

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The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.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.

The Common Psalm for Advent



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 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!*

Next Week: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture readings: Micah 5:1-4a / Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 / Hebrews 10:5-10 / Luke 1:39-45

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**



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.



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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

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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

Carols for Christmas

One of the things we Catholics are not so good at is 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 this Tuesday evening. Do please come along yourself and bring the family. You might also use the opportunity to invite Christians of other traditions, and non-Christians too, to come and join us for song and readings. All are welcome

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



TO WAKE BEFORE DAWN
Daryl Madden

I think we were meant
To wake before dawn
In the stilling darkness
Our soul to be drawn

Into the quiet
Foundation of peace
All thoughts and worries
Here to release

In hope of the light
A gift of new day
Seeking creator
In turning to pray

Take not for granted
That this day will be
Focus of being
Dependent on thee

And in the sun rising
A grateful heart
Rejoice with creation
To now serve our part

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Masses Week of 3rd Sunday in Advent

S	Day	Time	Notes
S	15	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession For the parish
Su	16	0900 1100 1800	3rd Sunday of Advent Psalter Wk 3 Rachal Canavan RIP (Brennan) Madge Hoban RIP (A-G, G, and family) Exposition and Evening Prayer (2nd Sun of month)
M	17	1000* 1500	Decsd of Mooney and Byrne families. Exposition and Rosary
T	18	1000* 1900	Decsd of Curtin family followed by refreshments Carol Concert
W	19		
Th	20	1000* 1030 - 12noon 7 -8pm	Mick McDermottRD (Devane) Exposition and Advent Prayer (with chance for Individual Reconciliation) Advent Reconciliation Service (with visiting priests).
F	21	1000 1900*	Mass with St Nicholas school. All welcome Mick McDermott RD (St Nicholas SVP) Mass followed by 30 mins exposition
S	22	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession For the parish
Su	23	0900 1100	3rd Sunday of Advent Psalter Wk 3 Michael Moran (1st Anniv) RIP (Moran) Michael McDermott RD (Egan)

Morning/Evening Prayer 20 mins before weekday Masses, *as indicated above* *
Exposition: & Vespers 2nd & 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: livingeucharist.wordpress.com/

Please pray for sick parishioners including Pat Serafinas; Thomas Stevenson; Peter & Olwyn Foster; Bernie Morton and Fr Neil Bayliss. **Please pray** for Claire Banks who died during the week, and for Mary Cooper, Teresa Keane, Brian Woffinden, Christine O'Reilly 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 Pentiential Services

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

Parish

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, Mon 4 Feb**, in the Benedict Room to read Chapters 9 and 10. 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 a doctor in palliative care who wants us to be better informed and less afraid about dying. In stories from the bedsides of her 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.

Travelling Solo lunch All who 'travel solo in life' for whatever reason are warmly invited to meet for pub lunch after the 11am Mass on Sunday 6 Jan.

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.

Diocese

Celebrating Matrimony Archbishop Bernard invites all couples who will celebrate celebrating a particular milestone wedding anniversary (10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 45, 50, 60 and each

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.

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/>

Christmas Services at St Nicks...

Tues 18 th Dec, 7.30pm	Carols for Christmas.
Thursday 20 th 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 th Dec 2.30pm	Mass with KS1 children and younger.
6pm	Christmas Eve Mass for KS2 children.
10pm	Mass in the Night.
Christmas Day 25 th Dec 9am and 11am	Christmas Day Mass.
Monday 31 st Dec, 11pm	New Year's Eve Mass.
Tuesday 1st Jan, 12 noon	New Year's Day Mass.

year over 60) as those newly married or preparing to marry in 2019 to join him for a Thanksgiving Mass on Sunday 3rd February, 11am at St Chad's Cathedral. If you qualify and can attend, please email your details to Fr Allen so that they can be submitted and a personal invitation be issued.

School Vacancies SS Peter & Paul Primary School, Kingsbury Road, Erdington B24 9ND part of the St. John Paul II Multi Academy has vacancies in Reception & Yr 3 classes. Contact Headteacher Mr. Neil Porter on 0121 675 6028

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 Book at <http://w.pfrms.co/2l1tp>

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

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.



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 or by calling 01675 434015.

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.

Parish Youth Worker Full-time (35hrs

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 before 1st February, 2019

Congratulations

to all those youngsters who were confirmed this week and last.

The Certificates will be distributed at Mass on 2/3 March, as the newly confirmed hand in their Winter project and as they prepare to begin the season of Lent.



(pw). £23-25,000p.a. Further details from Canon Bathula at parish of Immaculate Conception, Bicester.

Aspiring for Other

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

Get Crafty Maryvale Crowd funding for a 'Get Crafty' Community Project 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> 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



Who is fleeing persecution and seeking sanctuary?

Please join Restore, a project of Birmingham Churches Together, for training sessions for those interested in refugee issues or befriending.

Thursday evenings:
31 January and 7 & 14 February 2019

from 7.15pm to 9.15pm

at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham city centre, B4 7SX

This is a course of 3 sessions. Each session has different content. All new volunteers with Restore need to complete all 3 sessions.



Training is offered free of charge but donations towards costs are welcome.

To book a place please contact
Jeremy Thompson, Befriending Co-ordinator:
0121 661 4275 admin@restore.uk.org



www.restore.uk.org

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

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