



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding: Ann Foulds (0121 355 7892); Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)

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



BEGIN ADVENT WITH THE PARISH IN PRAYER

Sadly we are not able to gather together in church to keep the beginning of Advent in prayer and reflection.

This is a real pity, for without keeping Advent well, we can so easily lose the deeper sense of why Christmas matters so much. Without praying our way through Advent we miss out a great help to that review of our life, and our lived relationship with God, that helps us move forward into the new civil Year more confidently and healthily.

We cannot gather for Mass for the beginning of Advent, but there is an opportunity to gather together on-line for a time of prayer and music and personal reflection.

Thank you to the members of the parish who have offered their voices for the readings!

The service will be live, beginning at 6pm on Saturday evening, the time when our parish has usually begun its keeping of Sunday. It is very easy to join in - just go to our parish website or blog and click on the link.

It is hoped that a recording will be available shortly afterwards - if so a link will be posted on the website, and blog.

OPEN FOR MASS AGAIN - NEXT WEEKEND!

Our first parish Mass after lockdown will be the 7pm Mass on 4th December -and at that Mass, as well as all of our Sunday Masses on 5th and 6th December we will be celebrating with the children of Year 3 who have been waiting so long, with so many cancelled dates - to make their First Holy Communion.

The 10 children at each Mass have been allowed a bench each - which means that although there is likely to be room also for everyone else who wants to come to Mass that weekend, space will be limited. So others are advised to arrive a little earlier than usual.

A FRESH APPEAL FOR HELP

We need more help if we are to offer the full number of Masses planned for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day - Christmas Eve at 3, 6 and 9pm, and on Christmas Day at 8, 9.30 and 11am. 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 to help 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).

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.

Sa	28		Nancy King RIP (Mooney)
Su	29	1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT: <i>Psalter Week 1</i>	Robert McWilliams RIP (McWilliams)
M	30	St Andrew	Anita Thomas RD (Mastroianni)
T	1	St Edmund Campion	Phil Hayes RD (McDermott)
W	2		Robert and Eugene McWilliams RIP
Th	3	St Francis Xavier	
F	4	7pm	Decsd of McGee and Drozd families
Sa	5	4pm	For all the First Communicants
		6pm	Tommy Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
Su	6	9am	For the parish
		11am	Phil Hayes RD (Hickey)

Confessions 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 Harold Brown, Kay Cooper, Frank Kemp, Clare Banks, Anthony McCorry, Joan Morris and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

Mass of **1st Sunday of Advent**

The Liturgy of the Word

ISAIAH 63:16-17,64:1,3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come
down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

PSALM 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send
you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have
received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you
have been enriched in so many ways, especially in

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

your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ
has indeed been strong among you so that you will
not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you
are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed;
and he will keep you steady and without blame until
the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because
God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus
Christ; and God is faithful.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and
give us your saving help. Alleluia!

MARK 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay
awake, because you never know when the time will
come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone
from home, and left his servants in charge, each
with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to
stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know
when the master of the house is coming, evening,
midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpected-
ly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you
I say to all: Stay awake!'

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HELPING GOVERNMENT TO LISTEN

Officials of the Ministry of Housing, Communities
and Local Government are anxious for individual
Catholics to respond to the current Government
Consultation on Faith Engagement, on the way Gov-
ernment engages with faith communities.

If you wish to respond – even anonymously –
please go to <https://bit.ly/3o5hDhr> to make your
submission on-line.

There is interest in hearing, in particular, from the
following groups of people: Members of the pub-
lic who identify as having a religion, or people who
have a faith; Faith and Religious leaders; Public
sector workers such as civil servants, teachers, the
police and those who work in healthcare; Anyone
who is or has been engaged with the British Mili-
tary in any capacity, or who is or has been engaged
in the Criminal Justice System in any capacity.

The call for evidence opened on 13th Novem-
ber and will run for a period of 4 weeks closing at
11:45pm on 11 December 2020.

THE POOR MISSION FUND

This fund exists to help the poorer parishes of the
Archdiocese, many of which will have been particu-
larly badly hit this year. A retiring collection to support
these parishes will be made at all Masses on 5/6 Dec.
Donations can also be made directly and electronically
to the fund via the link on our parish blog of 27/11/20.