Dear Parish Ministers

First of all, a further thank you for all that you do in serving our parish. Your service as church cleaners, gardeners, catechists, readers, musicians and singers, servers, welcomers, offertory ministers; money-counters, makers of teas and coffees, ministers of Holy Communion, members of the Parish Pastoral Council, and Finance Committee and in other ways too makes a vital contribution to the life of our community. Thank you!

I write to invite you to a quiet afternoon during Lent to reflect on our ministries and to find and offer support to each other for what we do.

The afternoon will be held in the church and Benedict/McEvilly rooms on Sunday March 8th. It will begin at 3pm and end by 6.30pm.

All of our parish ministers are invited to the afternoon. The main prepared input for the afternoon will be two presentations that relate to the communion of the Church – the call and privilege that is ours: to be one with Jesus in his life and his mission; and to Jesus' call that his Church reach out to those who are most in need of the Gospel of God's love and mercy, but who can feel excluded by and from the Church.

The afternoon will also include plenty of time for relaxing and sharing thoughts and ideas with each other. This makes your participation even more important, because as we plan for our future as a parish , we need to be helped by the experience, reflections and understandings of each one of us.

So do please put the event in your diary – and if you can encourage others to come along too, please do.

To help with the catering – for there will be refreshments! – please e-mail me to let me know whether or not you are able to come.

With best wishes for this (still) New Year and, in particular, for the coming season of Lent

Fr Allen

How will you use Lent to deepen your life in Christ?

Why not come to church and spend time in prayer on the Fridays of Lent.

We will have Mass at 7pm - including a brief teaching about ways of prayer (see below); Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and an opportunity for Confession - and all over by 8pm!

PRAYING...	
20 Feb	'Who Jesus is for me.'
27 Feb	...with stillness exercises
6 Mar	...with the Examen
13 Mar	... with sacred images
20 Mar	... with the Scriptures
27 Mar	... for others

Scripture Group

During Lent this year we hear three of the great stories from John's Gospel - Jesus meeting with the Samaritan woman, the healing of the man born blind, the raising of Lazarus. Have a read of the passages - you will find them with all the Lent readings at. And then come along to the next meeting to share your thoughts and questions - and hear those of others! - at the next meeting of the parish Scripture Group at 8pm on Weds 25th February.

Cake Sale

Thank you to the youngsters who who baked for last Sunday's bake sale - they raised a great £309.20 for the World Development Group. A great achievement. Well done to all concerned.

Time for us to think...

If you did not collect a copy of the leaflet on the proposed Parish refurbishment/renewal project. There is an open parish meeting in the church at 3pm on Sunday 1st March for those who have questions before we begin the formal consultation process.

During COVID when it was permitted to open the church but with very restricted numbers we added a Saturday 4pm Mass. This proved very popular with families with children. Now, as we are asked to give more though to how we vary Mass times to offer a better selection of opportunities across local parishes - and make it easier for cover to provided during priests' holiday times, or because of sickness maybe it is time to consider whether this might be reintroduced to replace our regular 6pm Mass. This would also give us an opportunity to introduce a monthly youth club for parish youngsters and their friends. Again, something to think about - and there will be an open meeting soon to discuss this.

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

February 2026: Parish Masses This week

S	**14**	6pm	**6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	For the parish
Su	**15**	9am		Pat Ord RD (Baird)
		11am		Ints Rita Rhodes
M	**16**	10am		Pat Ord RD (Wilkinson)
T	**17**	**11am**	Funeral of Pat Ord	Betty Perkes RIP (Makepeace)
W	**18**	10am	Ash Wednesday	Thomas Currid RIP
		7pm		
Th	**19**			
Fr	**20**	7pm		Tony Broom RD
S	**21**	6pm	**1ST SUNDAY OF LENT**	Tony Broom RD (Mooney)
Su	**22**	9am		For the parish
		11am		Beirne Doling RD (Green)

Anointing of the Sick: Next Liturgy Weds 4th March at 10am

Sacrament of Confession: Friday 19.30 (after Mass) until 20.00; Saturday 5.30-5.45 — and by appointment

Please pray for those who are sick including Stephen Gateley, Mary Daniels, Brenda Davies; & Lesley Devlin. **Please pray** for Pat Ord (whose funeral Mass is here on Tues 17/2 at 11am); and Belen George (funeral Mass here on Fri 20/2 at 11am), and for all whose anniversary is at this time including David Meade, Kathleen Melody, Matthew and Lambert. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.***

RESOURCES FOR PRAYER.

