

Travelling Solo lunch All who 'travel solo in life' (eg widowed, divorced, separated or 'just' single) are invited to join with others after the Sunday 11am Mass for lunch at a local pub. *Next lunch: Feb 2.*

Parish Readers

Church Cleaning Team Thank you to the team for all they do throughout the year in keeping the church clean!. New Rota on website and available at back of the church.

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

Book Club. The book for our next meeting is George Eliot's masterpiece, *Middlemarch*. Read the book and come to discuss. The Presbytery, 8pm, 24 February.

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...

Getting married? A reminder that a minimum of 6 month's notice is required for those who intend to marry in the Catholic Church.

First Communions Forms to apply for date for First Communions are available in the porch. Please complete and return to Fr Allen as soon as possible.

Diocese

Please pray for Canon David Oakley, Rector of Oscott College. He this week been appointed by the Holy Father as the Bishop of Northampton. Details of his ordination and installation will be confirmed shortly.

St Joseph's, Coleshill, offers residential care to older people and those with dementia in a Catholic setting, (Mass said daily by resident priests). Respite bedrooms are available for those who could benefit from a short stay. Call 01675 434500 for a chat or to visit.

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

Domestic abuse of older women is particularly under reported and recorded. Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid is offering a free session to raise awareness of the issues faced by women aged 55+ who are experiencing abuse, how to ask questions and how and where to refer those who want support. Tues 28 Jan; 09:30 to 12:30 at St Giles Hospice, Lindridge Rd, B75 6JB. If you wish to attend, please register via Eventbrite, <https://bit.ly/37kC1m5>

Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for January is that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.



To find the Pope's other current prayer intentions please visit www.pathwaystogod.org/my-prayer-life/praying-pope



Please join us at St Chad's Cathedral on Saturday 25 for a day dedicated to *The God Who Speaks Through Song*.

This is a great opportunity to learn new music, be encouraged and inspired in your own ministry and share ideas for the pastoral application of music.

10.30 Arrivals, Registration and tea/coffee; 10.45 Morning prayer; 11.00 Talk from David McLoughlin (The God Who Speaks Scripture Champion for the Archdiocese); 11.45 Repertoire

session; 12.45 Lunch; 1.30 Repertoire session; 2.30 Preparation for Mass; 3.15 Tea; 3.30 Preparation for Mass; 4.15 Short break and moving into the Cathedral; 4.30 Mass with Bishop David McGough.

25th January: St Chad's Cathedral, Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6EU

For more information and to book your place please contact Martin Barry on 01926 815058 or via email martin.c.barry@gmail.com

Parish Drawing Group

Last summer a few parishioners came together under the leadership of Tony Sawbridge and Geraldine Foster to learn a little about portraiture and take part in a project to help commemorate this January's 75th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. The final artwork will be featured in the national service of Commemoration - to be shown of the BBC on 27 Jan, and at Mass here on the 26 Jan.

People enjoyed the experience so much that the Drawing group is starting up again in February. The plan is to meet on Tuesdays after the post-Mass social - on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. All welcome!! No previous experience necessary!!!

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.

Whole Community Catechesis: Baptism of the Lord

1. Listen to the word: What do you hear in today's readings that encourages or challenges you?

2. Look into Your Life

- **Q4Children:** Why might John say that he needs baptism from Jesus?
- **Q4Youth:** Why does the Father declare his love for his Son?
- **Q4Adults:** What has baptism meant to you in the past and what does it mean to you now?



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

Parish

Honouring the word of God Pope Francis has singled out the 3rd Sunday of each year as a day for particularly marking the importance of the word of God, the Scriptures. In preparation for this our parish readers will be re-commissioned at all masses next weekend, There is a meeting for all readers from 4.30-7pm on Sunday 2nd February (a meeting for an hour - in part to look forward to Lent/Easter, and then a Holy Hour honouring Jesus' real presence in Scripture and the Eucharist)

Teas & Coffees after Sun morning Masses.

Preparation for Baptism of Infants The next preparation programme starts on Saturday 7 March from 11am-12 noon in the Benedict Room. Please see Fr Allen beforehand for an application form.

Owning our Faith and Calling

Why should I think about taking part?

Two reasons come to mind.

The first is that it soemthing strongly encouraged by our bishops that we take the opportunity to be renewed in our faith - so as to become more sure in our faith, able to derive the fullest benefit from it for ourselves as individuals and as Church.

It is widely recognised that many of us - and for all sorts of reasons - are not sure and secure in our Catholic faith. At a time when authentic Catholic faith and practice is under threat by aggressive anti-religious and secular forces and by Christian groups that deny much of the Church's Tradition in faith and morals. If we are to be authentically Catholic we need to take responsibility for this as individuals and as a community.

The second is that as Church and as individual members of Church we have a mission which is to faithfully bear witness to the Gospel - of how all people are invited to enter into the covenant of love and life with God which offers us eternal life. Owing Our Faith and Calling is designed to help us find simple - and hopefully effective ways to do this. Not to make us into bible-bashers but to help us feel more comfortable in extending to others an invitation to 'Come and

MASSES AND OTHER LITURGIES Season of Christmas

Sa	11	Baptism of the Lord	1700	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession
		<i>Psalter Week 1</i>	1800	Olwyn Foster RD (Lavelle)
Su	12		0900	Michael and Christine Tully RIP (Freeman)
			1100	For the parish
			1800	<i>Exposition and Evening Prayer</i>
M	13		1000*	Decsd family and friends of Collins family
			1500	<i>Expostion and Rosary for Vocations</i>
T	14		1000	William and Alice Williams RIP (Sawbridge)
W	15		1000	Nancy King (Ladies' Guild)
			1245	Funeral Mass of Tony McCorry
Th	16			
F	17	St Antony	1000	Mass with St Nicholas school - all welcome
			1900	Olwyn Foster RD (Ladies' Guild) <i>followed by Exposition and prayer for victims of abuse</i>
Sa	18	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	1700	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession
		<i>Psalter Week 2</i>	1800	Luke Gill RIP (Gill)
Su	19		0900	For the parish
			1100	Danny Scally RIP (Ward)

