

Share Christmas...

Please take a handful of service cards and distribute them far and wide. Particularly share them with friends and neighbours who you know make a special effort to come to church at Christmas!



Applying for 2020 place at St Nicholas School?



Full details of admission process and requirements are on the school website.

Catholic parents who have attended Mass weekly for 5 years are encouraged to obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice to support their application.

To request this Certificate please complete the form provided in the porch and return it to Fr Allen after any Sunday Mass.

St Nicholas Fair Thank you to all parishioners who made donations to the stalls – and gave their time and energies in preparing and running this year's Fair. And to all who came along to give their support, enjoy the bargains and spend time chillin' out with other members of the parish.



£1331.27 was raised for Acorns Children's Hospice; John Taylor Hospice; and Fatima House for trafficked women. Details of money raised on each stall on noticeboard.

Thank you in particular to generous Boldmere traders for their donations to our raffles... *Age Concern; Boldmere Carpets; Boldmere Hardware; Boldmere Lounge; Boots Chemists; City Nails; Costa Coffee; Gems Sweet Shop; H's Hair Club; Lifestyle Express; O'Gorman Solicitors; Post Office; Sainsbury; Select and Save; Sportology; Sutton Runner; Tesco; The Real Image Ltd; Timpson's; Trilogy; Wishes and Kisses*

Boldmere Nativity Parade Sat 21 Dec, 3.30pm. *Dress as a shepherd, king, angel, donkey, ox or star or just be yourself.* Starts at Boldmere Methodist Church and then

Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for December is that every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering..



More information at www.popesprayer.va

Some Advent and Christmas dates...

- Advent celebrations of Sacrament of Penance.** Monday 16th December. *Celebrations of individual confession, during time of Exposition of Blessed Sacrament; 1030 - 12noon, 3-4.30pm; Reconciliation Service: 7pm*
- Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December**
 - Mass especially for KS1 children:** 2.30pm
 - Mass especially for KS2 children:** 6pm
 - Mass in the Night, 9pm**
- Christmas Day, Weds 25th December, Mass at 9am & 11am**
 - Holy Family Sun, Dec 28/29** Mass at usual times.
 - New Years Eve,** Tuesday, December 31st at 11pm
 - New Year's Day,** Wednesday January 1st at 12 noon



Bambinelli Sunday, was instituted by St John Paul II.

On the 3rd Sunday of Advent children and adults bring their Baby Jesus figures from their homes to St Peters Square where they are blessed by the Pope



Parishes around the world now join in the celebration, with young and old(er) bringing the figure of Jesus from their domestic crib to church for blessing.

Some then wrap the Bambinelli and open it as a family on Christmas night or on Christmas morning where the youngest member of the family would place it in the crib. A gift of the presence of Christ in your home this Christmas.

Don't miss out - bring your Bambinelli to church next Sunday!

Christmas Eve

The 2.30pm Mass is being prepared for KS1 children and younger. **ALL** KS1 children and younger are invited to come as their favourite Christmas story character. **No rehearsal needed.** Children are welcome to come dressed as their favourite nativity characters - even as the donkey!

The 6pm Mass is being prepared for KS2 children. As in recent years it would be lovely to be able to offer a Nativity mime with children being cast in particular roles. But to do this we need volunteers to take the roles in the drama. Names are presently being taken – please see Fr Allen after any Sunday Mass to register. There will be a rehearsal for mime immediately after the 6pm Mass on Saturday 21st December.

in the Benedict Room- read Chaps 9, 10 and 11 and just come along...

Diocese

Bishop Walsh school- 6th form prospectus in porch

Edmund Campion school vacancies - also **MAC vacancy** see parish blog and notice board.

Wednesday Word is a valuable resource for helping families of young children support them in becoming more familiar with the Scriptures, and especially with the Sunday readings. Usually only available to Catholic schools it is, exceptionally, being made available to this parish for families whose children who are not in Catholic School.

A subscription of £2.50 per children gives you a colourful A4 sheet for each week in term time and booklets for school holidays. It is **highly recommended** for all families - and especially for those who will be in 1st Communion and Confirmation programmes over the next 3 years. *Subscriptions for 2020 must be confirmed to Fr Allen by 15 December.*



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

Gifts from St Nicholas

The bare crib is up today to receive our offerings to the local food bank.

