

## Some prompts as we prepare for Confession and reconciliation

Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, Ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would have not been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace.

*St Augustine*

We have sinned against life by failing to work for peace.  
We have sinned against life  
by keeping silent in the face of injustice.

We have sinned against life  
by ignoring those who suffer in distant lands.

We have sinned against life  
by forgetting the poor in our midst.

We have failed to respect those made in the image of God.  
We have withheld our love from those who depend on us.

We have engaged in gossip and in repeated slander.  
We have distorted the truth for our own advantage.

We have conformed to fashion and not to conscience.  
We have indulged in despair and trafficked with cynics.

We have given meagre support to our Houses of Study.  
We have neglected our heritage of learning.

We have sinned against ourselves  
and paid scant heed to the life of the spirit.

We have sinned against ourselves  
and have not risen to fulfil the best that is in us.

For all these, O God of mercy,  
forgive us, pardon us, grant us atonement!

*From the Jewish Preparatory service for the Days of Awe.*

### Tues 21st December Parish Advent Reconciliation Service at 7pm

*Details of other reconciliation services locally are posted in the porch and parish & deanery blogs*

### The First Masses of Christmas

24th Dec: Mass at 3pm and 6pm

Mass at 9pm *NB ticketed*

25th Dec: Mass 9am and 11am

26th Dec: Mass 9am and 11am

Parents who would like their children to assist with presentations of the Christmas Story at the 3 and 6pm Masses on Christmas Eve are asked to sign up on the noticeboard nearest the statue of Our Lady. Volunteers (aged 1- 16, or even older!) are sought for music, for readings, and for acting out the story at these Masses.

It is far from clear what the situation will be with COVID come Christmas. However some members of the parish have expressed concern that if the church is overcrowded they will not feel safe to attend. So, as things stand, the 9pm Mass on Christmas Eve (only) will be ticketed and numbers kept to the safest level. Tickets can be booked at <https://bit.ly/3o2SO8B>

### Celebrate those who make a difference

The Columbans have launched their 5th annual competition for young people. The theme of the competition is "Anyone Can Make A Difference: 21st Century Changemakers", based on a quote from climate campaigner Greta Thunberg who said "No-one is too small to make a difference"

The competition encourages 13-18 year-olds to write something about someone in our present society that is raising their voices on issues like peace, equality and environmental degradation and many more. Image entries (drawings, paintings etc) are also accepted. Top prize is £300!

The competition will be closing on the 11th February 2022 and the winner will be announced on the 11th March 2022.

[www.columbancompetition.com](http://www.columbancompetition.com)

**Parish Finances:** Gift aiding your offertory donations to the parish greatly help us we balance our parish finances. Gift Aided donations need to be made either by Standing Order or by Gift Aid envelopes, which ever is most convenient for you. *Forms for Gift-Aid Standing Orders and envelopes are available from Fr Allen.*



## St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

**Address:** 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US

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**Parish Blog:** [www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com](http://www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com)

**Parish Priest:** Fr Allen Morris **Deacons:** Revv John Garvey and Gary O'Brien

**Parish Safeguarding:** Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)

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

### Walking Together and looking forward

There are many things people would like to see happen in our parish. None of them are difficult things - but all of them require people coming forward ready to help, if they are to take place.

Three of the things most often mentioned are

- **Children's Liturgy.** We already have a few volunteers but need three or four more to help meet our safeguarding requirements. It would simply involve helping watch over the group while the leaders lead the session.
- **Tea and coffee** after Sunday Mass, and after our Tuesday morning Mass. As mentioned last week, we need volunteers to staff sessions and to organise the project.
- **Parents and toddlers Group** It is hope to start a group meeting in the Newman Centre on Monday mornings. Before we start looking for people outside the parish to run a group, are there any parishioners who are qualified and who would be interested in a paid post?

Often those who would most benefit from these things are people who are not in a position to help run them, at least not at the moment. Anyone willing to take part for the good of others, as an act of Christian service to our community?



**Please keep Gary O'Brien in your prayers** as he prepares to take up a new post as deacon in the parish of Christ the King, Kingstanding. He will be missed here, but it is good to know he has good work to do there, and that he will not be very far away!

