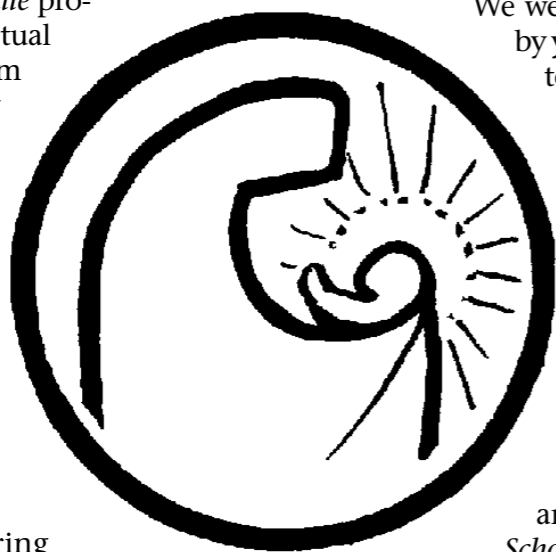


Are you and your family in need of care and support?

This past year has presented all sort of challenges to married and family life.

It is a sign of strength to know when some 'outside' help may be helpful. The following resources are there for people to draw on as they have need,

- **RESTORED LIVES** Starting on 8th February 2021 for nine weeks, this ecumenical resource enables individuals in recovering from relationship breakdown. Through facilitated sessions individuals are provided with tools and insights to resolve the emotional impact of separation and divorce. Find out more and book at https://www.restoredlives.org/online_course_relationship_breakdown
- **RETRouvaille** The *Retrouvaille* programme is offering a virtual weekend for couples from 25th to 28th February 2021. The programme is designed to help heal and renew marriages, and offers couples the chance to rediscover a loving relationship in your marriage. Find out more by visiting <https://www.retrouvaille.org.uk/> or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com
- **MARRIAGE CARE** Now entering its 75th Year, *Marriage Care* provides relationship counselling services to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable families and couples are not excluded from receiving support. More information is available at <https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/how-we-help/relationship-counselling/>



On-line Support for Prayer

- Morning Prayer of the Church at 8.30am Monday to Friday
 - Weekly parish Zoom prayer meetings - Sun at 4pm for Lectio Divina and Mon at 7pm for Rosary.
- Zoom links are posted on the homepage of the parish website. Do join us - especially if you are not confident in returning to church for Mass.*
- Reflections on the Readings and Prayers of the following Sunday's Mass are posted daily on the parish Blog (Weds to Sun). *Spending time with the readings and prayers before Mass is a good way of helping Mass be more fruitful for us.*



World Development Group - Sad News

We were feeling completely overwhelmed by your kindness and generous response to our Appeal before Christmas. Then we received the news that, tragically, Gweri is suffering a serious spike in the COVID infection rate which has led to the death of another child, Kennedy, and claimed the lives of seven of the children's guardians in the village. Dorcus herself has COVID and three further children are being kept in isolation in the local hospital.

Please keep Dorcus, the children and all associated with *Feed My Lamb School* in prayers, just as they remember you in their prayers each day.

Thank you once again for your continued support for the work of the World Development Group.

stnicholaswdg@gmail.com

Financial support for the Church: You will appreciate that parish income has been cut right back over the past months, but our bills have not reduced by anything like as much! If you are in a position to help, you might like to consider the following.

- **GIFT AID** allows the Church reclaim tax paid on your offering, to raise a further 25% for the church at no further cost to you.
- **STANDING ORDERS** are a helpful way of making your offering. *Forms for GA and SO are available from Fr Allen or the parish website.*
- **GIFT AID OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** Numbered envelopes are available or those in the Gift Aid scheme who still use the envelopes.

Respond to Department of Health consultation to stop home abortions!

The Department of Health is holding a public consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. We need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Department of Health's questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. SPUC has prepared a briefing which gives a step by step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire. Please go to <https://bit.ly/2ME3ZEw>

The consultation ends on 26 February 2021.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US
Telephone: 0121 354 1763 **Email:** stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk
Website: www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk
Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding: Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)
 Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

New volunteers urgently needed

This may not be the best time to make the appeal - but who knows, maybe the sense of crisis and the need to pull together will make it a successful appeal.

The current lockdown, with the expectation that those who are shielding will stay at home, has had a significant effect on our ability to operate the number of Sunday Masses. It has also once more emphasised how much as a parish we rely on the older members of the parish to keep things running. And no offence to them, because I am very grateful for what they do - but we have been relying on some of the same older members of the parish for many, many years.

This is often not good for them - for it puts more responsibility their way then they might choose to have.

It is also not good for us as a community - too much leaving things to others is a pretty sure sign of a community in decline. It is especially not good for younger families, as it encourages the sense, in children especially, the sense that church is something we go to rather than something we are.

So - an urgent request. We are in need of additional readers at Mass; and also of people for the cleaning teams after Mass (especially on Saturday and Sunday). Do please contact Fr Allen if you are able to help.



