

**Micah 5:1-4**

The Lord says this: 'But you, Bethlehem Ephra-  
thah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you  
will be born for me the one who is to rule over  
Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to  
the days of old.'

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth gives  
birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will  
come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and  
feed his flock with the power of the Lord,

with the majesty of the name of his God. They  
will live secure, for from then on he will extend  
his power to the ends of the land. He himself will  
be peace.

**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.

**Hebrews 10:5-10**

This is what Christ said, on coming into the  
world: 'You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in  
holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just  
as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,  
"God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will."'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what  
the Law lays down as the things to be offered,  
that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holo-  
causts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no  
pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I  
am coming to obey your will.

He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with  
the second. And this will was for us to be made  
holy by the offering of his body made once and  
for all by Jesus Christ.

**Next Week: Holy Family**

Scripture readings: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 / Ps 84:2-3, 5-6,  
9-10 / 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 / Lk 2:41-52

**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**



**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

**Luke 1:39-44**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town  
in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's  
house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth  
heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and  
Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud  
cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and bless-  
ed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I  
be honoured with a visit  
from the mother of my  
Lord? For the moment  
your greeting reached  
my ears, the child in my  
womb leapt for joy. Yes,  
blessed is she who be-  
lieved that the promise  
made her by the Lord  
would be fulfilled.'



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**A gift to yourself - or others.** Universalis offers an App for use on your PC or mobile phone or Tablet that provides the readings for Mass for each day, and the Prayers and readings for the Divine Office (Morning and Evening Prayer etc). A one off payment of £9.99 lasts you year after year - no further charge. A great deal for anyone who uses the electronic media.

<http://universalis.com/>

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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**

**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*

**A Christmas Story**

Fr Roberto was invited to preach a Retreat for Christmas in a parish in San Paulo in Brazil. In every sermon that he gave he promised the people that for Christmas they would have a great 'living crib'. People were anxious to see it.

The 25th December was approaching but there was nothing new to see. The usual crib was prepared in the usual way, and put in the usual place, by the usual people.

Two days before Christmas Fr Roberto again announced the great event. After the sermon he called three students and told them. 'In these two days before Christmas you are exempt from coming to the retreat. I would like you to go to the poorest areas of the Parish and look for the poorest families. Write down the names of the parents and the number of the children and their exact address. Bring the results of this census to me on Christmas Eve.'

And so they did, bringing back about a hundred addresses. Fr Roberto wrote them out on separate pieces of paper, folded them and placed them on a tray. Then just a few minutes before the Midnight Mass, he slipped into the Church and placed the tray on a small table beside the altar.

When the celebration of Mass started, he went towards the altar carrying two posters. He brought one to the usual crib and left it there. That poster said 'Dead Crib. Then he laid the other beside the tray - and that poster said 'Living Crib'.



There was complete silence in the church. People wondered what the posters meant; they waited for an explanation.

Fr Roberto spoke briefly: 'Social injustice; unemployment; lack of housing; lack of love and respect for the human person and his rights; ignorance and poverty, - all these things - have forced Christ to change his address. We won't find him if we only look in the old places. Today, Christmas Day, he is waiting for you to visit him at his new address - the addresses you will find in this tray.'

After Mass the Church emptied of the people. And so did the tray of its papers.

And the baker was asked to set to work to bake more bread - and he did; and the butcher was asked to bring the meat out of the cold store - and he did; and the shopkeeper was asked to open up to sell rice and beans and milk and sweets and toys and clothes and pens - and she did.

The people had found the Living Crib.

**Masses Week of 4th Sunday in Advent**

<b>S</b>	<b>22</b>		1700 1800	<i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i> For the parish
		<b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Psalter Wk 4</i>		
<b>Su</b>	<b>23</b>		0900 1100 1800	Michael Moran (1st Anniv) RIP (Moran) Michael McDermott RD (Egan) <i>Exposition and Evening Prayer (4th Sun of month)</i>
		Mass prepared for families with children in KS1	1430	Tim Ryan RD (Carey)
<b>M</b>	<b>24</b>	Mass prepared for families with children in KS2	1800	Noel Flannagan RIP (O'Gorman)
		Mass in the Night	2200	The Parish
<b>T</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	0900 1100	Victims of earthquake and Tsunami Mick McDermott RIP (McWilliams)
<b>W</b>	<b>26</b>	St Stephen	1000	Bridget Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
<b>Th</b>	<b>27</b>	St John		
<b>F</b>	<b>28</b>	Holy Innocents	1900*	<i>Michael McDermott RD (Rhodes)</i> <i>Mass followed by 30 mins exposition</i>
<b>S</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Feast of Holy Family</b> <i>Proper Psalter</i>	1700 1800	<i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i> For the parish
<b>Su</b>	<b>30</b>		0900 1100	Laith Salmons Anniv RIP (Salmons) Frank and Ellen Manley RIP (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 (Not 24/12)