1. ***Parish Morning Prayer***: Mon-Sat, at 8.30am (Zoom link on website)
2. ***On-line Rosary*** - see the parish website's homepage to get link.
3. ***Scripture Readings for daily Mass*** & much more at Universalis.com
4. ***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 Genesis 2:7–9; 3:1–7 / Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6, 12–13, 17 / Romans 5:12–19 / Matthew 4:1–11

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 and 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 the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted 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.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 18th February. Our parish masses will be at 10am and 7pm. Ash Wednesday this year falls during half term - families with school children are warmly invited to help their children make the most of Lent by coming to one of these Masses and receive the ashes.

The Triduum comes at the end of Lent. These three days are the high point of the Christian Year. All are warmly invited to our celebration of the principal liturgies — the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm, the Good Friday Liturgy at 3pm and the Easter Vigil at 8pm.

Children preparing to receive the sacraments of Communion and Confirmation are especially welcome to the celebrations of the Triduum. The celebrations offer a profound and accessible way of engaging with the Paschal Mystery. The children preparing for the sacraments are invited to help with these very special celebrations - joining in the foot-washing; the veneration of the cross and the lighting of the fire and baptismal candles! Create memories - and celebrate faith!!

Mass for Marriage

An invitation to married couples, those celebrating a milestone anniversary and those preparing to marry this year to take part in a Mass of Thanksgiving.

Saturday 2nd May 2026, 12 noon - St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham followed by light refreshments. Celebrant: Bishop Richard Walker

Let us know you are coming (by 19 April) at www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass

The Introductory Rites

Opening Song

Come down, O love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing.
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace, till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling.

Penitential Act

The Collect

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 Liturgy of the Word

Sirach 15:15-20

If you desire, you will keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of choice. He has placed before you fire and water: stretch out your hand for whichever you wish. Life and death are in front of people, and whichever one chooses will be given to him. For great is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power and sees everything; his eyes are on those who fear him, and he knows a person's every deed. He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly, and he has not given anyone permission to sin.

Ps 119(118):1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. 1b

Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!
Blessed are those who keep his decrees!
With all their hearts they seek him.

You have laid down your precepts
to be carefully kept.
May my ways be firm
in keeping your statutes.

Deal bountifully with your servant,
that I may live and keep your word.
Open my eyes, that I may see
the wonders of your law.

LORD, teach me the way of your statutes,
and I will keep them to the end.
Grant me insight that I may keep your law,
and observe it wholeheartedly.

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Brothers and Sisters: Among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him' — these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Together we sing/say: Alleluia, alleluia. I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children. *Alleluia.*

Matthew 5:17-37

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

'You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement." But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, "You fool!" will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

'It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn." But I say to you: Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply "Yes" or "No"; anything more than this comes from evil.'

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

The Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus

The mystery of faith

The Communion Rite

Communion thanksgiving

We walk by faith and not by sight:
no gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod;
yet in his promise we rejoice,
and cry, 'My Lord and God.'

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
and may our faith abound;
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:

That when our life and faith is done
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are
in full and endless sight.

We walk by faith, and not by sight:
no gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS **Scripture readings:** ***The English Standard Version of the Bible, Catholic Edition****, copyright 2017 by Crossway.* **The Psalms:** *Abbey Psalms and Canticles © 2018 USCCB.* **Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal*** *© 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy.* ***Songs*****: Come down O Lord***: Bianco da Siena 15C. trans. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-90)*; **Take, O take me as I am** *Text: John Bell © 1995, WGRG c/o Iona Community;* **We walk by faith.** *Words: Henry Alford (1810-71), alt. Texts of copyrighted songs are reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-A-742254. All rights reserved.*