

Dads' Meeting

The next meeting of our laid-back, chilled out Dads' group is scheduled for Monday 4th March at 7.45pm. Meeting, as usual, in the Benedict Room. Bring a bottle to drink/share! Warm snacks will be provided.

The focus of the meeting will be the recent 'starting the conversation' meeting at Four Oaks. All topics raised can be explored, but maybe we will focus especially on what more might be done - by us - to draw young people into fuller participation in the life of the Church.

All young Dads are welcome!

World Day of Prayer: Prayer prepared by Christian women of Palestine, led by a local ecumenical women's group. Here 10.30, Fri 1st March.

A fresh invitation to ALL in year 3 (and older - even up to age 90, or even older). It would be good to have more servers at Mass. Volunteer now and be match-fit in time for Holy Week! Interested in learning more? Come to brief meetings after each of next Sunday's Masses.

NEW Women's Group

Come and help form a new vibrant Women's Group at our parish church and connect with like-minded women, share the joys and challenges of being a woman in today's world, being a mother - if you happen to be one, and deepen your faith in a warm and welcoming environment. Build friendships, join enriching discussions, and engage in activities that resonate with local women and mothers. Whether you're single, married, a new mother, a seasoned parent, or simply seeking to connect with other Catholic women, our group provides understanding, support, and encouragement in your faith and role as a mother. Celebrate the unique gifts of women in the Catholic faith and join us for inspiring events and educational opportunities.

First meeting on Friday 8th March 2024 at 19:30 in Benedict Room, St. Nicholas (access by ramp, opposite parish house to left of church)

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Paul also placed our meeting and work in the context of the invitation to renewal made by both Francis and which informs both the Year of Prayer and the forthcoming Jubilee Year

This time of reflection was followed by an introduction to the major work for the afternoon by Canon Michael Dolman, Rector of Oscott College. He asked those present to look into the future and consider what challenges and fears came to mind; and also what priorities and hopes people had for the future of Catholic Sutton Coldfield and its parishes.

The assembly of about 120 members of our parishes divided into groups of 6-8 and reflected first on challenges and fears, then on priorities and hopes: though inevitably there was a certain crossover between those things!

The times of small group reflection were followed by plenaries where groups fed back sharing with others present the highlights of their reflection. This process was full of good humour, positive and hopeful.

The Groups' notes of their discussion - together with a brief note of what groups spoke to in the plenaries - have been published on a new Blog to which you can subscribe so as to be kept up to date on CSC activity: <https://catholicsuttoncoldfield.wordpress.com/> (The materials are also posted on our parish blog, to which you can also subscribe to be kept up to date with parish events)

The next stage in the conversation is continuing it and extending it within our various parishes.

All those attending the meeting - clergy and laity, young and old, women and men - were urged to share their experience of the meeting with others too, so as to draw them into the conversation.

The clergy of the cluster will meet again shortly to consider the fruits of this first meeting, and to consider how things are being progressed in each parish. They will also identify opportunities for future meetings to allow matters raised to be progressed across the various parishes of *Catholic Sutton Coldfield*.

So what do we do now to keep things moving forward in Boldmere?

First, let me strongly encourage those parishioners who came to the meeting, to use every opportunity to be pro-active, and talk with other parishioners about the meeting and the conversation we shared in.

Second, let me invite anyone and everyone - but especially those who came to the meeting - to come to a 'What did you hear?' session together with me for an hour from 8pm on Monday 26th March. We will reflect on our experience of the meeting on the 11th (if we were there!) and on the summary documents available on the Blog. It may be that this reflection will surface new matters for us - and others - to consider, or help us identify some immediate priorities for development and change here at St Nicholas.

Fr. Allen



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US

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E-mail: stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk **Telephone:** 0121 354 1763

Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

Cluster blog: www.catholicsuttoncoldfield.wordpress.com

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **Deacon:** Rev John Garvey

Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

FEBRUARY 2024: PARISH MASSES

Sa	17	6pm	1st SUNDAY IN LENT	Eamon Timplin RIP (Gill)
Su	18	9am 11am		Josie and Patrick RIP For the parish
M	19	10am		Paul Burke RIP (Byrne)
T	20	10am		John Hickey RIP (Hickey)
W	21	10am		Betty O'Connor - Health
Th	22		St Pater's Chair	
F	23	7pm		Nora Farrell RD
Sa	24	6pm	2nd SUNDAY IN LENT	Sheila Sutton RIP (Evans)
Su	25	9am 11am		For the parish Tony Lawlor RIP (L)

Anointing of the Sick: Next celebration is 23rd February at 11am

Sacrament of Confession: Friday 18.30-18.55; 19.30 (after Mass), until 20.00; and Sat 5.30-5.45 — and by appointment

RESOURCES FOR PRAYER.

1. Parish prayer on Zoom (links on parish website homepage)
Morning Prayer: Mon to Sat at 8.30am; **Rosary** Mon at 7pm.
2. Readings of the day and much more at Universalis.com
3. Resources for the Year of Prayer: <https://bit.ly/47kMBYS>

Please pray for those who are sick including June Morris, Mary Daniels, Lucy Szambir, Betty O'Connor; Theresa Monteiro; Craig Brooks, Brenda Davies; Stephen Burke; Lesley Devlin & Jean Lawlor. **Please pray** for Kathleen Melody, Emily Zytkeiwicz, Ray Simmonds, Margaret Healy and all others whose anniversaries occur at this time.

