

Novena to St Francis

As we get closer to Harvest Fast Day you are invited to join with others in praying a Novena to Saint Francis, patron saint of those working to heal and safeguard the world God made and in which we live.

The Novena begins Sat 26 Sept, and continues until Sun, 4 Oct, the feast day of St Francis.

Each day brief video reflection, provided by CAFOD, will be posted on our Blog, asking St Francis of Assisi to pray for us; and our world, based on his Canticle of the Sun. The novena is a song of penitence and praise, guiding us to care for the earth and for our most vulnerable sisters and brothers, especially the Amazon peoples. (The texts can be downloaded as a pray booklet from our Blog)

Communities with whom CAFOD works are reporting a sharp increase predatory attacks on land. People smugglers are also active and those being trafficked are in more danger than ever, having no access to healthcare. The pandemic shows us that 'we have not heard the cry of the poor and our seriously ill planet' warns Pope Francis, describing this as 'a time to choose what matters and what passes away'.

A reminder that CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day is on Fri Oct 9, and the parish collection for donations to CAFOD will be on Sun Oct 11.



Academic Mentors needed.

The John Paul II Multi Academy wants to recruit 3 graduates (in any subject area) to work at Bishop Walsh school, and able to support a small group and 1:1 tuition for pupils in KS3 up to GCSE level for the current academic year. Candidates must have either exceptional skills in literacy and/ or numeracy as the position will span a number of key subject areas.

For salary details and how to apply go to our parish blog for 15/9

Birmingham Justice & Peace Assembly 2020

The Climate Emergency: Listening to the 'Cry Of The Earth and the Cry Of The Poor'

This year's Assembly is on-line, with one-hour sessions over three evenings at 7.30pm: Monday 28 Sept, Weds 30 Sept, Fri 2 Oct and Evening Prayer with Archbishop Bernard on Sun 4 Oct at 7pm.

Sessions include:

- Ecological Conversion – an 'examination of conscience' on our care for our common home
- Prepare the Future – building back better to address the climate emergency
- Local Government Responsibilities – planning for the West Midlands

For more information: <https://bit.ly/33n38fY>

Meditation from Anthony de Mello SJ

Grandpa and Grandma had quarrelled and grandma was so angry she would not speak to her husband.

The following day, Grandpa had forgotten all about the quarrel, but Grandma continued to ignore him and still wouldn't speak. Nothing Grandpa did seemed to succeed in pulling her out of her sullen silence.

Finally he started rummaging in cupboards and drawers. After this had gone on for a few minutes, Grandma could stand it no longer. 'What on earth are you looking for?' she demanded angrily.

'Praised be God, I've found it,' said Grandpa with a sly smile. 'Your voice!'

If it is God you are looking for, look somewhere else.

Get real about dying

Learn more about care for the dying by taking part in an on-line talk at 4pm on 30 Sept by Kathy Mannix. She is a palliative care expert who campaign for better public understanding of dying. Her book, *With the End in Mind* became a recent unlikely Best Seller.

Reserve a place via our parish blog (Blog of 3rd Sept)

A guide to the spiritual care of the dying person - issued by the Bishops Conference can be downloaded at <https://bit.ly/2R14V4M>

On-line Support for Prayer

- Weekly parish Zoom prayer meetings - Sun at 4pm for Lectio Divina and Mon at 7pm for Rosary.

Zoom links are posted on the parish Blog on the day. Do join us - especially if you are not confident in returning to church for Mass.

- Reflections on the Readings and Prayers of the following Sunday's Mass are posted daily on the parish Blog (Weds to Sun).

Spending time with the readings and prayers before Mass is a good way of helping Mass be more fruitful for us.



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 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 or those in the Gift Aid scheme who still use the envelopes.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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Website: www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk
Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

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

Second Collections

The disruption to our Sunday gatherings has had its effect on our parish finances. But a big thank you to all those of us who have made contribution by Standing order or by 'catch-up' offerings.

