



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

CAN THE PARISH CHURCH OPEN FOR CHRISTMAS?

We hope so, though – like the rest of the country – we wait to see what restrictions are going to be put in place by the Government once the current lockdown comes to an end on Dec 2.

However we are only going to be able to open up if we can provide the required stewarding and cleaning necessary to help keep people safe and secure at Mass.

I am most grateful to all those who have been helping up till now, and helped us get back to a more or less regular schedule of Masses, and even to add an additional Mass at 4pm on Saturdays to help accommodate people for Mass (given the reduced capacity under present restrictions).

But we do need more help to keep that going and to enable more Masses at Christmas.

A FRESH APPEAL FOR HELP

- And we need more help especially for the first weekend back in church (which we are expecting to be 5/6 December). That weekend at the Sunday Masses (Saturday 4pm and 6pm and Sunday 9am and 11am) children of the parish - who have already had two sets of dates cancelled on them - should be making their First Holy Communion.
- And for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses - Christmas Eve at 3pm, 6pm and 9pm, and on Christmas Day at 8am, 10am and 12noon.

It is only with the help of parishioners that we are able to open the church for any Masses.

So if you are able to help please email Fr Allen (e-mail address above) who will let you have a form so you can sign up for either a Sunday rota or the Christmas rota (or both!) and on the days and at the times that suit you.. Some people volunteer weekly, some fortnightly, some monthly - whatever you can offer will be a real help.

WHAT DO WE NEED HELP WITH?

- Stewarding - i.e. signing people in, and helping them find a place in church;
- Cleaning, as part of a team of 4 who wipe down benches and mop the floor after each Mass (takes about 20 minutes)



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 6.45pm to 7pm, 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.

Sa	21	Presentation of BVM	Maria and Paul Nguyen RIP (Nguyen)
Su	22	34 th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Psalter Week 2	Jessie Mary Redmond RIP (Redmond)
M	23		Bridget Broom RIP - Anniv (Ladies' Guild)
T	24	St Andrew Dung-Lac	Decsd family and friends of P. Platt
W	25		Shay Dargon RIP
Th	26		For the parish
F	27		Pauline Venables RIP
Sa	28		Nancy King RIP (Mooney)
Su	29	1st Sunday of Advent: Psalter Week 1	Robert McWilliams RIP (McWilliams)

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 Brian Hill, Anthony Fallon, Mark Foster, Jane Ball, Susan Hutchinson, Pauline Venables and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

Mass of **Christ the King**

The Liturgy of the Word

Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

Psalms 22(23):1-3a,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,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all..

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! *Alleluia!*

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

'Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

'Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me."

'And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

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A new Church Year begins next Sunday - the 1st Sunday of Advent.

Why not prepare for the new year this Advent by reading - or re-reading the Gospel of Mark - the Gospel for this new year?

Prayers for your Advent wreath will be posted on the parish blog this week.



Invite your neighbours to carol singing

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