Not sure whether Pope Leo will be turning up to a Catholic Culture Club event or meeting anytime soon, but he spoke recently of the importance of the Arts. Speaking to a gathering of artists and curators in Rome last week he said:

The first words I would like to say to you are "thank you." ...Thank you for the trust with which you have agreed to walk alongside the Church, also along new paths.

I think, for example, of the Pavilion set up in the women's prison on the island of Giudecca, which Pope Francis visited. Anyone who has been there knows that it was not a matter of bringing art into prison, but of allowing the prisoners to teach something about art and to us. For the "human person is 'worthy' simply by virtue of existing and of being destined for eternity" and is always greater than his or her fragility and mistakes.

I was also struck by the motto, inspired by Saint Hildegard of Bingen, of this year's Venetian Pavilion: *The Ear is the Eye of the Soul*. Indeed, like an antenna, art is receptive to the great questions of the human heart — sometimes like a cry, more often like a whisper — and makes them audible, visible and shareable.

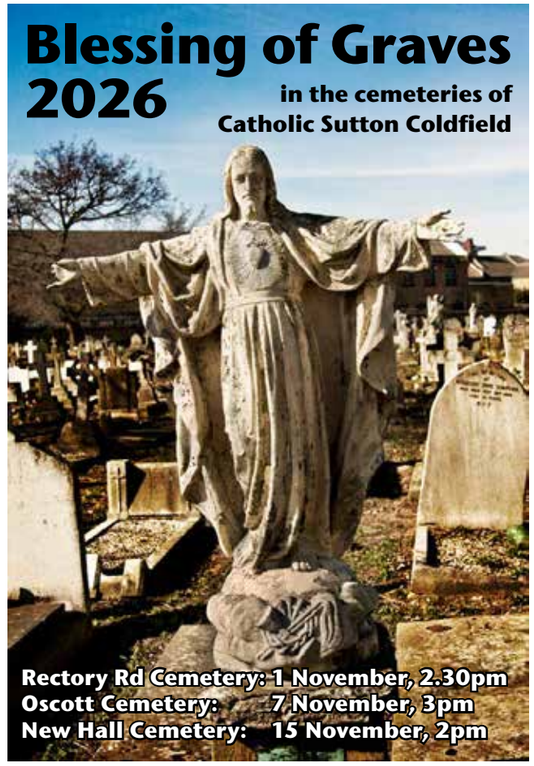
Saint Augustine left us an immortal testimony to the restlessness of the human heart in search of truth. Art, when it is authentic, is also animated by this restlessness. For this reason, the Church has never considered art to be merely decorative. Instead, for the Church, art nurtures the fundamental posture of listening, through which we can learn about humanity's aspirations and wounds, our thirst for beauty, justice and peace, and our search for meaning.

We live in the age of search engines that offer us thousands of instantaneous answers. Yet, no matter how powerful they may be, they merely return what already exists and tend to give us what we already want. In the age of technology and consumerism, the great danger is not only censorship but also homogenization, and not merely imposed silence but the noise that makes it impossible to listen. Art is a different kind of "search engine." It does not proceed by indexing but by inquiry. Indeed, its inquiry is a focused attention that is not satisfied with the mere sum of facts, for it never ceases to dig deeper, seeking the thread that unites them. Your art, when it resists homogenization, when it draws our gaze, when it compels us to pause before that which cannot be consumed, is a form of cultural and spiritual regeneration.

Pope Saint Paul VI spoke words that remain a landmark for the Church's relationship with artists: "We need you," he said. "Our ministry needs your collaboration. For, as you know, our ministry is to preach and to make the world of the spirit, of the invisible, of the ineffable, of God, accessible and understandable — indeed, inspiring. And in this task, which translates the invisible world into accessible, intelligible forms, you are masters" (Homily at the Mass with Artists, 7 May 1964).

For my part, I also say to you today: the Church needs you. This is especially true in this age of artificial intelligence, in which we urgently need to distinguish human art from what is produced by machines. There is an ontological difference — even before an aesthetic one — between art and what a machine can generate through statistical calculation based on millions of images created by others. Algorithms lack the spark of the human, whereas authentic culture and art preserve this spark.

For all these reasons, the Church wishes to renew an alliance with artists and cultural institutions; an alliance for safeguarding what is human. Promoting education, science and culture is impossible without at the same time improving the lives of men and women who are engaged in these activities.
Dear artists, dear curators, know that the Church looks upon you with esteem, gratitude and hope; that she needs you, and that she wishes to walk alongside you, so that together we may safeguard the grandeur of humanity entrusted to us. May God bless all of you and your work! Thank you.



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

October 2026: Parish Masses This week

Sa	10	6pm	**28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	Teresa Attwood RIP
Su	11	9am		Health Darshana (Solecka)
		11am		Tess Carneiro - 102nd birthday.
M	12	10am		Ints of Claire and Mark (Cotton)
T	13	9.30am		Ints Anne Marie Cotton (Drozd)
W	14	3pm	**NB Mass at Boldmere Place**	Faye, Kieran & children (Cotton)
Th	15		St Theresa of Avilla	
F	16	7pm		
S	17	6pm	**29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	Olwyn Foster RIP (Foster)
Su	18	9am		For the parish
		11am		Ann Cullen RIP (Cullen)

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 Bridget Hennesy, Nancy King, David McIlree, Irene Devlin, Edward Trehy 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 45:1, 4–6 / Psalm 96:1, 3, 4–5, 7–8, 9–10 / 1 Thessalonians 1:1–5b / Matthew 22:15–21

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 our on-line Parish Roasry Group at 7pm every Monday. All are welcome.

The Catholic Culture Club

Events that give 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.

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 in the Benedict Room at 8pm***

Six Holy Habits

- Spend five minutes a day in prayer
- Come to Mass each Sunday
- Keep Friday as a day of penance
- Spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament each fortnight
- Go to confession once a month
- Join a small group for formation, prayer and fellowship

Not all DIocesan notices — for example of job vacancies — are able to be included in the newsletter. To be sure of getting all information please follow the parish Blog or FaceBook page (stnicholasboldmere)to receive notification automatically.

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 25:6-10a

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death for ever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day, 'Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.' For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

Ps 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6.

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul.

He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Brothers and Sisters: I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. **May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which he has called us.** ***Alleluia.***

Matthew 22:1-10

At that time: Jesus again spoke to the chief priests and the elders of the people, in parables, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.'" But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find." And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.'

'But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

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

Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the king of creation!
O my soul, praise him,
for he is your health and salvation!
Come, all who hear; now to his altar draw near,
praise him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, let us offer our gifts at his altar;
let not our sins and transgressions
now cause us to falter.
Christ the High Priest, bids us all join in his feast.
Gathered with him at the altar.

Praise to the Lord - O let all that is in us adore him!
All that has life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the "Amen!" sound from his people again;
gladly with praise we adore him!

The Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus

The mystery of faith

The Communion Rite

Communion thanksgiving

Jesus, name above all names,
Beautiful Saviour, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us.
Blessed Redeemer, Living word.

Concluding Rites

Blessing and Dismissal

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.

St Nicholas School invites prospective parents to visit the school and ask any questions you may have about the admissions process. - Mon 2 Nov, 11:00am; Weds 4 Nov, 2:00pm; Fri 6 Nov, 9:15am. Contact school office for more information, 0121 355 2649

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

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;* Love is his word. T*ext Luke Connaughton (1919-79);* Praise to the Lord. *Trans. By C. Winkworth (1827-78). Texts of copyrighted songs are reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-A-742254. All rights reserved.*