WEEKDAY SOCIAL. Tuesdays after 10am Mass. All are welcome.

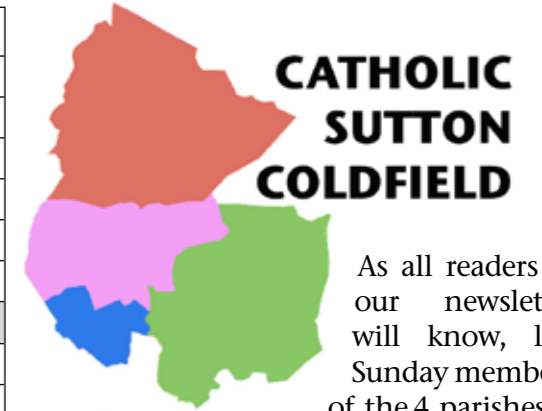
PARISH CAR PARK Free parking for 1 hour is available for anyone at anytime in our carpark. Automatic free parking permits are issued to cover all parking on **Sat** from 5.30pm to 7.30pm; on **Sunday** from 8am to 2pm; on **Mon, Tues, Weds** from 9.30am to 11.30am and **Fri** from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. *At other times, if on site for parish meetings and the like - to park for more than 1 hour, please scan the QR poster in the church or Benedict Room to extend your 'free' parking time.*

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory **Safeguarding** Guidance and the National and Archdiocesan policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Mary Rose. She can be contacted at: sg.stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk



LENT is a special time to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)**

Do take and make use of one of the preparation sheets specially prepared for this Year of Prayer.



CATHOLIC SUTTON COLDFIELD

As all readers of our newsletter will know, last Sunday members of the 4 parishes of *Catholic Sutton Coldfield* met to begin a conversation to prepare for our working together in the coming years. Around 120 of us gathered in the parish hall of Sacred Heart, Four Oaks - and thank you to the members of our parish who came and who contributed to the discussion.

The meeting was full of positive energy. At the meeting there was first some spiritual input led by Paul Northam of the Archdiocese's *Office for Mission*. This focussed on the story of the miraculous catch - and how Jesus choose to work his miracle drawing only on what the disciples had to hand, and the experience of life/work that they had already gained. He led them to a new place, but built very much on what was already in place.

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The 'Year of Prayer'

2023-24 has been designated the Year of Prayer by Pope Francis, with a particular emphasis on the *Our Father*. It will help us prepare for the Jubilee Year "Pilgrims of Hope". It presents our Church with a significant opportunity to revisit the basics of prayer, and for us to become even more a people of prayer.

Each week during this year a teaching about prayer related to the readings of that Sunday is posted on our parish blog (address above) This resource has been prepared by Fr Rob Taylerson, Spiritual Director at Oscott College.

The Introductory Rites

Opening Song

Confiteor

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking our breast, we continue:

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

Genesis 9:8-15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Psalms 24(25):4-6,7b-9

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.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.

In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

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.

1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits

in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and Praise to you, O Christ! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. *Glory and Praise to you, O Christ!*

Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

Homily

The Apostles' Creed

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

Prayer of the Faithful

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Offertory

NB Our next collections for the Bethany Food Bank are 3rd and 17th March.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

The mystery of faith

R. Mortem tuam annuntiamus, Domine, et tuam resurrectionem confitemur, donec venias.

The Communion Rite

Communion thanksgiving Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

Finding out who we are (aka killing two birds with one stone)

In this Year of Prayer we are invited to look again and see what we can learn from the Lord's Prayer.

In our recent *Catholic Sutton Coldfield* meeting the point was made that our 'minority' communities are often not represented at the heart of parish life.

One nice and simple way doing is to acknowledge who 'we' are - for example what are our communities of (sometimes long-ago) origin. And one way of doing this is to prepare a sheet (A4 portrait) that identifies (1) our country of origin; (2) The Lord's Prayer in the distinctive language of that country (if from Ireland, then in Gaelic - even if you only speak English!); and mentioning or depicting the patron saint of your country.

The posters will be displayed in the church - there are some examples already up. Note will be taken of the **patron saints** so they can be included in our parish calendar and be honoured each year at Mass.

One further way of honouring our diversity later this year would be a parish lunch drawing on national recipes for our food and drink. Interested in help with organising this? See Fr Allen

Church on the Run

On Sat 2nd March, a group of five dads from the parish (Chris, Stephen, Matteo, Andrew and James) embark on a remarkable journey.

They will start at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham, run a challenging 21-mile run, and finish the run at St Chad's Cathedral in Lichfield. They are raising funds for the St. Nicholas World Development Group, a Parish charity. *More details and link to JustGiving page at <https://bit.ly/3ujNeEM>*

**Into the desert I was led,
where I fasted without substance;
the devil bade me
make stones my bread,
to have me break
my true love's dance:**

Sing O my love.

O my love, my love, my love;

This have I done for my true love.

*English carol
Seventeenth century.*