Something very old is new again.

Christian Mystagogy dates back at least as far as the Last Supper.

After Jesus had washed the feet of his disciples he asked, 'Do you understand what I have done to you?' And perhaps they did. Or perhaps they did not, for he goes on to explain what he has done, and what it meant, and what is its abiding meaning for the disciples and their continuing role and mission.

It was somewhat the same with the sharing of the bread and cup, only this time Jesus' commentary on what he does forms part of the ritual action, and he concludes, "Do this in memory of me". Down the centuries the community of faith has reflected much on the meaning of this rite and commentary and the instruction.

Mystagogy is that same sort of process of response and reflection to the Liturgy of the Church as we take part in it. Only we ourselvs have to ask the questions and seek the answers. What have I heard, done, said, sung? What does it say and mean? How do I respond to what it says and means?

When we allow ourselves more time and space it is often helpful to ask more detailed questions. What does this or that say about God? Or about Jesus? Or the Church? Or about this local community and to me as an individual?

All those who participate in the Liturgy can ask those questions about the various elements of the Liturgy as we experience them in a particular celebration, or of our experience more generally. As we do, we re helped to deepen our participation.

There is also a particular responsibility on the part of the ministers entrusted with leading the celebration of the Liturgy to consider whether what is done in celebration is in accord with what the Church expects and lays down in her ritual books – the Missal, the Lectionary etc.

In his 2022 letter to the Church, Desiderio desideravi, Pope Francis drew attention to the way that often ministers are not as faithful to the rites as they might be, and that congregations are not necessarily skilled in drawing spiritual nourishment from the rites – or helped to. Both things work against the Liturgy serving us as it is intended to.

Pope Leo has agreed and points toward mystagogical catechesis as a way of helping all in the Church to develop these skills, so we can each of us and all of us benefit from the fruit they bear.

"We need to allow ourselves to be educated by the rites of the liturgy, caring for the beauty of our celebrations with a delicate touch and without arbitrariness, and committing ourselves to an authentic mystagogy. The experience of a living and devout liturgy, accompanied by appropriate mystagogical catechesis, is the best resource for reawakening in everyone that openness to the encounter with God which, in the logic of the Incarnation, can only take place by involving the whole person: spirit, soul and body (cf. 1 Thess 5:23)." Pope Leo, General Audience, 3/6/26

St Thomas Aquinas (c1225-1274) is one of the Church's foremost and still most influential theologians. One day, toward the end of his life, he was celebrating Mass when he received a revelation that affected him so deeply and profoundly that he stopped writing and publishing. Urged by his friend and colleague Brother Reginald to resume and complete his great work the Summa Theologiae Thomas Aquinas answered, "The end of my labours has come. All that I have written appears to be as so much straw after the things that have been revealed to me."

The Church's written theology is of great help and of great value. It is far from being straw, except that it is not equal to what is offered to the Church, revealed to the Church, in her every celebration of the Liturgy. There, personally and truly present to us is Christ himself. Not words and wisdom about Jesus Christ, but Christ himself.

He is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, not only in the person of His minister, "the same now offering, through the ministry of priests, who formerly offered himself on the cross", but especially under the Eucharistic species. By His power He is present in the sacraments, so that when a man baptizes it is really Christ Himself who baptizes. He is present in His word, since it is He Himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the Church. He is present, lastly, when the Church prays and sings, for He promised: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20)

Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 7

Mystagogy helps us to a deeper personal encounter with Jesus Christ, so that we can participate more deeply in the Liturgy "the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit" (Sacrosanctum Concilium 14).

Despite the urging of the Popes – explicit urging from Pope Benedict onwards – the practice of mystagogy and of mystagogical catechesis is still not familiar to many, including many priests and catechists.

If you would like to get a taste of what mystagogy can be like, you are invited to join a series of Sunday evening Zoom sessions beginning on Sunday 4th October.

Each will begin promptly at 6pm and finish for 6.30pm. Each is self-contained, so take part any Sunday. All are welcome.