### The Sanctuary at St Chad's

is taking an active part in supporting refugees in our city. *There is a parish collection today to support this work.*

**Sadly** — because of the rise in COVID infection (including Omicron) locally, and in St Nicholas School in particular — we are cancelling the nativity dramas planned for our Christmas Eve 3 and 6pm Masses. *ALL children are invited to come dressed as their favourite nativity characters to what will still be specially child-friendly Masses*

### Keeping us ALL safe

The current expectation of the Bishops' Conference is that those attending Mass wear face-masks and sanitise hands on entering church. It is important that when gathering in numbers and in enclosed places we take such steps to protect those who are most vulnerable.

Do please continue to use the Lateral Flow tests to check your own infection status - not all who are infected and contagious show symptoms.

### PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

Sa	11	6pm	3rd Sunday of Advent	Thomas Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
Su	12	9am 11am		Maria and Paul Nguyen RIP (Nguyen) For the parish
M	13	10am		Decsd family and friends of Hodgetts family
T	14	10am		Dec'd family of Don and Anne O'Gorman
W	15	10am		Andrew Harwley RIP (Fegan)
Th	16			
Fr	17	7pm		Pat Bligh RD (Burke)
Sa	18	6pm	4th Sunday of Advent	For the parish
Su	19	9am 11am		Patrick and Rebecca Keegan RIP Nora and Frank Smith RIP (McGrath)

**Morning Prayer:** Zoom meeting Monday to Fridays at 8.30am

**Lectio:** Zoom meeting, Sund at 4pm; **Rosary:** Zoom meeting, Mon at 7pm

**Sacrament of Confession:** Friday evenings after 7pm Mass until 8pm; and 5-5.30pm on Saturday. (Also by appointment)

**Anointing of the Sick:** Last Friday of month at 11am

**Please pray for parishioners who are sick** including Christina Drozd, Jean Lawlor, Stephen Burke, Brenda Davies, Elizabeth Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for Pat Bligh who has died recently and whose funeral is here on Tuesday 21 Dec at 1230, for Cath Wakeham who has also died recently and for John O'Sullivan, Clare Banks, Anthony McCorry, Joan Morris and Tom Hempenstall and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

**The Introductory Rites** bring us together as one, as we prepare ourselves to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.

### Opening 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!*

### The Penitential Act

#### The Collect

**The Liturgy of the Word** invites us to share in the ongoing dialogue between God and his people. A brief silence after the readings helps us take the word of God to heart and begin a prayerful response to what we have heard.

### Zephaniah 3:14-18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

### Isaiah 12

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.  
Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name.  
Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds;  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

### Philippians 4:4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I

repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. *Alleluia!*

### Luke 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

### 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.

### The Prayer of the Faithful

**The Liturgy of the Eucharist** re-presents the Sacrifice of Christ to the Father, and his gift of life renewed to the Church, for the service of his mission.

Our next monthly collection for the **Bethany Food Bank** will be on 8 and 9 Jan (not the usual first Sunday of the month). In the meantime donations can be made to local foodbanks through local supermarkets.

### The Offertory

Be still for the presence of the Lord  
the Holy One is here.  
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.  
In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.  
Be still for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy one is here.  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.

Be still for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.  
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.  
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him;  
Be still for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.

**The Eucharistic Prayer** is a memorial of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation. The Body and Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and we join with Christ in offering Sacrifice to the Father

### The Preface Dialogue

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.  
*People:* **And with your spirit.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right and just.**

### Sanctus

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are  
full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he  
who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

### The mystery of faith.

We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Res-ur-rec-tion  
un-til you come a-gain.

**THE COMMUNION RITE:** The Lord offers reconciliation as he invites us to share in the food and drink that is his Body and Blood. Love and mercy are the condition and the fruit of communion in the Lord.

### The Lord's Prayer

#### Invitation to Communion

#### Song of Thanksgiving

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;  
where there is injury your pardon, Lord;  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness only light;  
and where there's sadness ever joy.  
Oh Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.  
Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
In giving to our neighbour we receive;  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

**The Concluding Rites** send us out to live the love of God. Our mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

### Blessing and Dismissal

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### Advent Blessings Blessing your family crib.



The custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to Saint Francis of Assisi who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas eve of 1223. However as early as the fourth century representations of the nativity of the Lord were painted as wall decorations.

The prayer of blessing offered here may be used by a parent or any other family member. It is appropriate to have first a reading of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Luke 2:1-8

God of every nation and people,  
from the very beginning of creation  
you have made manifest your love:  
when our need for a Saviour was great  
you sent your Son  
to be born of the Virgin Mary.  
To our lives he brings joy and peace,  
justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger;  
may it remind us  
of the humble birth of Jesus,  
and raise up our thought to him,  
who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,  
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.