Keeping Safe at for Mass

Face coverings: Regulations require members of the congregation, aged 5 and over, to wear face-coverings over their nose and mouth throughout the time we are in church. *If you have an exemption certificate relieving you of this obligation please confirm in advance with Fr Allen, so appropriate seating can be arranged for you (and to safeguard others.)*

Social distancing: Please keep a social distance of 1m from anyone not of your household, . *If someone is already in the bench you choose, please sit in the middle space, and leave any remaining space on the aisle for the next to arrive. Do not make people climb over you to get into the bench.*

Thank you for your cooperation.

MASS DURING THE HEALTH CRISIS

On days when there is no public Mass (because no volunteers for stewarding/cleaning) Fr Allen celebrates Mass 'privately' in the church usually at 0830.

Day	Time	Event	Notes
Sa 9	4pm	BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Elizabeth Sawbridge RIP (Sawbridge)
	6pm		Private Intention
Su 10	9am	BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Ints family of Pat Cummins (O'Gorman)
	11am		For the parish
M 11	10am		Decsd friends/family of B & M O'Reilly
T 12	10am		Peter Foster RIP (Foster)
W 13	10am		Freda Gateley RIP (Ord)
Th 14			
F 15	7pm		Suzanne Rouffiat RD (Cuming)
Sa 16	6pm	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Luke Gill RIP (Gill)
Su 17	9am		Charles & Agens Sawbridge RIP (Sawbridge)
	11am		For the parish

Confessions COVID restrictions prevent confessions being heard in the church, or indoors. However, if you wish to celebrate Reconciliation please contact Fr Allen who will be happy to arrange a time and place (outdoors) to celebrate this sacrament of mercy with you.

Please pray for sick parishioners including Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke. Please pray for Gwen Lavelle, John Lynch, Jerome Harrington, Ken Hearne, Ronald Astley, Wendy VargasDoris Johnson and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

First Sacraments

Baptism Under the current lockdown we are advised that baptism should be celebrated only in danger of death. However parents who wish to complete preparation during lockdown, so baptism can be quickly arranged once it is again permitted, are invited to contact Fr Allen **before 1st February** so a group Zoom meeting can be arranged.

First Communion Preparation is now underway. Because of the restricted opportunities for children to attend Mass at this time the **celebration** of first Confessions and Communion will, like last year, take place after the Summer. Dates will be confirmed nearer the time. More details have been sent to those enrolled

Confirmation is currently scheduled for 15 May. More details have been sent to those enrolled.

The Introductory Rites

The Introductory Rites help the faithful to come together as one, establish communion and prepare themselves properly to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.

The Penitential Act

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and 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. Amen.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

Hearing the word proclaimed in worship, the faithful again enter into the unending dialogue between God and the people of the covenant shared in Christ, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. The proclamation of the word is essential to the Mass

A brief time of quiet after the readings allows those present to take the word of God to heart and begin to prepare a prayerful response to what we have heard.

Isaiah 55:1-11

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his

way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

Isaiah 12

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds;
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

1 John 5:1-9

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth – so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree.

We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said: This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. *Alleluia!*

Mark 1:7-11

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said: 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and

undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful (*omitted at the Bishop's request*)

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does, because at its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing and making available his saving work among us.

The Offertory

There is no offertory collection at this time. Instead, you are invited to place your offerings in the basket at the entrance to the church as you arrive, or as you leave.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer, the centre and summit of the entire celebration is a memorial proclamation of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation, a proclamation in which the Body and Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and the people are joined to Christ in offering his Sacrifice to the Father

The Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

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.

The mystery of faith.

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

THE COMMUNION RITE

Eating and drinking together of the Lord's Body and Blood in a Paschal meal is the culmination of the Eucharist. The themes underlying these rites are mutual love and reconciliation. These are the condition and the fruit of worthy communion and the unity of the many in the One.

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Please wait in your pew until it is time to move forward to the minister for Holy Communion, always aware of the regulations on social distancing in the orderly queue.

As you approach the minister, please do so with arms at "full stretch" to keep a good distance between you.

Communion will be given silently, and in the hand only. (Your hands - palms upwards, one of top of the other - should be extended as flatly as possible.)

Prayer after Communion

The Concluding Rites

The brief Concluding Rite sends the people forth to put into effect in their daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ which they have celebrated. Their mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

Blessing and Dismissal

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What will I take from Mass?

After Holy Communion look again at the readings of the Day. What has struck you? What word, phrase or sentence will you take away with you as food for your journey? You might commit it to memory - or feel free to take this newsletter with you. And return to the word, phrase or sentence when you next come to God in your private prayer.

New on Parish Blog for 2021

Weekly mini-essays exploring the Eucharist. Origins and influences on the Mass; exploring particular prayers; and looking at how we celebrate - and how we might celebrate more fruitfully....

www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com