

**Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11**

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’ A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

**Psalms 103(104):1-4,24-25,27-30**

*Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.*

Lord God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in a robe!

You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

Above the rains you build your dwelling.  
You make the clouds your chariot,  
you walk on the wings of the wind,  
you make the winds your messengers  
and flashing fire your servant.

How many are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches.

There is the sea, vast and wide,  
with its moving swarms past counting,  
living things great and small.

All of these look to you

to give them their food in due season.

You give it, they gather it up:

you open your hand, they have their fill.

You hide your face, they are dismayed;

you take back your spirit, they die.

You send forth your spirit, they are created;

and you renew the face of the earth.

**Next Week: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Scripture readings: *Is 62:1-5 / Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 / 1 Cor 12:4-11 / Jn 2:1-11*

**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**



**Titus 2:11-14,3:4-7**

God’s grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

But when the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

**Luke 3:15-16,21-22**

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.

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.’

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**The Ordinary of the Mass** is found on p200 ff of *Laudate*.  
**The Gloria, Holy, Memorial Acclamation and Lamb of God** used in Ordinary Time are nos 1013 ff in *Laudate*.



**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*

Notice how, in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus introduces the teaching of the ‘Our Father’ prayer. He does so, distancing Himself from two groups of His time — first of all, the hypocrites. ‘You must not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and in the street corners, they like to pray standing, that they may be seen by men’ (Matthew 6:5).

There are people that are able to weave atheist prayers, prayers without God, and they do so to be admired by other people. And how often we see the scandal of those people who go to church and are there all day or go every day and then live hating others or speaking badly of people. This is a scandal! It’s best not go to church, if one lives this way, as if one were an atheist. But, if you go to church, live as a son, as a brother, a daughter, a sister and give true witness, not a counter-witness.

Christian prayer, instead, has no other credible witness than one’s conscience, where a continuous dialogue with the Father is intensely woven. ‘But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret’ (Matthew 6:6).

Then Jesus distances Himself from the prayer of pagans. ‘Do not heap up empty phrases [ . . . ] they think they will be heard for their many words’ (Matthew 6:7). Here, perhaps, Jesus alludes to that *captatio benevolentiae*, (fishing for good will) which was the necessary premise of so many ancient prayers: the divinity had to be in some way appeased by a long series of praises, also of prayers. We think of that scene of Mount Carmel, when the prophet Elijah challenged the priests of Baal. They were shouting, dancing, asking for so many things so that their god would listen to them. And, instead, Elijah was silent and the Lord revealed

**Masses Baptism of the Lord and return to Ordinary Time**

<b>S</b>	<b>12</b>		1700 1800	<i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i> Ruth Wilkinson RIP (Mooney)
<b>Su</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b> <i>Psalter Week 1</i>	0900 1100 1800	For the Parish For the Parish <i>Exposition and Evening Prayer (2nd Sunday of Month)</i>
<b>M</b>	<b>14</b>		1000* <b>1100</b> 1500	John Ryan RD (Kenny) <b>Funeral service of Joan Morris</b> <i>Exposition and Rosary</i>
<b>T</b>	<b>15</b>		1000*	Dolores Redmond RD (Redmond)
<b>W</b>	<b>16</b>		1000*	Gerry Maher RIP (Kenny)
<b>Th</b>	<b>17</b>	St Antony Abbot		
<b>F</b>	<b>18</b>		1000 1900	<i>Mass with St Nicholas School (All welcome)</i> Mr and Mrs Butcher - Ints. (Perks) <i>followed by 30 mins exposition</i>
<b>S</b>	<b>19</b>		1700 1800	<i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i> Luke Gill RIP (Gill)
<b>Su</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <i>Psalter Week 2</i>	0900 1100	For the Parish Danny Scally RIP (Ward)

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

**Please pray for sick parishioners** including Joan James, Pat Serafinas; Thomas Stevenson; Peter & Olwyn Foster; Lea Burke and Fr Neil Bayliss. **Please pray** for Joan Morris, whose funeral is this week, and for Desmond Maguire, Ray Hill, Doris Johnson, Terry Devenney, Kathleen Cecil and all whose anniversaries of death are at this time: **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

**NB** To include names on the list of isck parishioners please complete the form available in the porch and pass to Fr Allen so we meet the requirements of current Data Protection legislation.

Himself to Elijah.

Pagans think that one prays by talking, talking, talking. And I also think of so many Christians who think that to pray is — excuse me — ‘to talk to God as a parrot.’

No! Prayer is done from the heart, from within. Instead, Jesus says, turn to God as a son to his father, who knows what you need before you ask Him’ (Cf. Matthew 6:8).

The ‘Our Father’ could also be a silent prayer. Basically, it’s enough to put oneself under God’s gaze, to remember his love as Father, and this is sufficient to be heard. It’s good to think that our God doesn’t need sacrifices to win His favour! Our God doesn’t need anything! He only asks that, in prayer, we have a channel of communication open to Him, to discover ourselves ever His most beloved children. And He loves us so much.

Pope Francis. 2nd January 2019

## Parish

**The Bell.** New issue on sale next week. £1

**Mass Intentions** Advice for those with anniversaries to remember etc. Feb is now booked out and March half full...If you wish to book Masses for April/May please do so soon, to avoid being disappointed.

