

**Baruch 5:1-9**

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory.

For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

**The Common Psalm for Advent**

*Psalm 24:4-5,8-9,10,14*



Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray, He guides the humble in the right path, He teaches his way to the poor.

His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and law.

The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant.

**Philippians 1:4-6,8-11**

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will

**If I can give you any advice, I beg you to get closer to the Eucharist and to Jesus... we must pray to Jesus to give us the tenderness of the Eucharist.**

*St Teresa of Calcutta.*

**Exposition and Benediction at St Nicholas**

- Sunday 1800—1900** **Exposition and Evening Prayer**  
*2nd and 4th Sundays of the month*
- Monday 1500—1600** **Exposition and Rosary**  
*Praying for vocations*
- Friday 1930—2000** **Exposition**  
*and prayer for the Church*
- Saturday 1700—1740** **Exposition and Sacrament of Confession**



see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you.

My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. *Alleluia!*

**Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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**Next Week: Third Sunday of Advent**

*Scripture readings: Zeph 3:14-18a/Isaiah 12:2-3,4,5-6/Phil 4:4-7 / Lk 3:10-18*

**The Ordinary of the Mass is found on p200 ff of Laudate.**

**The settings of, Holy, Memorial Acclamation and Lamb of God for Advent are found on those same pages also.**



**St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere**

**Address:** 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US  
**Telephone:** 0121 354 1763 **Email:** stnicholasrc@btinternet.com  
**Website:** www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk  
**Parish Blog:** www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

**Parish Priest:** Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** frallenmorris@gmail.com  
**Parish Safeguarding:** Ann Foulds (0121 355 7892) and Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)  
*Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216*

**Boldmere Nativity Parade**

Saturday 15th Dec, 3.30pm  
Dress up as your favourite Nativity character, carry a star, bring a toy sheep or just be yourself.

Starts at Boldmere Methodist Church, Boldmere Rd, and goes via St Nicholas Church; Wylde Green URC; and ends at St Michael's Church, Church Rd. Maybe bring a lantern or torch.

**A short Christmas reading and a carol at each church.**

Everyone is welcome



**Carols for Christmas**

One of the things we Catholics are not so good at providing opportunities for non-Catholics - Christians or others - to come and share with us in a time of prayer and reflection as equal partners.

Mostly when we celebrate something we celebrate Mass and then issues about intercommunion raise their head and cast something of a shadow over what we might share in more equally and freely.

No such problems with the Carols for Christmas event a week on Tuesday. Do please use the opportunity to invite Christians of other traditions, and non-Christians too, to come and join with us in a time of song and readings and reflection. All are welcome

Would you like to help with simple refreshments in Benedict Room afterwards? If so, please see Fr Allen - all help welcome!



**Masses Week of 2nd Sunday in Advent**

S	8	2nd Sunday of Advent	1700	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession
			1800	Thomas Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
Su	9	Psalter Wk 2	0900	For the parish
			1100	Maria and Jan Szambir RIP
			1800	Exposition and Evening Prayer (2nd Sunday)
M	10		1000*	Marie Farrell Ints (Leese)
			1500	Exposition and Rosary
T	11		1000*	John Barfoot RIP (A-G, G, and family) followed by refreshments
W	12			
Th	13		1000*	Decsd members of Neenan family
			1900	<b>Mass of Confirmation w children in Yr 6</b>
F	14		1900*	Ellen Taylor Ints (Hempenstall) Mass followed by 30 mins exposition
S	15	3rd Sunday of Advent	1700	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession
			1800	For the parish
Su	16	Psalter Wk 3	0900	Rachal Canavan RIP (Brennan)
			1100	Madge Hoban RIP (A-G, G, and family)
			1800	Exposition and Evening Prayer (2nd Sunday)

**Morning/Evening Prayer** 20 mins before weekday Masses, *as indicated above* \*.

**Exposition: & Vespers** 2nd & 4th Suns, 6-7pm; **& Rosary** Mon at 3pm.

**Reconciliation** Sat. 1700-1730 (Exposition until 1740) and by arrangement.

**Baptism, Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick:** by arrangement.

**Nourishing prayer at home:** livingeucharist.wordpress.com/

**Please pray for sick parishioners** including Claire Banks; Pat Serafinas; Thomas Stevenson; Peter & Olwyn Foster; Bernie Morton and Fr Neil Bayliss.

**Please pray** for John Brya, Mary Cooper and all whose anniversaries of death are at this time, **. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.** **NB** If you or another parishioner are sick and would like to invite the parish to pray for you, please see Fr Allen, so that the record of your permission now needed under Data Protection legislation can be completed.