**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/](http://livingeucharist.wordpress.com/)

**Please pray for sick parishioners** including Pat Serafinas; Thomas Stevenson; Peter & Olwyn Foster; and Fr Neil Bayliss. **Please pray** for William Hempenstall and Bernie Morton who died during the week, Claire Banks whose funeral Mass is at 11am on 3rd January, and for Brian Woffinden, Christine O'Reilly, Thomas Melody, Anne Byrne, Sean Finnegan, Frank Bates, John Cassera, Audrey Waterson, Mary Smith and Eugene Marder 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.



## Parish

**A reminder of New Year Masses.** Monday 31st Dec, 11pm - New Year's Eve Mass; Tuesday 1st Jan, 12 noon - New Year's Day Mass.

**Rotas for Readers, Ministers of Holy Communion, Welcomers and Sunday Morning Refreshments.** New Rotas are posted on website and noticeboard, and copies are available in the porch.

**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.

**Rosary for Vocations.** The Rosary group meets in church on Mondays at 3pm to pray for vocations. No gathering on 24/12. Back to normal on 31/12. All welcome.

**Scripture group** Next meeting **7.30pm, Mon 4 Feb**, in the Benedict Room to read Chapters 9 and 10 of St Luke's Gospel. 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.

**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.

**Churches Together.** The minutes from the latest CT meeting are displayed in the porch. It would be good to have a third member of our parish serving as a representative at CT, and being available to assist with CT projects - such as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and our shared evangelisation work.

## Diocese

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

## 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.



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

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

## 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

## 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

**Would you like to become fully a member of the Catholic Church and enjoy communion with Jesus?**



**Come and see how Jesus is**

**NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS but for the fullness of life, and every day.**

**Parish House, Tues 8th Jan at 7.30pm**

meal and an opportunity to meet new people.

**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/>

**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)

**O**n Christmas day, before you start your festive meal, you are invited to

- pause,
- light a candle to mark the birth of Christ,
- and pray Grace.

Lord, you are light for our world, and light for our lives. On this Christmas Day, we thank you for your gift of love, and we ask that you will help us to live our lives lovingly today and every day.

**Light the candle.**

Lord our God, bless this food which we are about to eat and bless those who have prepared it. We ask this through your Son, born today and living in our midst, now and for ever. **Amen.**



**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.

## THE PARISH 50/50 CLUB.

The 50/50 Club has been established for nearly 20 years. It raises extra funds for the support of the parish, and provides a bit of fun for parishioners.

The income received from the Members' subscription (£4 a month, ie £48pa) is divided equally between the parish and the members of the club.

The members' half is given out each month in prizes (presently £100, 75 and 50) following the monthly Tuesday draw.

Want to join? Please complete a form -available in the porch

**Away at Christmas? Check Mass times across the UK at [www.CatholicDirectory.org](http://www.CatholicDirectory.org)**

**Congratulations** to all those youngsters who were confirmed recently.



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.

The local Churches Together group invites you to **Prayer +**

**Friday 18th January at 8:30am**  
Prayer, and tea and coffee.  
Emmanuel Church (CoE), Wylde Green, B72 1YG

**Saturday 19th January at 8:00am**  
Jesus Prayer for 30 minutes, then toast for breakfast  
St Michael's Church (CoE), Boldmere, B73 5RX

**Monday 21st January at 6pm**  
Evening Prayer, followed by light supper  
St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere, B73 5US

**Tuesday 22nd January from 6.30 - 8.00 am**  
Grab a light breakfast and stay/leave as you choose.  
Chester Road Baptist Church, B73 5HU

**Wednesday 23rd January at 10.30am**  
Prayer, and tea and coffee.  
Boldmere Methodist Church, B73 5UB

**Thursday 24th January at 11am**  
Prayer, and tea and coffee.  
Wylde Green URC Church, B73 5SW

**Week of prayer for Christian Unity**  
Each year, Christians of a particular country set a focus for the world-wide Week of Prayer. This year Christians of Indonesia have focused on the theme to unity caused by injustice in wealth and opportunity. During the prayer at each local church there will be a chance to hear of a particular work of justice and care carried out in that community.



**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 [adm@restore-uk.org](mailto:adm@restore-uk.org)



## 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/>