**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 for an application form.

**Parish Book Clubs** meet in the parish house, and all are welcome. **(A) The Daytime Group** 1030 on Weds 27 Feb to discuss *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, then what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? *Inspired* draws on the best in recent scholarship to examine some of our favourite Bible stories and possible interpretations, retelling them through memoir, original poetry, short stories, soliloquies, and a short screenplay! Undaunted by the Bible's most difficult passages, The Bible is not a static work but is a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that is able to equip us to join God's loving and redemptive work in the world. **(B) The Night Time Club** 8pm on Jan 28 to discuss *With the End in Mind: Dying, Death and Wisdom in an Age of Denial* by Kathryn Mannix who is a doctor in palliative care who wants us to be better informed and less afraid about dying.

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

**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 3 Feb.

**Scripture group** Next meeting **7.30pm, Mon 4 Feb**, in the Benedict Rm to read Chaps 9 & 10 of Luke's Gospel. All welcome

**Catholic Herald** Deliveries regularly do not arrive before Sunday. Also sales are very few indeed. So our subscription has been cancelled. Private subscriptions are available from 01371 853645.

## Diocese

**The Birmingham Passion Play 2019:** The Archbishop asks the Catholic community to support/participate in this event which will run on 16, 17 and 18 April in the City Centre. The leading actors/actresses will be supplied by professional players from the Saltmine Trust ([www.saltminetrust.org.uk](http://www.saltminetrust.org.uk)), a Christian company who are keen to recruit volunteers for the community cast, choir,

musicians and stewards, etc. There will be meeting for all those who are interested at One Colmore Row, Floor 8, 2.30-5.00, Sat 2 Feb. (This is one of the new 'glass' buildings near the Cathedral in Snowhill) All welcome!

**Practising Catholics Aspiring for Leadership Positions in Catholic Schools** On Sat 19 Jan a course is taking place 8.30am – 3.30pm (no cost for this course) Don Bosco House, Coventry Road, Coleshill, B46 3EA. To book a place on this course, go to: <http://w.pfrms.co/2lhttp>

**Deputy Head vacancy** in Alcester. <http://www.bdes.org.uk/vacancies.html>

**St Joseph's Home, Coleshill,** offers Catholic residential care to older people and those living with dementia. Ring 01675 434500 for details.

**Annual Fundraising Ball** in aid of Father Hudson's Care takes place on 26 Jan. National Conference Centre, Solihull, from 7.30pm – 1am. Tickets (£40) from [fundraising@fatherhudsons.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@fatherhudsons.org.uk) or 01675 434015.

**St Paul's School for Girls** A Memorial Mass for Miss Eastwood (former Head of RE) on Sat, 16 Mar at 10:30am celebrated by Bishop Robert Byrne. To attend pl contact Mrs Pellow: 0121 454 0895 or [spellowe@stpaulgl.bham.sch.uk](mailto:spellowe@stpaulgl.bham.sch.uk).

## Other

**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)

## 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.



## St Patrick's Day in 2019

Parish Celebration will be in the Carpenter's Arms after the 6pm Mass on Saturday 16th March.



## Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's January prayer intention is that young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

To find the Pope's other current prayer intentions please visit [www.pathwaystogod.org](http://www.pathwaystogod.org)



## Sacramental Certificates

**Data Protection law now makes it more complicated for people to apply for new copies of baptism and confirmation certificates. So if you have already got a certificate keep it safe!!**

**Please be aware you can no longer apply for a certificate on behalf of someone else (unless they are under 12).**

**To request a certificate, you need to demonstrate your identity, and if applying for a certificate for a child under 12 provide their birth certificate also.**

**Full details are on our parish website: <https://bit.ly/2QyEa50>**

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Do take advantage of the opportunity to visit and pray (and get a free breakfast or bite to eat) at the churches listed below during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We have much to learn from other Christians, and much to share...

Fr Allen has been invited to preach at Chester Road Baptist Church at their evening service on Sunday 20th January. It begins at 6.30pm, and includes an 'In conversation with Fr Allen' led by Revd Danny Brierley, the new minister at Chester Road. All are welcome!

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

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 8:30am**

Prayer, and tea and coffee.

**Emmanuel Church (CofE), Wylde Green, B72 1YG**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00am**

Jesus Prayer for 30 minutes, then toast for breakfast

**St Michael's Church (CofE), Boldmere, B73 5RX**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 6pm**

Evening Prayer, followed by light supper

**St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere, B73 5US**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January from 6.30 - 8.00 am**

Grab a light breakfast and stay/leave as you choose.

**Chester Road Baptist Church, B73 5HU**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 10.30am**

Prayer, and tea and coffee.

**Boldmere Methodist Church, B73 5UB**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 threat to unity caused by inequalities 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.

## THE PARENTS' C&FF...

A Parents' drop-in, term-time Monday mornings, 8.30- 9.50

A chance to meet and have a cup of coffee and a biscuit in the Benedict Room. And, if you like, come along to the 10am Mass afterwards, at which there will be prayers for families.

If you are interested in volunteering for a rota to help set up/clear up, please see Fr Allen. Otherwise simply know that you are very welcome to drop in anytime during the first session on Monday 21 January.



## Bethany Community Outreach

Emergency Foodbank

Monthly Report 31 December 2018



## Summary

December 2018 Figure 1,152 – December 2017 Figure 842

Increase of 310 or 36.82% on December 2017

2018 January-December Total Figure - 12,429

2017 January-November Total Figure - 8,504

Overall increase for the same period in 2017 - 3,925 or 46.16%

The average per month for 2018 is 1,035 as opposed to 2017 which was 708.

**Donations for the foodbank can be left in the church porch every Saturday and Sunday**

## 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

## 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

**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](http://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.**