

Now it's back, what do we call it?

As you know our former parish church, until recently leased out as a community centre, was known as *The Carpenter's Arms*, during the time of that lease. Now it's are back, what do we call it?

The Centre will continue to be run as a community centre, part of our parish outreach in to the community and response to local needs. However it now seems appropriate to find a new name for it to operate under as it takes up its new role, a name which more directly suggests the link to the Church and to the parish.

We could simply call the Centre *The St Nicholas Halls* but that maybe makes them sound too exclusively a parish concern.

One suggestion has been *The Newman Centre* in honour of St John Henry Newman who celebrated Mass in our first chapel on Boldmere Road.

What do you think? If you have suggestions, please share them with Fr Allen.

Fratelli Tutti is a timely and hopeful (and long) letter from Pope Francis on how our world is and how it is called to be - and on our proper part in it all.

Before Covid-19 - if you can remember that far back - a number of *Owning Our Faith & Calling* groups were meeting monthly to help us all reflect on our lives in the light of our Christian faith and vocation.

These paused as the Pandemic hit. But *Fratelli Tutti* is an opportunity to start those groups up again, in our changed circumstances. Materials for a series of 10 meetings to support a slow reading of *Fratelli Tutti* are in preparation.

Group leaders are invited to contact their members and see if they would like to to meet again as a Zoom or Teams group, and if so whether they want to meet monthly or weekly.

Fr Allen will lead a **weekly** group (open to all) meeting using this material at 5pm on Sundays. But other new groups - and new members for current groups - are welcome too.

The resources for the meetings will available for all to use at their own pace - including those who do not want to join a group. More details on the parish website and parish blog.

Guiding People to Free Debt Advice

A webinar run by Advice4Renters on 11th Nov from 6.30pm to 8.30pm aimed at helping those who advise on problems of personal or household debt. The workshop covers the causes of debt problems and how to respond when someone tells you they're in debt. Join online by signing up at <https://bit.ly/3k4M5GH>

Retiring Collection today for the Johnson Fund for retired and infirm clergy.

Thank you for your support of this important fund.

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.

Parish Art Club

Next meeting is 27th Oct at 11am, meeting socially distanced in Miller & Carter car-park (Boldmere Gate, for a little input and then spreading out to draw trees. Please bring your own pencils, pens, paper etc. *Newcomers - especially beginners - always welcome.*



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

Please keep John Garvey in your prayers.

He is to be ordained deacon by Archbishop Bernard at St Chad's Cathedral on Sunday 1st Nov at 3pm.

John writes:

I am a retired police officer (30 years served) and now teach part time at Fortis Academy in Great Barr.

I have been married to Joanna for over 30 years and have four adult children, Jack, Harry, Ben and Charlotte (26, 24, 22, 20 respectively).

I was born in Sutton and have lived here for much of my life.

A deacon's role is influenced heavily by the wishes of the bishop, but I will be a regular face in the parish.

The particular focus for John's ministry is still being arranged, but he will indeed be a regular presence in the parish. His first public ministry as deacon here will be at all the Sunday Masses on Nov 7th/8th (Sat 6pm and Sun 9am and 11am).

In normal circumstances our parish would have all sorts of ways in joining with John in the ordination and celebrating it afterwards. But we are not in normal circumstances.

So, sadly, we cannot arrange for a group of parishioners to attend the ordination, but the Mass of Ordination is being live streamed and can be viewed on the Cathedral webpage or <https://bit.ly/34jVuF8>.

Sadly, too, we cannot yet arrange a parish party to celebrate with John and his family. But we look forward to the time when we can.

In the meantime, do please pray for John and Jo and the family - and also for Dirk Hermans and Dominic Kerr who are being ordained together with John for service as deacons elsewhere.

Gary O'Brien - himself in formation to serve as a deacon - has prepared reflection pieces to help us with this prayer. They are posted daily on the Parish blog.

NB The 4pm Masses on Saturdays (1st Mass of Sunday will pause after 31st October, to allow for the first Communion Masses on 7th, 14th and 21st Nov. They will resume on 28th Nov.



Present Arrangements for Mass

Face coverings: Regulations require members of the congregation, aged 5 and over, to wear face-coverings over their nose and mouth throughout the time we are in church. *If you have an exemption certificate please confirm in advance with Fr Allen, so that appropriate seating to be arranged for you and to safeguard others.*

Social distancing: If you are attending Mass with others, then the group you attend with should not exceed more than six people. Your group of six can be made up of people from outside your household, but strict social distancing must be maintained between members of different households at all times.

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	Notes
Sa 24	4pm 6pm	30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Psalter Week 4</i>
Su 25	9am 11am	
M 26	10am	Doris Ida Bone RIP
T 27	10am	Pauline Venables RIP (Venables)
W 28		Ss Simon and Jude
Th 29		
F 30		
Sa 31	4pm 6pm	ALL SAINTS <i>Psalter Week 1</i>
Su 1	9am 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 to celebrate this sacrament of mercy with you.

Please pray for sick parishioners including Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke. Please pray for Margaret Scotton, Eileen Westbury, Edna Murray, William Pierce, Margaret Dine and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

November Masses for the Dead.



- Envelopes are available at the offertory table for those who wish to arrange a 'November' Mass for deceased family and friends.

- In addition Mass on Friday 6th November at 7pm will be offered for everyone who has died during the past year: parishioners, family, friends - everyone. The circumstances of the year have meant that often people have not been able to attend funerals. This Mass is an opportunity to come together to spend time together and with the Lord and pray for them.

Blessing of Graves

- Deanery services for the Blessing of graves cannot take place this year. However people are free to make their own private visits and pray. Prayers to use on these visits will be provided at Mass on Sun 31 Oct/1 Nov. That Sunday, also, Mass will begin with the blessing of water - including water to use in the blessing of graves, and in our homes, over the following weeks, especially during Advent - so bring a bottle of water with you - and possibly another too, for a housebound neighbour!

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.

Exodus 22:20-26

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the sons of Israel this: "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

Psalms 17(18):2-4,47,51

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise,
when I call I am saved from my foes.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me,
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed.

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. *Alleluia!*

Matthew 22:1-10

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

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

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.

As you approach the priest, please do so with arms at "full stretch" to keep 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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Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for November is that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

More information at www.popesprayer.va



The Rosary

In this month of October - the month of the Rosary why not join our regular Monday evening Zoom group to pray the Rosary for 30 minutes or so. Or if you would like to pray alone - even a decade a day, you may find some help in the on-line resources at *Prayer From The Catholic Tradition*. The pages for the Mysteries are grouped in the left hand column! (<https://catholicprayersblog.wordpress.com/>)

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.

Preparing for Mass

Reflections on readings and prayers from next 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 our time at Mass to be more fruitful.*