To receive the Zoom link, please email stnicholasboldmere@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/OCTOBER 2026: PARISH MASSES THIS WEEK

Sa	**26**	6pm	**26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	Elsie Wilkindon RIP (SVP)
Su	**27**	9am		For the parish
		11am		Margaret Ward RIP (Ward)
M	**28**	10am		Philip Bligh RIP (Baird)
T	**29**	10am	**Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael**	Therese Attwood RIP (McD)
W	**30**	10am	St Jerome	Philip Bligh RIP (Burke)
Th	**1**		Saint Thérèse of Lisieux	
F	**2**	7pm	Holy Guardian Angels	Sheila & Michael McDermott
S	**3**	6pm	**27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	For the parish
Su	**4**	9am		Elsie Wilkinson RIP(Nguyen)
		11am		Therese Attwood RIP (McD)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Next parish celebration is at 10am on 18th Nov

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 Philip Bligh whose funeral is here on 28/9 at noon and Audrey Fryer, Olwyn Foster 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 Isaiah 5:1–7 / Psalm 80:9, 12, 13–14, 15–16, 19–20 / Philippians 4:6–9 / Matthew 21:33–43

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE SICK AND INFIRM To arrangege visits or to receive Holy Communion ***at home*** please contact Fr Allen. If admitted to Hospital please ensure your religion is recorded, and you should receive a visit from the hospital chaplaincy team. In case of emergency please ask ward staff to call the on-duty priest chaplain.

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.

Why not make a point of praying the Rosary this October?
See Parish website front page for link to join our on-line Parish Roasry Group at 7pm every Monday.
All are welcome.

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

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: Fri 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: Fri 20 Nov***

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

Prepare 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, at 3pm. Interested? Email stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk

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 18:25-28

Thus says the Lord: 'You say, "The way of the Lord is not just." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.'

Ps 25(24):4-5b. 6-7. 8-9. 6a

O LORD, make me know your ways.
Teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth, and teach me;
for you are the God of my salvation.

Remember your compassion, O LORD,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions.
In your merciful love remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he shows the way to sinners.
He guides the humble in right judgement;
to the humble he teaches his way.

Philippians 2:1-11

Brothers and Sisters: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy; complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. **My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord, and I know them, and they follow me.** ***Alleluia.***

Matthew 21:28-32

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." And he answered, "I will not", but afterwards he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, "I go, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterwards change your minds and believe him.'

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

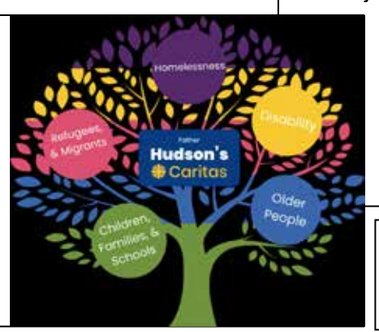
Communion thanksgiving

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; Christ be beside me © 1969, James Quinn, SJ. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.* In bread we bring you: Text: © 1976, Kevin Mayhew; Praise to you, O Christ. © 1986, Bernadette Farrell. OCP Publications. Prayer after Communion. *Texts of copyrighted songs are reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-A-742254. All rights reserved.*

There is a retiring colleciton today for **Father Hudsom Caritas**, a Diocesan Agency that supports services to those in need covering the areas of older people, disability, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, homelessness, children and families



Do you play piano? *Would you like to?*

You may have seen that we have a lovely new piano in the church - a gift from Bishop Walsh School. Now we are looking for people to play it at Mass!

If you play, would you be willing to play from time to time - esepcially at the Saturday 6pm or Sunday 11am Masses? We'd suit music to your skill level - and are happy to provide other support. We're happy also to try to arrange classes for children who ae approaching the level where they can play - at least some pieces - to accompany our singing. For more information see Fr Allen or Vincent Byrne - our 9am organist.

November Masses for the dead.

Envelopes for these Masses are available on the newsletter table.