



# St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

## WHAT NEXT?

It is far from clear when and under what conditions churches will be able to re-open for public worship.

The Government have said that the current lockdown will end on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, but not what will follow it. To be fair, that is probably wise, as what will follow is likely to depend on how things are by then.

However, preparations proceed for our keeping of Advent and Christmas.

- New banners have been prepared for Advent reminding us of the Lord's call to renewal, and his promised blessings
- Figures are being prepared for our outside crib - which will be very prominent, directly outside the main doors of the church.
- Everyone is invited - subject to social distancing regulations in place at the time - to join in singing carols with our neighbours, from our doorsteps, on Monday 21st Dec @ 8:00 pm. Details at DoorStepCarols.com

But what about Christmas itself? Well, we simply do not know what is going to be possible, but on the presumption that we will be back in a situation to how we were before this second lockdown the plan is to have Mass offered at on Christmas Eve at 3pm, 6pm and 9pm, and on Christmas Day at 8am, 10am and 12noon.

There has been much discussion in the Archdiocese about how best to ensure that people have access to these Mass-

es. Every option has its disadvantages, but the consensus is that it is best to make tickets for the Masses available through an on-line booking service such as EventBrite. This both allows people to book seats, and to easily return them if it turns out that they are unable to attend. This is important as, presuming previous social distancing arrangements are in place, the total number we can accommodate in the church for each of these Masses will be 75 people. These arrangements are not confirmed yet, because they depend on government regulation - and on the availability of Stewards and cleaners to help us to meet requirements regarding social distancing and hygiene.



It is also hoped - perhaps on 23rd December - to arrange a Mass which will be only for those who have been unable to come to Mass since the first lockdown.

These are the plans - and as soon as we **can** confirm arrangements, details will be on the parish Blog. So do sign up to that, so that you can be among the first to know what tickets are available. (And, yes, tickets will be free!!)

**The parish church is presently closed for public worship. However it is open for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on Friday evenings from 6.45pm until 8pm.**

*In the absence of a rota for stewards, (and so stewards need not be in the porch throughout the time of prayer) you can come into the church only from 6.45<sup>pm</sup> to 7<sup>pm</sup>, but you will be free to leave at any time you choose.*

### MASS DURING THE CURRENT LOCKDOWN

*While the parish church remains closed for public worship Fr Allen celebrates Mass 'privately' in the church, usually at 0830.*

<b>Sa</b>	<b>14</b>		Anthony Cleary - Anniv (Sterling)
<b>Su</b>	<b>15</b>	33 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: <i>Psalter Week 1</i>	Joseph and Anna Pham RIP (Nguyen)
<b>M</b>	<b>16</b>		Phil Hayes RD (Devane)
<b>T</b>	<b>17</b>		Annie Gallagher RIP (Evans)
<b>W</b>	<b>18</b>		Dec'd of Warrallo & Nightingale families
<b>Th</b>	<b>19</b>		For the parish
<b>F</b>	<b>20</b>		Fr David Lloyd: health (Sterling)
<b>Sa</b>	<b>21</b>	Presentation of BVM	Maria and Paul Nguyen RIP (Nguyen)
<b>Su</b>	<b>22</b>	34 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: <i>Psalter Week 2</i>	Jessie Mary Redmond RIP (Redmond)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** The current restrictions mean confessions cannot be heard in the church, or indoors. However, if you wish to celebrate Reconciliation please contact Fr Allen who will be happy to arrange a time and place (outdoors) 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 John Delaney, Leslie Cecil, Evelyn Coffey and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.  
**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

## IICSA report into child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church

This report was published on Tuesday. The report and the first response of the Bishops' Conference are available on the Archdiocesan website:

<https://bit.ly/2JZ7q7f>

Please continue to pray for victims of abuse, and for the Church's ability to learn from all that has happened.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

A perfect wife – who can find her?  
She is far beyond the price of pearls.  
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,  
from her he will derive no little profit.  
Advantage and not hurt she brings him  
all the days of her life.  
She is always busy with wool and with flax,  
she does her work with eager hands.  
She sets her hands to the distaff,  
her fingers grasp the spindle.  
She holds out her hand to the poor,  
she opens her arms to the needy.  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;  
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.  
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,  
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

### Psalms 62(63):2-8

O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.  
My body pines for you  
like a dry, weary land without water.  
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise.  
So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy.  
On my bed I remember you.  
On you I muse through the night  
for you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

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## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life. *Alleluia!*

### Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

'The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

'Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made."

'His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

'Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