The disruption has probably made a still bigger difference to those charities that rely on second collections. The list of these has been examined by the Diocese and redistributed over the coming weeks and months. The first of this is taken today and is the (usual Good Friday) collection in support of the Holy Places. If you are able to support this collection, please place your donation in the basket which will be on a table at the back of the church as you leave. Thank you.

The list of remaining collections which we are required to make are for Peter's Pence and APF World Mission, and we will also have the collections for CAFOD; Retired and infirm Clergy; for the Clergy Training Fund; Day for Life; and the Poor Parishes Fund.

This year we will not have retiring collections for Fr Hudson's Fund; Catholic Education Service; Catholic Communications; Home Mission; and Apostleship of the Sea. Details of how to make donation direct to these charities will be given on the blog/newsletter.

New Sunday Mass: Saturdays at 4pm

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to look after the extra cleaning and stewarding necessary for us to introduce an additional Sunday Mass.

There will be a Saturday 4pm Mass from this Saturday, 19th September, in addition to our regular Saturday 6pm, and Sunday 9am and 11am Masses.

The Mass has been added because the numbers attending the other masses has been gradually rising, in some cases getting very close to the maximum number we can accommodate under present regulation.

However, the Mass is only staffed for four weeks. If we are to continue with this additional Mass, then we still need additional volunteers. If you can help, please email Fr Allen.

Present Arrangements for Mass

Face coverings: Government regulations require members of the congregation, aged 5 and over, to wear face-coverings which cover their nose and mouth throughout the time we are in church. If you have a medical certificate relieving you of this obligation please confirm in advance with Fr Allen. This will allow appropriate seating to be arranged for you and to safeguard others.

Social distancing: Please keep the 1m social distance from all not in your family or bubble. All benches are suitable for 3 individuals (or more). As numbers attending Mass increase, we need all the spaces to be available. *If there is already someone in the bench you choose, please sit in the middle space, and leave the aisle seat for the next to arrive. Do not make people climb over you or pass you to get into the bench.*

Offertory: There is no offertory collection at present, but there is a basket for your offerings on the table just inside the church.

Thank you for your cooperation

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.

Day	Time	Location
Sa 19	4pm	25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Psalter Week 1</i>
	6pm	
Su 20	9am	25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Psalter Week 1</i>
	11am	
M 21	10am	St Matthew Frances Raczka RD
T 22	10am	
W 23		St Pio of Pietrelcina
Th 24		Our Lady of Walsingham
F 25	7pm	
Sa 26	4pm	26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Psalter Week 2</i>
	6pm	
Su 27	9am	26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Psalter Week 2</i>
	11am	

Sacrament of Reconciliation The current restrictions make it impractical to celebrate the Sacrament in the Confessional room. However, if you wish to celebrate Reconciliation, please contact Fr Allen who will be happy to arrange a time and place for this sacrament of mercy with you.

Please pray for sick parishioners including Mary Gavin, Phil Hayes, Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke. Please pray for Frances Raczka who died recently and all whose anniversaries of death are at this time, including Harry Platt and Alan Smail.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.

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 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Psalms 144(145):2-3,8-9,17-18

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured.

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 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 14:7-9

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

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 20:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, ‘‘You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.’’ So they went.

At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, ‘‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’’ ‘‘Because no one has hired us’’ they answered. He said to them, ‘‘You go into my vineyard too.’’

In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, ‘‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.’’ So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. ‘‘The men who came last’’ they said ‘‘have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.’’

He answered one of them and said, ‘‘My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?’’ Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’

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

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.

The Offertory

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.

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

THE COMMUNION RITE

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.***

Please wait in your pew until it is time 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.)

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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For Troubled Households

- Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse – Raising awareness in Catholic communities of domestic abuse and the impact on families, the National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW) has released a booklet offering pastoral guidance. <http://www.nbcw.co.uk/publications.html>

For marriages in difficulty

- Retrouvaille is a well-regarded resource, providing the couple with a safe environment within which to explore their difficulties, grow in their faith and restore their relationship. Their next Weekend is on 12th -15th Nov 2020 via Zoom: call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443