

Isaiah 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;
for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

Psalms 145(146):7-10

My soul, give praise to the Lord.
It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.
It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger.
The Lord upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

James 2:1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in
Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making
of distinctions between classes of people. Now
suppose a man comes into your synagogue,
beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and
at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby
clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed
man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats';
then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or
'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't
you see that you have used two different standards
in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges,
and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are
poor according to the world that God chose, to be
rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom
which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is
listening: you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!


Next Week: Sunday of Week 24 in Ordinary Time

Scripture readings: *Isaiah 50:5 - 9a / Psalm 116:1 - 2, 3 - 4, 5 - 6, 8 - 9 / James 2:14 - 18 / Mark 8:27 - 35*

If I can give you any advice, I beg you to get closer to the Eucharist and to Jesus... we must pray to Jesus to give us the tenderness of the Eucharist.
St Teresa of Calcutta.

Exposition and Benediction at St Nicholas

Sunday 1800—1900	Exposition and Evening Prayer <i>2nd and 4th Sundays of the month</i>
Monday 1500—1600	Exposition and Rosary
Friday 1100—1130	Exposition and Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick <i>1st Friday of the month</i>
Friday 1930—2000	Exposition and prayer for priests
Saturday 1700—1740	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession



Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

A REMINDER

Sunday and Weekday Missals are on sale in the Parish shop.

A Missal is a helpful companion to Mass. It can help us prepare for Mass, and to continue to reflect and pray with the Scriptures and prayers afterwards.

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The Ordinary of the Mass is found on p200 ff of Laudate.
The settings of Gloria, Holy, Memorial Acclamation and Lamb of God for Ordinary Time are 1013 ff in Laudate.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

Last week during the homily at Mass we had the opportunity to reflect together at Mass about the 'mess' of abuse, including sexual abuse, in the Church.
I spoke then also of how often, when that sin has been revealed, 'the authorities' have sought to hide it again in order to try and protect the reputation of the institution.

In all this the needs of victims have been woefully neglected - indeed they are often feel victims twice over as a result of the cover-ups.
By all this, the essential nature of the Church as sacrament of Christ, the Body of Christ, is compromised. The deeper realities of the Church become obscured when the focus is put on (false!) 'reputation' and 'good-order'.



There is an evident desire on the part of Pope Francis, and indeed the bishops of England and Wales to learn from past mistakes. Action has been taken over many years now to strengthen safeguarding of the vulnerable in many different ways. And when, even so, abuse does take place (as sadly it does, in the Church as in the world) there are robust ways of dealing with the guilty and offering support and help to their victims.
You might like to read Pope Francis' recent letter to the Church on the matter. It is available on the Vatican website, and you can quickly access it at <https://bit.ly/2vYpdBI>

There will be a parish Open Forum at 3.30pm on Saturday 6th October where we can explore our own feelings and reactions to all this and begin to consider how we respond longer term. Our shock and shame needs to be dealt with and we should find ways of responding to these horrors in a way that draws us closer to Christ and helps bring Christ closer to those who suffer.
On a personal note I am grateful to the many parishioners who expressed appreciation for Sunday's homily, and at the prospect of the October meeting.

On Friday and Saturday of this week I and a number of our parish's ministers of Holy Communion are taking part in *Adoremus*, the Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool. The Congress is to help us refresh our understanding of the nature of the Eucharist and to encourage a fresh application of its graceful power at the service of the Church and her mission. Christ gives
Continued on page 3

Masses Week 23 in Ordinary Time

S	8	Sunday of 23rd Week in Ordinary Time <i>Psalter Wk 3</i>	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession For the parish
Su	9		0900 1100 1800	Anne and Don O'Gorman Ints Freda Gately RIP Anniv (Gately) <i>Exposition and Evening Prayer (2nd Sunday)</i>
M	10		1000 * 1500	Holy Souls <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary</i>
T	11		1000 *	John & Patricia Hughes RIP (70th Wedding) (Brookes)
W	12	St John Chrysostom	1000*	Ann Brennan Ints (Brennan)
Th	13			
F	14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	1000 1900*	Mass with St Nicholas School (all welcome) Josie Garvey RIP (Ladies Guild) followed by Exposition and prayer for priests (until 8pm)
S	15	Sunday of 24th Week in Ordinary Time <i>Psalter Wk 4</i>	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession Virginia and Robert Harrison RIP
Su	16		0900 1100	For the parish Urszula Paskowski RIP (Szambir/Mikuta)

The church is open daily (except Thursdays) from 8am to 6pm

Morning/Evening Prayer 20 mins before weekday Masses, as indicated above *.
Exposition: & Vespers 2nd & 4th Suns, 6-7pm; **& Rosary** Mon at 3pm.

Reconciliation Sat. 1700-1730 (Exposition until 1740) and by arrangement.

Baptism, Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick: by arrangement.

