Raising children to draw life from the Mass

In her formal teaching about children and Mass the Church has stated that bringing children to Mass without their being helped to inner active participation in what we do can be pointless and even harmful to the children. A statement from Holy Mother Church such as that may well come as a surprise, and should certainly make us think – especially children's parents!

How children participate in the Mass – indeed how any of us participate – will depend on our various capacities. It will vary according to our understanding of why Church is. And what we do at Mass. To whom we offer praise and thanksgiving and all during the Mass – indeed why we offer praise and thanksgiving and all. How we show reverence and again why, and to whom.

A sense for the holy and special – a bedrock for any understanding of Mass - can be communicated even to the very young. From a very early age they can pick up their parent's expression of reverence and prayerfulness - even if their attention span may well be very short, and their capacity much more limited than an adult's to sustain a mood, a response and so on, let alone give it expression by joining in the prayers and songs themselves.

But if at key moments - for example when we stand to acclaim the Gospel, or during the words of institution/ consecration – parents draw even 2 or 3 year-olds close and invite them to share the moment, showing them and reminding them of its' importance, then something of faith, something essential about what we are here at Mass for is communicated to the children, and over time learnt by them.

Families who take care of these things and who are regular at Mass will find that from an early age their children will join in the actions of the Mass, and sing and say regular parts of the Mass – like the dialogues, for example 'The Lord be with you/And with your Spirit'; - and acclamations – like the Gospel Acclamation and the Eucharistic Acclamations (the 'Holy', the Memorial Acclamation and the Great Amen) – even before they start attending school. And maybe sometimes they will say and sing them with an enthusiasm and at a volume that can put the rest of us to shame, and bring a gentle smile to our lips.

By the time children are becoming comfortable at reading then parents can help them follow and join in further parts of the mass too – longer regular texts like the Creed and the Gloria, and occasional songs, like our various hymns and songs.

As adults we are likely to have particular reasons for our being Catholic and being at Mass. Children are only Catholic because of their parents choice, and only at Mass because adults have brought them. Parents can serve their children well by helping them to understand why they chose to take on the responsibility to bring them up as Catholics, loving God and loving their neighbour, and why it is they bring them to Mass. And then help the children find their own reasons for their own prayer at Mass – the things they want to give thanks for, say sorry for, ask for help with. Parents can help them identify those things before coming to mass, and encourage them in prayer too before Mass begins – perhaps going to the Sacred Heart or Lady chapels to light a candle and pray for their family and friends. All this helps the children enter into what it is we are all called to do – and have a responsibility to do - when we are at Mass

Sometimes we adults ourselves need a bit of a refresher with regard to the Mass and how to pray it – in order for us to continue to draw from its spiritual treasury the nourishment, refreshment and encouragement it offers for our life in faith. There are a number of resources that can help. One of the most basic is that prepared for children (but prepared mindful that it should be of help to parents too) is the *Beginners Guide to Praying the Mass* written by a local author, and available in the parish shop. *Scripture and the Mystery of the Mass,* edited by Scott Hahn among others is a very readable and informative text. *The Banquet's Wisdom* by Dr. Gary Macy will be especially appreciated by those interested in the history of the Mass in the Church and the churches. A much more general text that parents might find it helpful to familiarise themselves with is *YouCat, the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church* – and its companion volume, *DoCat, the social teaching of the Catholic Church.*

The latter reminds – and it is always a helpful reminder – that the more clearly any of us are able to make connections between what and how we pray and how we live our daily lives, then — whatever our age and level of understanding —, the more we will find enrichment in the Mass, and learn the value of owning the petition in the Lord's Prayer. 'Give us this day our daily bread'!

Fr. Allen

Preparing for the Year of Mark

Would you like to take part in a reading of St Mark's Gospel to help us prepare for the next liturgical year? (Mark is the lead Gospel for the year which begins on 29th November 2026.)

Details are still being prepared, but it is planned to have the reading at St Nicholas Church on Sunday 22 November, the Feast of Christ the King, beginning at 3pm.

Interested?
Email stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk

St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US
Website: www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk
E-mail: stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk **Telephone:** 0121 354 1763
Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com
Cluster blog: www.catholicsuttoncoldfield.wordpress.com
Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **Deacon:** Rev John Garvey

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

SEPTEMBER 2026: PARISH MASSES THIS WEEK

Sa	**5**	6pm	**23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	Lucy , Jay and Maria Szambir RIP
Su	**6**	9am		For the parish
		11am		Elsie Wilkinson and Fred Rhodes RIP
M	**7**	10am		David Cotton Anniv (Cotton)
T	**8**	10am	Birthday of Our Lady	Elsie Wilkinson RIP (Leese)
W	**9**	3pm	***Mass at Boldmere Place***	John Daniel Murphy RIP (M)
Th	**10**			
F	**11**	7pm		Anthony Burke RD (Burke)
S	**12**	6pm	**24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	Elsie Wilkinson (Mooney)
Su	**13**	9am		For the parish
		11am		Denis and Brideen Clark RIP (Platt)

Anointing of the Sick: Next parish celebration is at 10am on 16th Sept

Sacrament of Confession: Fri 19.30-20.00; Sat 5.30-5.45 or by appoint't

Please pray for those who are sick: Stephen Gateley, Rita Rhodes, Mary Daniels, Brenda Davies, Lesley Devlin, Margaret Reeves. **Please pray** for Gerard Harkins, John Farrell and all whose anniversary occurs at this time. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.***

RESOURCES FOR PRAYER.