Everyone should of course donate what they wish. However it is suggested that each person at Mass, who is able, might donate one item of Christmas food (food that will not pass its best before date before 31/12) and 50p (which the Food Bank will use to buy fresh food for distribution just before Christmas)

Whole Community Catechesis: Second Sunday of Advent

- Listen to the word**
What encourages or challenges you?
- Look into Your Life**
 - Q4Children:** How might you make our world a better place ready for Christmas?
 - Q4Youth:** When and how do you show you are sorry for when you have messed up?
 - Q4Adults:** For what do you need the forgiveness of God? When and how will you receive and celebrate his gift of mercy?

Owning our Faith and Calling

Thank you to the members of the parish who speak at Mass today to help us make the most of the opportunity presented by *Owning our Faith and Calling* (OFC). It is no small thing to get up in front of the parish and speak about what faith means to us and why we want to deepen it!

Hearing others speak can awaken in all of us a reminder of the importance of faith, and also - sometimes - a sense that faith does not have the strong place in our lives and our families' lives that we would like.

OFC offers us a chance to deepen faith and help renew parish life. It works through us having conversation together in groups - reflecting together, sharing our understanding of things and learning a little from the Church and from each other.

It relies on people being ready to host these groups - either in their homes, or in the Benedict Room, or down the pub or in a cafe, even over a meal in a restaurant. The conversation is response to a simple passage of scripture and some paragraphs from the Catechism: nothing too heavy. Each group will meet once a month for about 90 minutes at a time and a place to suit its members. And obviously it relies on others coming along too!

The host really just arranges the time and place and keeps the conversation on topic. No expertise is needed!

- If you were to host a group, who would you do it with?
- If you were to take part, when and where would best suit you?

Fr. Allen

MASSES AND OTHER LITURGIES 2nd Week in Advent

Sa	7	2nd Sunday of Advent	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession May Devlin RIP (Devlin)
Su	8	<i>Psalter Wk 2</i>	0900 1100 1800	Mr and Mrs Maxwell (Pitt) For the parish <i>Exposition and Evening Prayer</i>
M	9	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	1000* 1500	Theresa Doherty Ints (Roche) <i>Exposition and Rosary for Vocations</i>
T	10		1000*	Dec'd family & friends of Teresa Hull
W	11		1000	Ints of Bridget Hennessy
Th	12			
F	13	St Lucy	1900*	Ints Lyn Hunt and Family followed by <i>Exposition and prayer for victims of abuse</i>
Sa	14	3rd Sunday of Advent	1700 1800	<i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i> Tomas Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
Su	15	<i>Psalter Wk 3</i>	0900 1100 1600	For the parish Tom Hempenstall RIP Anniv (H) Parish Advent Carol Service

Scripture readings for Mass next Sunday

Is 35:1-6a, 10 / Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 / Jas 5:7-10 / Mt 11:2-11

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

Exposition: & Vespers 2nd and 4th Suns of month, 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: *Living Eucharist* is being relaunched in Advent 2019. In the meantime try universalis.com or <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

Please pray for sick parishioners including Lyn Hunt; Michael O'Brien; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke, Peggy Gallagher, Hazel Kemp. **Please pray** for John Delaney (Cremation, S. Cold Crem. 3.15pm, 9/12); Frank Kemp (Mass, 18/12, 10am), and Pauline Venables (Funeral Mass 10am, 8/1), and for Harold Brown, Kay Cooper, Clare Banks, Joan Morris and all whose anniversaries of death are at this time: **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

Parish

Teas & Coffees after Sun morning Masses.

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

Travelling Solo lunch All who 'travel solo in life' for whatever reason are invited to join with others for a jolly Sunday lunch at a local pub. *Next lunches: TODAY, after 11am Mass and then our Christmastime lunch: Jan 5.*

Preparation for Baptism of Infants The next preparation programme starts on Saturday 11th Jan from 11am-12 noon in the Benedict Room. Please see Fr Allen beforehand for an application form.

Book Club. Next book is *100 poems* by Seamus Heaney. Read the book and come to discuss. The Presbytery, 8pm, 6 January.

