



# St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

## The Introductory Rites

### Opening Song

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the King of angels:  
*O come let us adore him, x3 Christ the Lord!*

God of God, light of light,  
Lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb:  
Very God, begotten not created.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:  
'Glory to God in the highest!'

### 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 Liturgy of the Word

### Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12

Wisdom speaks her own praises, in the  
midst of her people she glories in herself.  
She opens her mouth in the assembly of  
the Most High, she glories in herself in  
the presence of the Mighty One;

'Then the creator of all things instructed  
me, and he who created me fixed a place  
for my tent. He said, "Pitch your tent in  
Jacob, make Israel your inheritance."

From eternity, in the beginning, he creat-  
ed me, and for eternity I shall remain.

I ministered before him in the holy taber-  
nacle, and thus was I established on Zion.

In the beloved city he has given me rest,  
and in Jerusalem I wield my authority. I  
have taken root in a privileged people,

in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.'

### Psalm 147:12-15,19-20

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

Zion, praise your God!

He has strengthened the bars of your gates  
he has blessed the children within you.

He established peace on your borders,  
he feeds you with finest wheat.

He sends out his word to the earth  
and swiftly runs his command.

He makes his word known to Jacob,  
to Israel his laws and decrees.

He has not dealt thus with other nations;  
he has not taught them his decrees.

### Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has  
blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ.

Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ,  
to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his pres-  
ence, determining that we should become his adopted sons,  
through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us  
praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith  
in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the  
saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and  
to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and percep-  
tion of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of  
him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can  
see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has  
promised the saints will inherit.

PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK				
<b>Sa</b>	<b>1</b>	6pm	<b>2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b>	For the parish
<b>Su</b>	<b>2</b>	9am		Michael & Ann Lynam RIP (McGrath)
		11am		Mary Whelan RIP (Ward)
<b>M</b>	<b>3</b>			
<b>T</b>	<b>4</b>			
<b>W</b>	<b>5</b>			
<b>Th</b>	<b>6</b>	7pm	<b>EPIPHANY</b>	Mary McCann Ints (Leese)
<b>F</b>	<b>7</b>	10am		Olwyn and Peter Foster (A)
<b>Sa</b>	<b>8</b>	6pm	<b>BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	Fr Joyce RIP (Margaret)
<b>Su</b>	<b>9</b>	9am		Elizabeth Sawbridge RIP
		11am		For the parish

**Please pray for sick parishioners** including Christina Drozd, Jean Lawlor, Stephen Burke, Brenda Davies, Elizabeth Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James. Please pray for Cath Wakeham (funeral 10/1 at 12noon) and Gwen Lavelle, John Lynch, Breandan Carroll, Jerome Harrington, Ken Hearne, Ronald Astley and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans. Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. *Alleluia!*

## **John 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

## **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.

## **The Prayer of the Faithful**

## **The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

### **The Offertory**

Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;

oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
nowells ringing, tidings bringing;  
Christ the babe is Lord of all;  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new;  
saw the glory, heard the story -  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you;  
Christ the babe was born for you!

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

### **THE COMMUNION RITE**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Song of Thanksgiving**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of His Heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
the dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy  
pray to the blessèd Child,  
Where misery cries out to Thee,  
Son of the mother mild;  
Where charity stands watching  
and faith holds wide the door,  
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,  
and Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

## **The Concluding Rites**

### **Blessing and Dismissal**

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