- **Parish Morning Prayer**: Mon-Sat, at 8.30am (Zoom link on website)
- **Readings of the day** and much more at Universalis.com
- **The Sunday Scriptures** are a richer resource for spiritual growth when we read and pray with them before the Sunday (and again after the Sunday). Next Sunday's readings are Ezekiel 33:7–9 / Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9 / Romans 13:8–10 / Matthew 18:15–20

WEEKDAY SOCIAL. Tuesdays after 10am Mass.

PARISH CAR PARK 1 hour's free parking is available for anyone at anytime in our carpark. Automatic free parking is available too on **Sat** 5.30pm to 7.30pm; **Sunday** 8am to 2pm; **Mon, Tues, Weds** 9.30am to 11.30am; and **Fri** 6.30pm to 8.30pm. *At other times, please - if in church or here for meetings - please use the QR code to extend your 'free' parking time.*

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National & Archdiocesan policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Mary Rose. She can be contacted at: sg.stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk Alternatively contact the Diocesan Safeguarding team on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk

Our parish is part of Catholic Sutton Coldfield.
This cluster of Parishes is made up of the parishes of Holy Cross & St Francis, Walmley; Sacred Heart, Four Oaks; Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield; and St Nicholas , Boldmere.

SVP Raffle tickets on sale after all Masses today.
The proceeds of the raffle go to support the work of the SVP nationally and locally.

Parish Pilgrimage

Details are on the noticeboard in the porch. All elements of the pilgrimage are optional. Come along for what you want and stay away from what does not appeal. And arrange your accommodation and transport accordingly.

Bringing very young — *and/or very lively* — children to Mass?

First of all thank you. As the children are part of your family so they are part of ours, - and we're glad to see them.

Most of us know it sometimes can't be easy for parents with very young children at Mass. And you probably know that is not easy for the rest of us sometimes! But the children are welcome - and we know you probably can't work miracles!

There are though some things people can do to help the children grow into Mass - even the youngest. For example:

- At the beginning of the Mass and at the final blessing, make the sign of the Cross with them or over them.
- When we stand for the Gospel get them to join in singing the Alleluia.
- Have them stand with you, or hold them close to you and again trace the Cross on their forehead and lips and heart.
- At the showing of the consecrated elements - again keep them close to you and encourage them to look with you 'Behold the Lamb of God…', Again make the sign of the Cross with them.
- If it is difficult to keep them in your bench with you, please try and make sure they play in a side aisle so they are distracting as few people as possible.
- Do sit near the front so the children can see better what is happening on the Sanctuary and start to get some sense of what it is they - and we all -are here for and part of.

The Introductory Rites

Opening Song

Gloria

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.
Glory to God...
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.
Glory to God...
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.
Glory to God... Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

Ezekiel 33:7-9

Thus says the Lord: 'So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.'

Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9

Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;
let us hail him with a song of praise.

O come; let us bow and bend low.
Let us kneel before the LORD who made us,
for he is our God, and we the people,
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your forebears put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

Romans 13:8-10

Brothers and Sisters: Owe no one anything, except to love each other. For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet', and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.Alleluia.

Matthew 18:15-20

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.'

Homily

The Apostles' Creed

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

Prayer of the Faithful

All: Through our lives and by our prayers,
your kingdom come.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Offertory

The Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus

The mystery of faith

The Communion Rite

Communion thanksgiving

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

Blessing and Dismissal

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ***Scripture readings:*** ***The English Standard Version of the Bible, Catholic Edition****, copyright 2017 by Crossway.* **The Psalms:** *Abbey Psalms and Canticles © 2018 USCCB.* **Excerpts from the English translation of** *The Roman Missal © 2010, ICEL.* ***Songs****:* Gloria, (Storrington Mass) *Marty Haugen, Tune: © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.* Sanctus and Memorial Acclamation. *(Mass of Christ the Savior) Dan Schutte, Music © 2007,2009, 2010 OCP;* Spirit of the living God T*ext: Daniel Iverson, 1890-1972;* Be still*: Anon. Texts of copyrighted songs are reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-A-742254. All rights reserved.*

The Catholic Culture Club

An opportunity to enjoy local cultural events (with friends and other parishioners when convenient, or by yourself when it is not) and also to meet afterwards to chat over things.

AUTUMN PROGRAMME

- WALSALL NEW ART GALLERY: Sun 20 Sept at 3pm. ***Face Value: Contemporary Portraits from the Collections****. What is in an image?*
  - ***Group meeting to chat: Friday 25 Sept***
- SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN HALL. ***Come From Away*** - Group visit on Thursday 1 October - see porch noticeboard for how to book for any of the days this production is playing, including Oct 1st.
  - ***Group meeting to chat: Friday 9 Oct***
- ROYAL CINEMA @ SUTTON COLDFIELD. ***Giant*** - an award winning play about Roald Dahl. Thurs 19 Nov at 7.30pm. Tickets can be booked now and are going fast. A range of ticket prices are available - including extra for glass of wine, and discounts for seniors
  - ***Group meeting to chat: Friday 20 Nov***

Follow-up group meetings are all in the Benedict Room on Fridays at 8pm

Progress on the Church repair/renewal

We have two quotations in hand for the management of the work on the church; and are beginning discussions with a contractor to do a survey on the drains. Can you help form a working group to help with oversight and management of things parish-side. If we are to make progress, we need more help! Please see Fr A, if you can help.

Baptism Preparation

The next series of sessions for parents preparing for the baptism of their children begins on Saturday 19th September. Those who wish to take part should contact Fr Allen as soon as possible.

Help needed to offer support to sick and housebound members of the parish.

To support the work done by our present team of people, we need two or three more people to assist regularly with taking Holy Communion to the sick.

The minimum commitment is to visit one person once or twice a month, for about 15-20 minutes on a day and at a time convenient to you and them. If you ***are*** available to do more, that would be excellent!

To learn more, please see the sheet available on the newsletter table and speak with Fr Allen.