**Deanery Advent Penitential Services**

Parish	Date	Time
Kingstanding, Maryvale and Perry Common	Wednesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> December (at St Margaret Mary Church)	7pm
Perry Barr	No service	7.30pm
St Nicholas, Boldmere	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	7pm
Holy Cross, Walmley	No service	
Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield	Monday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December	7pm
Erdington Abbey	Tuesday December 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm



**St Nicholas Advent Fair**

Thank you to all those who took part in the Fair in any capacity. It was a lovely event and much enjoyed by young and old(er) alike.

And we raised £1,119.70 to help support the work of The National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC), a national charity supporting adult survivors of all types of childhood abuse, including physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect.

## Parish

**Travelling Solo lunch** All who 'travel solo in life' for whatever reason are warmly invited to meet for pub lunch after the 11am Mass today.

**Rosary for Vocations.** The Rosary group meets in church on Mondays at 3pm to pray for vocations. All welcome.

**Scripture group** Next meeting **7.30pm, Tues 11 Dec**, in the Benedict Room to read Chapters 7 & 8. All welcome

**Parish Book Clubs** meet in the parish house, and all are welcome.

**(A) The Daytime Group** Next meets at 1030 on Weds 2 Jan, and the book is *The God who won't let go* by Peter van Breemen, SJ. The book is a prayerful invitation to enter the depths of forgiveness, mercy, compassion and resurrection.

**(B) The Night Time Club** Next meets at 8pm on Jan 28. The book is *With the End in Mind: Dying, Death and Wisdom in an Age of Denial* by Kathryn Mannix who wants us to be better informed and less afraid about dying. During 30 years as a doctor in palliative care, she has worked in patients' own homes, in Hospices and in busy teaching hospitals, enabling people with life-limiting illnesses to make the very best of their remaining life-expectancy. In stories from the bedsides of these patients, she shares the experiences that enable her to see dying as something we can plan for and manage rather than something to fear and avoid discussing. Knowing that every day counts us down is not depressing, but an invitation to seize each day and live every moment as fully as possible.

**Preparation for Baptism of Infants.** The next preparation programme starts on Sat 19 Jan from 11-12 noon, in the Benedict Room. Pl see Fr Allen before hand and complete an application form.

**World Development Group** Many thanks to everyone who supported or

### Dads' Get Together

The next meeting includes a reflection from Matt Long comparing his experience of society, family and education in Asia and the UK. Meeting on Monday 21st January at 8pm. So as usual some lively conversation is promised, and some nice food and drink too.



### Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for December is that people involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

To find the Pope's other current prayer intentions please visit <http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org/>

## it is not Advent yet, but...

often people appreciate early notice of the services below

Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec, 7.30pm	Carols for Christmas.
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec. from 1030 to 12noon from 7 to 8pm	Exposition and Advent Prayer (with chance for Individual Reconciliation). Advent Reconciliation Service (with visiting priests).
Christmas Eve, 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2.30pm 6pm 10pm	Mass with KS1 children and younger. Christmas Eve Mass for KS2 children. Mass in the Night.
Christmas Day 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec 9am and 11am	Christmas Day Mass.
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec, 11pm	New Year's Eve Mass.
Tuesday 1st Jan, 12 noon	New Year's Day Mass.

### Cleaning & Decorating Church for Christmas

Come and join with students from Bishop Walsh to give the church a good clean, and help decorate the Christmas Tree and put up the crib and other decorations - followed by a simple late lunch! Sunday 16th December at 1.30pm

### Churches Together.

Volunteers are needed to deliver our share of the *Churches Together* Christmas Cards. If you can help, please just take the cards for a road. And who knows, your kindness in delivering a card might bring someone (back) to faith.

helped with the Annual Dinner. This year we made £3,207 including £495 worth of gift vouchers to benefit the children at Feed My Lamb school, Uganda. This money will help so many people's lives. WDG AGM is on Mon 21 Jan at 7.30pm, at 9 Brooks Road - all are welcome.

### Diocese

**The Sower** Copies of the Advent edition of this new Diocesan publication are available in the porch. It is a free magazine. Archbishop Bernard hopes we will find the content relevant, beneficial and of interest. It is possible to provide feedback on our views. Details on how to do this on pages 13 and 14.

**Pastoral Administrator** (St Paul's School) Hours: 36.5hours. Salary from £19K Further details you can download an application pack from [www.stpaulgl.bham.sch.uk](http://www.stpaulgl.bham.sch.uk) Closing date Fri 14 Dec.



### Christmas Eve Masses

**The 2.30pm Mass** is designed for KS1 children and younger. **ALL** KS1 children and younger are invited to come as their favourite Christmas story character. **No rehearsal needed.**

**The 6pm Mass** is designed for KS2 children and will include a nativity mime as last year, with children being cast in particular roles. **Rehearsal after 6pm Mass on Sat 15th December - all volunteers welcome.**



**St Joseph's Home, Coleshill**, offers Catholic residential care to older people and those living with dementia. Ring 01675 434500 for a chat or to arrange a visit.