Nourishing prayer at home: livingeucharist.wordpress.com/

Please pray for sick parishioners including Bernadette Evans, Margaret Stroud, Gino Mastroianni, Jude Turner, Margaret O'Gorman, Peter & Olwyn Foster, Mary Gavin, Frank Kemp, Brenda Davies; Leah Burke, Tess Carnero, Joan James, Sarah Johnston, Bridie Moffatt, Bernie Morton, Danuta Evans, Michael McDermott - and Fr Gabriel Maguire, our Dean. **Please pray for** Gerard Harkins, COnn Corcoran, Thomas Madigan, Rita Thomas and all whose anniversaries are at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

Prayer for the Sick If your name or the name of a friend or relative is on the parish list of prayers for those who are sick (see above!), and you would like the name to remain on the list, would you please contact Fr Allen in person or by email. This list of names is put up on the noticeboard at the back of church, and is available for anyone to pick up in church and is also published on the internet through the parish website. So we need explicit approval for this information to be shared in this way. **In a couple of weeks' time, the list will be restarted with the names of all for whom the parish have consent. This is necessary to make sure the church takes proper care of your information and complies with current data protection law.**

Parish

Refreshments in Benedict Room after Sunday morning masses start again next week, hopefully. *However we need confirmation from volunteers as to whether they are still available for rota. If YOU are a volunteer, or want to be, please sign up on list by the Offertory Table in church.*

SVP's annual Mass for and with the sick. Sat 15 Sept at 12noon.

Second Collections. Advance notice that next weekend there is a retiring collection to support the bishops' Agency for Evangelisation; the following weekend there is a collection for Father Hudson's Care; and the weekend of 6/7 October,

and following Harvest Fast Day on 5 October, there is a collection for CAFOD.

Book Club Next meeting is at 8pm on Monday 17 September and the book *The Diaries of Etty Hillesum 1941-3*, "A story of spiritual growth such as I have seldom seen anywhere... Etty's diaries complete Anne Frank's... a marvellous gift."

Scripture group 8pm on Tues 18th Sept. We are reading the Gospel of Luke - the Gospel that we will hear on Sundays beginning in Advent this year. This meeting we look at Chapters 3 and 4. Meeting in the Benedict Room. All welcome

Parish Ministers (Readers, Ministers of Holy Communion Music ministers - all are

invited to a meeting at in the Carpenter's Arms on Saturday 6th October at 2pm (to be followed at 3.30 by Parish Open Forum.

Rotas for Readers & Ministers of Holy Communion New rota on email and available in porch

Travelling Solo lunch All who 'travel solo in life' for whatever reason are warmly invited to meet for pub lunch straight after the 11am Mass on Sun 7 October.

Dads' Get Together Following Monday's meeting a series of meetings for the first Mondays of October, November and December are being planned. Each will be based around ten minute talk and then supper and a chance to chat/discuss. Talks will be given by local leaders in school, police etc and will all be of particular interest to Dads. Interested? Please let Fr Allen know if you are planning to come. This will help with the planning.

Rosary for Vocations. The Rosary group meets in church on Mondays at 3pm to pray for vocations. All welcome.

Preparation for Baptism of Infants. The next preparation programme begins Sat 22 Sept from 11-12noon, in the Benedict Room. Pl see Fr Allen before hand and complete an application form.

Do you drive to church on Sunday morning? If so - and if you can - please use the school car park, accessible at the end of Wakefield Close, just east of the church off Jockey Rd. This keeps the church car park relatively free for those who most need to use it.

Diocese

Open evening Bishop Walsh Catholic school Parents and students are invited to Open Evening for Sept 2019 admissions to Bishop Walsh Catholic School. Weds 12 September, 6.30 - 8.30p.m. Talks by the Head of School Mr. Koryl in the Hall at 6.45p.m. and 7.45p.m.

Safeguarding The Archbishop has commissioned a review of safeguarding/child protection practices in light of the National Catholic Policies and Procedures. This review is to ensure that our systems to protect children and young people are as effective as possible. It is being conducted by an independent charity called Social Care Institute for Excellence. SCIE would like to speak with anyone with experience with any safeguarding issues within the Archdiocese, and who have experience of working with our parish safeguarding representatives/ safeguarding team at the Archdiocese. Anyone impacted by abuse issues can contact the safeguarding on 0121 230 6240 (emergency out of hours

07976 516629). If you wish please contact Hugh Constant (Hugh.Constant@scie.org.uk or 020 7766 7374).

Pilgrimage for the Sick to Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Hednesford. 3 pm Sun 16th Sept, led by Bishop Rober Byrne for all those who are sick, their families and carers. Details in porch.

St Joseph's Home, Coleshill, offers residential care to older people and those living with dementia in a Catholic setting. Ring 01675 434500 for a chat or to arrange a visit.

