Catholics were together, and there was an opportunity or need for prayer, people would lead a time of prayer, without any difficulty.

Over the past decades, many people's regular experience of prayer together has been liturgical prayer - mostly led by a priest. This has led to a de-skilling of our Catholic community.

Prayer - which should be the most natural of things for us as Christians, gifted with the Holy Spirit - has been something we feel awkward about, uncertain of, and often enough just back away from.

In consequence prayer as a family is less common. Many people are uncertain what to do when someone dies and friends and family gather - even when they are all Catholic friends and family. Teachers can be very uncertain about what to do when leading prayer in a classroom. Friends can be uneasy about joining together in common prayer.

This is something that needs some attention for our general health as a community - and as individuals.

If you would like to be part of **a fun and hands-on workshop** that will

- introduce you to the basics of leading prayer - in any setting
- provide simple resources that can be used in any setting and with anyone

then please email Fr Allen at stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk. Once names are in he will then contact you to see what will be the most convenient time/date for participants.

This workshop is being offered to other local parishes too. And do not worry - coming on the workshop does not mean that you will be expected to volunteer for all sorts of extra things! (Although who knows you might find that after the workshop you want to!!)