Scripture readings for Mass next Sunday

Is 49:3, 5-6 / Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 / 1 Cor 1:1-3 / Jn 1:29-34

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:* <https://livingeucharist.wordpress.com/>. Also universalis.com or <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

Please pray for sick parishioners including Gerry Coyle; Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke, Peggy Gallagher, Hazel Kemp. **Please pray** for Canon Gerry Breen (Reception of body at St Chad's Cathedral 7pm on 21 Jan and Funeral Mass 12noon on 22 Jan) , Albert Rutherford and Simon Howlett who died recently and Tony McCorry (funeral service, 15/1, 1245pm) and for Brendon Carroll, Jerome Harrington, Ken Hearne, Ronald Astley and all whose anniversaries of death are at this time: **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

See' what the Lord has to offer through his Church. The Lord offers us a choice between life and death and we are invited to extend that same offer to others.

What groups are already planned?

Thank you to all those who have come forward ready to lead or take part in small groups.

Groups available at the moment are given below. But if those don't suit you please sign up on the other list so other groups can begin to form.

- **Sunday evening: 7.30pm** Benedict Room. Leader: Mark O'Rourke
- **Monday evening: 8pm** in Benedict Room. Leader: David Halpin

- **Tuesday evening: 7.30pm**, Benedict Room. Leader: Mary Drozd
- **Wednesday: 1115am**, in Church Road. Leader Gary O'Brien
- **Wednesday or Friday: daytime** and in Antrobus Road. Final details to be confirmed.

Each group will meet once a month, and meet for about 90 minutes.

There is still plenty of opportunity for others to offer to lead other groups at other times and in other locations - pubs, cafes, homes... To encourage this - if the above times/places don't suit please sign up on the prayer board by the Lady Chapel.

Fr. Allen

Introductory Rites

Entrance Song

*The light of Christ has come into the world,
the light of Christ has come into the world.*

We must all be born again to see the kingdom of God;
the water and the Spirit bring new life in God's love.

God gave up his only Son out of love for the world
so that ev'ryone who believes in him will live for ever.

The light of God has come to us so that we might
have salvation;
from the darkness of our sins we walk into glory
with Christ Jesus.

Gloria

*Glory to God, (x3) in the highest, and on earth peace,
peace on earth, peace to people of good will.*

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

The Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I
uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the people and
light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison, and those who live in
darkness from the dungeon.

Psalm 28(29):1-4,9-10 (all sing)

O give the Lord, you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;

the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.

The God of glory thunders.

In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever.

Acts 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The
truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God
does not have favourites, but that anybody of any
nationality who fears God and does what is right is
acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel,
and it was to them that the good news of peace was
brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord
of all men. You must have heard about the recent
happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth
and how he began in Galilee, after John had been
preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the
Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was
with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing
all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's
voice resounded: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen
to him.' *Alleluia!*

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised
by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need
baptism from you' he said 'and yet you come to me!'
But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being;
it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that
righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the
water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw
the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming
down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This
is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

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 Prayer of the Faithful

We pray to the Lord. Through our lives and by our
prayers, Your kingdom come.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Song

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;
ye heavens, adore him by whom ye were made,
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;
praise him who hath brought you
his grace from above,
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord! All things that give sound;
each jubilant chord reecho around;
loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,
and sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured all ages along!
For love in creation, for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!

The Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes, who comes in the name of
the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, save us, Saviour of the world, for by your
Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

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

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the
Lord:
Without money without price.
Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?
And let all who seek, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord

Without money without strife
Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?
And let all who toil, let them come to the water.
And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:
all who labour without rest.
How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?
And let all the poor, let them come to the water
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord
Bring the children without might.
Easy the load and light, come to the Lord!

Concluding Rites

Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
Christ to the world with joy we bring;
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
Christ in our hearts, the world's true king.

King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;
Kingship with him his servants gain;
With Christ, the Servant-Lord of all,
Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.

Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth,
The world of time to consecrate,
The world of sin by grace to heal,
Christ's world in Christ to recreate.

Christ's are our lips, his word we speak;
Prophets are we whose deeds proclaim
Christ's truth in love that we may be
Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.

We are the Church; Christ bids us show
That in his Church all nations find
Their hearth and home where Christ restores
True peace, true love, to humankind.

Pope Francis from his Letter instituting the Sunday of the word of God.

The Bible, as sacred Scripture, speaks of Christ
and proclaims him as the one who had to endure
suffering and then enter into his glory (cf. v. 26).
Not simply a part, but the whole of Scripture speaks
of Christ. Apart from the Scriptures, his death and
resurrection cannot be rightly understood. That is
why one of the most ancient confessions of faith
stressed that "Christ died for our sins in accordance
with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he
was raised on the third day in accordance with
the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas"
(1Cor15:3-5). Since the Scriptures everywhere speak
of Christ, they enable us to believe that his death
and resurrection are not myth but history, and are
central to the faith of his disciples.

A profound bond links sacred Scripture and the faith
of believers. Since faith comes from hearing, and
what is heard is based on the word of Christ
(cf. Rom 10:17), believers are bound to
listen attentively to the word of the Lord,
both in the celebration of the liturgy and
in their personal prayer and reflection.



Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible © 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton,
Longman & Todd, Ltd and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc, and used
by permission of the publishers. Text of the Psalms: Copyright © 1963, The Grail
(England). All rights reserved. For hymnody see 'Laudate'.