Other

A Lifeline for Marriages Is your marriage stressed, unloving, cold? Do you want to improve your communication? Have you separated, divorced, or are you thinking of doing so? Do you want to try again? The Retrouvaille programme may be just what you need! Info from 0788 729 6983 or www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Bethany Food Bank

In August your generosity helped 229 people through the voucher system

Food was also provided to a further **690** people including the homeless, those referred by the police; families in Lyndhurst, helped by the YMCA and others. *This is an increase of 16.73% on the figures for the same month last year.*

Donations of food (dry goods) should be left in the porch Saturday evening/ Sunday morning.



Continued from page 3

himself for our strengthening as his friends and co-workers in the building up of the Kingdom.

Sometimes in the business of everything else we can lose sight of what this means for us. We can lose focus, as individuals and as a community, on what the Gospel is and means, and what it means to be a Christian, and to be a member of authentic Church, the Body of Christ.

Adoremus offers a refresher in faith and mission; fresh encouragement to a deeper and more fruitful sharing in the life of Christ. There will be opportunities after this weekend for myself and the ministers to feedback what we experienced and what we learnt.

At first sight these two topics - the Eucharist and abuse in the Church - might seem quite separate from

one another. But the Eucharist is all about Christ and the salvation he offers to us and to the world. Christ and the salvation he offers gives us hope that finally the hurt caused by abuse will be met with perfect healing.

I was very struck last Sunday by the Prayer after Communion.

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table, we beseech you, Lord, that, being the food of charity, it may confirm our hearts and stir us to serve you in our neighbour.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The prayer teaches us our faith. Faith which starts with Christ's love for us, and our response to him. It is sustained by him, especially in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is his loving gift to us, and the gift that helps us to love. Our celebration of Eucharist confirms us in faith, in our knowledge and love of God and in our loving service of God and of our neighbour.

It seems to be a prayer well worth memorising and using as a regular, personal, prayer of thanksgiving after we have received Holy Communion.

Fr. Allen

Will you help support the life and health of our parish?



How about helping with the parish Confirmation and First Communion programmes?

It is a privileged opportunity to support children and families and take part in something very enjoyable.



How about being part of a parish group offering hospitality to local people wanting time and space just to chill out.

Mondays 10.30-1.30 and the Benedict Room are available for us to offer care and welcome.



Readers and Ministers of Holy Communion

There is be a brief meeting after each Sunday Mass on 15/16 Sept to introduce ministry of Holy Communion and Readers to those parishioners who would like a brief introduction to what is involved in these ministries, before offering themselves to serve the parish.

For more information, please contact Fr Allen.

Parish Outing: Tues 18 Sept



Parish outing Visit to copies of Serbian medieval fresco from the monasteries of Kosovo and Metohija, and to the beautifully decorated Serbian Orthodox church of St Lazar, Bournville. (Admission £5 or £3 for over-65s). Meet at 92 Griffins Brook Lane, B'ham, B30 1QG at 12 noon.

Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for September for young people in Africa: that young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.



To find the Pope's other current prayer intentions please visit <http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org/>

First Communion and Confirmation 2018-19

Application forms and first details of next year's parish programmes are available in the porch. Details of the catechesis for children, for those at a Catholic school and those who are not, will be available at a later date.



POPPING INTO THE CHURCH TO PRAY BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT?

A parish booklet, costing £1 is on sale in the Repository.

A free 1-sheet aid is available at the back of the church.



LIVE FAITH and make a difference

Are you aged between 18-35? Have you ever wanted to spend a year making a real difference in the community? Have you thought about trying to live out Gospel values in a faith-filled community?

If the answer to these questions is yes, then become a Vincentian Volunteer - living in community, serving the needy in our society and living out your faith practically. Spend a year that will change your life.

www.vincentianvolunteers.org.uk

VINCENTIAN VOLUNTEERS

For the sick and those who care for them

A simple and brief monthly service of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayer for the sick and for carers, and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Followed by light lunch.

11am on First Fridays (usually). Next service is Sept 28th



2019 Parish Pilgrimage

Thanks to all those who have said they would like to join a parish pilgrimage to Walsingham next summer.

There will be a brief meeting after the 6pm Mass on Saturday 13th October to explore the possibilities, and seek to take things further.

In Hospital or going there?

Roman Catholic Chaplains are appointed to all local hospitals.

Patients, and relatives of patients, are urged to make sure that Catholic patients admitted to hospital are registered as Roman Catholic on admission. If they wish to be visited by the Catholic Chaplain, they should ask the ward nurse to arrange this. **Data protection legislation means that unless this is done your details will not be passed to the Chaplain.**

If you wish to be visited by Fr Allen as well as the hospital chaplain then please let him know. It is very helpful if you can give details of the ward the patient is on, and also the phone number of a family member/friend.

Many people find it helpful to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick when they experience serious ill health. If you would like to receive the Sacrament, please let Fr Allen know.