**Dance the night away at fundraising ball** The 115th Annual Fundraising Ball in aid of Father Hudson's Care takes place on 26 January 2019. This year's event raised over £7,300 for vulnerable children and adults who need support to live independently, and we're hoping next year's Ball will be bigger and better. With a three-course meal, live music and a variety of fundraising activities, it is set to be a great night in aid of a worthy cause. The Ball will take place at the National Conference Centre, Solihull, from 7.30pm - 1am. Tickets cost £40 and are available from [fundraising@fatherhudsons.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@fatherhudsons.org.uk) or by calling 01675 434015.

**Aspiring for leadership positions in Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of Birmingham?** Saturday 19th January 2019 8.30am - 3.30pm (no cost for this course). Don Bosco House, Coventry Road, Coleshill, B46 3EA To book course go to <http://w.pfrms.co/2ltp>

### Other

**Food Cycle** provide free community meals every Wednesday evening at 7 pm at Sutton Coldfield United Reformed

### How might we celebrate St Patrick's Day in 2019?

It's not the most seasonal question but if you would like to be part of a planning team for our parish family celebration of St Patrick's Day please give your name to Fr Allen as soon as possible.

Celebration will be in the Carpenter's Arms after the 6pm Mass on Saturday 16th March.



Church. Meals are made from food being discarded by local supermarkets and available to anyone. So please feel free to come and see for yourselves or refer anyone who might benefit from a warm meal and an opportunity to meet new people.

**Get Crafty Maryvale** Community Project are crowd funding for a 'Get Crafty' which will use creative activities to tackle isolation and loneliness for older people and adults with learning disabilities.

Details at <https://bit.ly/2TXimCY>

**Supporting the homeless.** A list of local organisations offering a variety of support to those who are homeless is on our parish blog <https://bit.ly/2DT86WE>

## Blessing your family Christmas Tree

The use of a decorated tree as part of Christmas is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays which depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light of candle which symbolized Christ, the light of the world.



According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the solemnity of the Epiphany. The lights of the tree are lit after the prayer of blessing.

The following prayer of blessing may be used by any member of the family. Before saying the prayer of blessing you might like to read some appropriate verses from Chapter 2 of the Gospel of Luke

Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and for the stars of the night.

We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



One group not previously publicised is Birmingham Christmas Shelter. They can be contacted at <https://www.birminghamchristmasshelter.org/>

**Food Cycle** provide free community meals every Wednesday evening at 7 pm at Sutton Coldfield United Reformed Church. Meals are made from food being discarded by local supermarkets and available to anyone. So please feel free to come and see for yourselves or refer

anyone who might benefit from a warm meal and an opportunity to meet new people.

**A Lifeline for Marriages** Is your marriage stressed, unloving, cold? Do you want to improve your communication? Have you separated, divorced, or are you thinking of doing so? Do you want to try again? The Retrouvaille programme may be just what you need! Info from 0788 729 6983 or [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

### ST JOHN PAUL II Multi Academy

**Admissions 2020/2021** to schools St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Sutton Coldfield; St Nicholas Catholic Primary School Boldmere; Holy Cross Catholic Primary School Walmley; and Bishop Walsh Catholic Secondary School that form part of the St. John Paul II Multi Academy.

The Board of Directors have published the proposed Admissions Policy and SIF (Supplementary Information Form) to be implemented for the school year 2020/2021. These documents are now available on the individual schools websites for the consultation period.

Please refer to these new policies if you are considering making an application for the 2020/2021 intake in any of the above schools.

Should you want to comment or discuss the proposed policy content please email [j.farrell@sjp2.net](mailto:j.farrell@sjp2.net) before 1st February, 2019

**The major proposed change has to do with the Certificate of Catholic practice.**

**The MAC wishes to adopt a new national definition of Catholic practice to privilege practising Catholic applicants.**

**Priests are advised in national and Archdiocesan guidelines that (except in truly exceptional circumstances) to qualify for this certificate a parent should have attended Sunday Mass weekly for 5 years and (in the case of applications to Secondary School) the child concerned should have attended Sunday Mass weekly since the age of 7 also.**

**The guidance given to priests can be read at [www.bdes.org.uk/admissions.html](http://www.bdes.org.uk/admissions.html)**

**The consultation process allows parents and others to indicate approval or otherwise of the change before a final decision is made.**

There have been two parish meetings recently for parents applying to Primary School. These gave parents the opportunity to consider the proposed admission arrangements for next year to some of the MAC's schools, including St Nicholas and Bishop Walsh schools.

It has been pointed out that there has not been a similar parish meeting offering the same opportunity for those applying to Bishop Walsh School. So a meeting has now been arranged for 9am on 15th December.

All are welcome Fr. Allen