Receive God's love and mercy in an Advent celebration of the Sacrament of Confession and Reconciliation

- St M. Mary, Perry Common **Tues 10 Dec 7^{pm}**
10.30 - 12 noon
- St Nicholas, Boldmere **Mon 16 Dec 3 to 4.30^{pm}**
7^{pm}
- Erdington Abbey **Tues 17 Dec 7^{pm}**
- Holy Cross, Walmley **Weds 18 7^{pm}**
- Holy Trinity, S. Coldfield **Thu 19 Dec 7^{pm}**

Introductory Rites

Entrance Song

Word of justice, *Alleluia*,
Come to dwell here, *Maranatha!*

Word of mercy, *Alleluia*,
Live among us. *Maranatha!*

Word of power, *Alleluia*,
Live within us. *Maranatha!*

Word of freedom, *Alleluia*,
Save your people. *Maranatha!*

Word of healing, *Alleluia*,
Heal our sorrow. *Maranatha!*

Word of comfort, *Alleluia*,
Bring us hope now. *Maranatha!*

Word of gladness, *Alleluia*,
Fill our hearts now. *Maranatha!*

Word of wisdom, *Alleluia*,
Come renew us. *Maranatha!*

Word we long for, *Alleluia*,
Word we thirst for. *Maranatha!*

The Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies
down with the kid, calf and lion feed together,
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the
Lord as the waters swell the sea.
That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to
the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

Psalms 71(72):1-2,7-8,12-13,17

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.

He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.

Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name.

Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures
was meant to teach us something about hope from the
examples scripture gives of how people who did not
give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us
when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant
with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus,
so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each
other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you.
The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised
Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry
out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also
to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as
scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you
among the pagans and sing to your name.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached
in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message:
'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when
he said: 'A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way
for the Lord, make his paths straight.'

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair
with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was
locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea
and the whole Jordan district made their way to him,
and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan
they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number
of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said
to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from
the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant,
produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume
to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father,"
because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham
from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots
of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good
fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise
you in water for repentance, but the one who follows
me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry
his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and
fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his
threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but
the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Prayer of the Faithful

We pray to the Lord. Come, Lord, Jesus, Marantha

The Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

At the following words, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Song

Blest be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who brings the dawn and darkest night dispels,
who raises up a mighty saviour from the earth,
of David's line, a son of royal birth.

The prophets tell a story just begun
of vanquished foe and glorious vict'ry won,
of promise made to all who keep the law as guide:
God's faithful love and mercy will abide.

This is the oath once sworn to Abraham:
all shall be free to dwell upon the land,
free now to praise, unharmed by the oppressor's rod,
holy and righteous in the sight of God.

And you, my child, this day you shall be called
the promised one, the prophet of our God,
for you will go before the Lord to clear the way
and shepherd all into the light of day.

The tender love God promised from our birth
is soon to dawn upon this shadowed earth,
to shine on those whose sorrows seem to never cease,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.

Communion Rite

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us. (x2)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

Communion Song

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

Concluding Rites

The Gospel of Matthew

The Gospel of Matthew
presents Jesus as a
teacher from God, who
is the expected Messiah
and who personifies
wisdom and embodies
goodness.

The Kingdom of God is
a central theme, which
Matthew prefers to call the Kingdom of Heaven
- and he refers to it as such more than 60 times.
This distinction would have mattered hugely to
the Jewish communities, because Jews do not
pronounce the name of God.

Matthew's Gospel is written like a handbook,
or catechism for the early Church, providing
models for teaching, preaching, mission,
community worship and dealing with disputes
with outsiders. These are carefully woven into
the story of Jesus and his mission. He presents
a coherent perspective on Jesus, giving a rich
account of Jesus' miracles and teachings while
also placing them in their historical and religious
context.

As Matthew is writing for a Jewish readership,
his structuring of Jesus' teachings into five
discourses is modelled on the five books
of Moses, the Torah. The whole narrative
of Jesus' life unfolds over 27 chapters. He presents
Jesus as a New Moses giving a New Law. For
example, he ascends the mountain in
the Sermon on the Mount (Ch
5-7) to deliver the New Law. His
discourses go on to include
mission (Ch 10), the parables
(Ch 13), teachings on the
Church (Ch 18) and teachings
on the future (Ch 24-25).

