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
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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

October 2026: Parish Masses This week

Sa	**3**	6pm	**27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	For the parish
Su	**4**	9am		Elsie Wilkinson RIP(Nguyen)
		11am		Therese Attwood RIP (McD)
M	**5**	10am		Brenda & John Corbett RIP
T	**6**	9.45am		Helen, Tom & Jo Madigan RIP
W	**7**	10am	Our Lady of the Rosary	Jakie Frey & Tom Thorn Ints (C)
Th	**8**			
F	**9**	7pm	ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN	Holly Scott RIP (James)
S	**10**	6pm	**28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	
Su	**11**	9am		Health Darshana (Solecka)
		11am		For the parish

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

1. DId you get to see ***Come From Away.*** If you 'd like to chat over what you saw and what it made you think and feel Group meeting to chat in the Parish House on Fri 9 Oct at 8pm
2. Royal Cinema @ Sutton Cold-field. ***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 cater for glass of wine, and discounts for seniors
   - ***Group meeting to chat: Fri 20 Nov in the Benedict Room at 8pm***

FAMILY FAST DAY
Scan here to donate
or
Text CAFOD to 70560
to donate £10

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

Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

Ps 80(79):9, 12. 13-14. 15-16. 19-20

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
It stretched out its branches to the sea;
to the River it stretched out its shoots.

Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by the way.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore; /
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself.

And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.
Bring us back, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

Philippians 4:6-9

Brothers and Sisters: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise: think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — practise these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. **I chose you out of the world, says the Lord, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide.** ***Alleluia.***

Matthew 21:33-43

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence round it and dug a wine press in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than at first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance." And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?'

They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes"? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.'

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

Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast;
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,
wash me with water flowing from thy side.

Strength and protection may thy passion be;
O Blessed Jesus, hear and answer me;
deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me;
so shall I never, ever part from thee.

Guard and defend me from the foe malign;
in death's dread moment make me only thine;
call me, and bid me come to thee on high,
when I may praise thee with thy saints for aye.

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.* **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 © 2010 OCP;* The Light of Christ © *Donald Fishel 1974, 1982*; Bless the Lord: *Text is in public domain;* Soul of my Saviour. *Latin 14C. Tr. Anon. Texts of copyrighted songs are reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-A-742254. All rights reserved.*

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.

Directors sought for School Multi-Academy Trust Applications are invited from suitably skilled and committed individuals to serve as a Director on the Board of the new Catholic Multi-Academy Trust serving our local schools and others.
Full details at bit.ly/4z9fm9z.

St Nicholas School Prospective Parents

Prospective parents are invited to visit the school to see them in action, take a tour of the school and ask any questions you may have about the admissions process. - Mon 2 Nov, 11:00am; Weds 4 November, 2:00pm; Fri 6 Nov, 9:15am. Please telephone the school office on 0121 355 2649 for more information.