

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.

In Hospital or going there?

Catholic Chaplains are appointed to all of the local hospitals.

Patients, and relatives of patients, are urged to make sure that Catholic patients admitted to hospital are registered as Roman Catholic on admission. If they wish to be visited by the Catholic Chaplain, they should ask the ward nurse to arrange this.

Data protection legislation means that **unless this is done** your details will not be passed to the Chaplain.

If you wish to be visited by Fr Allen as well as the hospital chaplain then please let him know. It is very helpful if you can give details of the ward the patient is on.

Many people find it helpful to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick when they experience serious ill health. If you would like to receive the Sacrament, please let Fr Allen know.

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}

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



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.

Other

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 what you need! Info from 0788 729 6983 or www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Diocese

Vacancy for Safeguarding Advisor - see Blog or <https://bit.ly/2PripJT>

Edmund Campion & MAC job vacancies see parish blog & notice board.

Bishop Walsh: 6th form prospectus in porch

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
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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

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 after the Sunday 11am Mass for a jolly Sunday lunch at a local pub. Next lunch: 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.

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 comes here before going via URC church to St Michael's Church.

Scripture Group. The group continues its gentle reading of the *Acts of the Apostles*. New people always welcome. Next meeting is 7.30pm on 20 January, in the Benedict Room- read Chaps 9, 10 and 11 and just come along...

Bambinelli Sunday

If you have forgotten to bring your *Bambinelli* to Mass for blessing, all is not lost.



A blessing of the whole crib for use at home is available on our parish blog.

Owning our Faith and Calling

The role of the Church has always been to bear witness to the Gospel to the world.

In time past, in this country, a great deal of attention was paid to enabling the Catholic Church to exist as a Society within but apart from society at large.

Parishes and Catholic societies enabled Catholics to have a social life and a religious life quite separate from other citizens. In one way or another this was chosen as a way of keeping Catholics 'safe' from the degradation of faith in the Reformation, and wide-spread anti-Catholic prejudice in society at large,

exacerbated in many places by prejudice against Irish immigrants.

Overt prejudice against Catholics and the Irish is less common now - and we are all better defended by civil legislation. In addition dialogue between different Christian communities has moved on apace. There is broad acceptance of a shared Christian faith expressed in diverse ways in various churches - even as some differences in doctrine and practice remain controversial.

So Catholics are now urged NOT to keep away from Protestants, or indeed from people of other faith or none. We can find common ground and reason to work together with all sorts of people in many settings - and such collaboration can be

ASSES AND OTHER LITURGIES 3rd Week in Advent

Sa	14	3rd Sunday of Advent <i>Psalter Wk 3</i>	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession Tomas Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
Su	15		0900 1100 1600	For the parish Tom Hempenstall RIP Anniv (H) Parish Advent Carol Service
M	16		1000* 1500 1900	Thomas Hennessy RIP (Anniv) Confessions 10.30 to 12 and 3-4.30pm Exposition and Rosary for Vocations Parish Penitential Service
T	17		1000*	Olwyn Foster RD (O'Gorman)
W	18		1000	Funeral Mass of Frank Kemp Ints of Kay Ollerenshaw (Nugent)
Th	19			
F	20		1900*	Ints of Jackie followed by Exposition and prayer for victims of abuse
Sa	21	4th Sunday of Advent <i>Psalter Wk 4</i>	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession Olwyn Foster RD (O'Gorman)
Su	22		0900 1100 1800	For the parish Margaret Stroud RIP (O'Gorman) Exposition and Evening Prayer

Scripture readings for Mass next Sunday

Isaiah 7:10-14 / Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 / Romans 1:1-7 / Matthew 1:18-24

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 Frank Kemp, and Pauline Venables (Mass 8/1, 10am), and for Tom Hempenstall, Bernie Morton, Teresa Keane, 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.**

a sign of the dawning of the Kingdom.

The Church has much to bring to this collaboration - but cannot bring the genius of the Gospel and her Tradition to the world if she becomes victim of relativism and religious indifference, and if her members are not sustained by a close and personal relationship with Jesus in the community of the Church.

Over recent Sundays we have heard parishioners' testimony about how they know their need for our faith and their desire to grow in it, to deepen their relationship with Jesus and the Church. What about you? **Do please give careful consideration to taking part in the small groups being set up in January** Fr. Allen

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 35:1-6,10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling
knees, and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not
be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is
coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to
save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Psalm 145(146):6-10

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of
a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit
of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and
the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not
lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do
not make complaints against one another, brothers,
so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the
Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For
your example, brothers, in submitting with patience,
take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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!*

Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing
and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one
who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone
else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what
you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame
walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and
the dead are raised to life and the Good News is
proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who
does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk
to the people about John: 'What did you go out into
the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze?
No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing
fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are
to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out
for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more
than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of
women, a greater than John the Baptist has never
been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is
greater than he is.'

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.

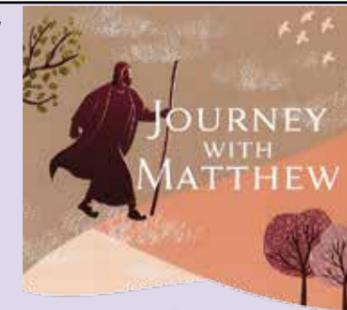
Communion Song

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

Concluding Rites

The Gospel of Matthew

Matthew tells us early on, through the angel Gabriel, the Messiah to be born will be called "Immanuel, which means 'God with us'" (1:23). And, right at the end of his Gospel, Matthew completes his Gospel with Jesus' statement of his divinity: Jesus tells his disciples, "I am with you always" (28:20).



Matthew talks about upheavals six times. Jerusalem is in turmoil when Jesus enters it, with the whole city asking, 'Who is this?' (21:10). At the upheaval of the cross, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split (27:51) as Jesus breathed his last breath, tombs were opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised (27:52). When the centurions and those who were with them guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" (27:54). On Easter morning, Matthew speaks again of an earthquake (28:2) and how the angel of the Lord came and rolled back the stone of the tomb. The guards were so frightened, they shook and became like dead men (28:4).

There are other events which are only recorded in Matthew's Gospel, for example, Jesus' giving of 'the keys to Peter in 16:18 and the description of the Magi in Chapter 2. Matthew doesn't specify how many there are, but because he says that they brought gold, frankincense and myrrh, the popular belief is that there were three Magi or three kings as they are often called.

In the second century, St Irenaeus famously began to associate specific symbols from Ezekiel 1:1-21 and Revelation 4:6-8 with each of the four Gospels. He suggested that the winged man represented Matthew, saying: 'This, then, is the Gospel of his humanity; for which reason it is, too, that the character of a humble and meek man is kept up through the whole Gospel.'

