

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!

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? Stay in church for a brief meeting after each of THIS Sunday’s Masses.

NEW Women’s Group

Come to 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 are 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. 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 life. Celebrate the unique gifts of women in the Catholic faith and join us for inspiring events and educational opportunities.

1st meeting: Friday 8th March at 19:30 in Benedict Room, St. Nicholas (access by ramp, behind church to left of church)

New CTS booklets- all on sale in the porch, including a variety of booklets with a Lenten theme: *Lenten Devotions* from the Dominicans’ Rosary Shrine; a *Stations of the Cross*, composed in light of the work of the SVP. Also a guide to a *Scriptural Rosary*, a book of *Devotions to the Sacred Heart*, and a reflection on Christian vocation.

Church on the Run On Sat 2nd March, a group of five dads from the parish (Chris, Stephen, Matteo, Andrew and James) will run 21 miles from St Chad’s Cathedral in Birmingham to Lichfield Cathedral. They are raising funds for the St. Nicholas World Development Group. *More details and link to JustGiving page at <https://bit.ly/3ujNeEM>*

Rediscover Your Marriage *Retrouvaille* offers you the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work. The next programme begins with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com

Easter cards for prisoners

Members of our parish Art Group and children from St Nicholas school are working together to prepare Easter Cards to send to prisoners in chaplaincies in a couple of local prisons. All that is needed to prepare a card yourself is to collect one from Fr Allen, colour the front cover, add your first name and return to Fr Allen before 15th March.

Baptism preparation

Our next Baptism preparation course for parents begins on Saturday 16th March at 12noon meeting in the Benedict Room (directly behind the church, access by ramp.) Parents wishing to take part are asked to see Fr Allen to get an information form to be completed and returned before 16th March.

Parish Finance Report: Our annual parish report has been prepared and submitted to the Archdiocese for review. Thank you to Brian Devlin and the other members of the parish Finance Committee for their work in preparing the report and keeping things under review during the year. A summary of the report is available on the noticeboard in the porch.

Diocesan Report: The report for 2022 has just been produced and is full of interesting information. You can access it on our parish blog and website.

Thank you to all who are able to make a financial contribution toward the work of the parish. Many people find it convenient to make their weekly contribution by standing order (either weekly or monthly). The form is available on the newsletter table. Completed forms should be filled in and returned to Brian Devlin (eg put in sealed envelope marked for Brian’s attention and put in collection basket; or sent to parish house in sealed envelope, marked for Brian’s attention.)

When donors are able to Gift Aid their contributions - weekly offerings or one-off donations, this is a real benefit to the parish as the Government will refund to the parish the basic rate of tax already paid on their donation. *If people’s circumstances change at any time such that you wish to increase your donation, or cancel your standing order, or leave the Gift Aid scheme it would be very helpful if you can confirm your intention in writing to Brian Devlin in any of the ways detailed above, so our records can be adjusted accordingly.*



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

Website: www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk

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/MARCH 2024: PARISH MASSES

Sa	24	6pm	2nd SUNDAY IN LENT	Sheila Sutton RIP (Evans)
Su	25	9am		For the parish
		11am		Tony Lawlor RIP (L)
M	26	10am		Brian White (Taylor)
T	27	10am		Jean Lawlor Ints (L)
W	28	10am		Paul Craig RIP (Platt)
Th	29			
F	1	7pm	St David	Martin Coffey RIP (Drozd)
Sa	2	6pm	3rd SUNDAY IN LENT	Thomas & Margaret O’Gorman RIP
Su	3	9am		For the parish
		11am		Sheila Sutton RIP (Evans)

Anointing of the Sick: Next celebration is 26th April 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.

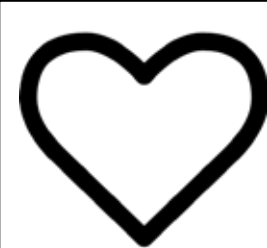
1. Parish prayer on Zoom (links on parish website homepage)
Morning Prayer: Mon to Sat at 8.30am
2. Readings of the day and much more at Universalis.com
3. Resources for the Year of Prayer: <https://bit.ly/47kMBYS>

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 Ray Simmonds, Margaret Healy, John Banks, Margaret Farrell, Christopher Coxall 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.



Moving forward in Boldmere

A follow-up to the recent CSC meeting at Four Oaks is taking place for an hour from 8pm **THIS MONDAY 26TH FEB.** We will reflect on our experience of the CSC meeting (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. *A full report on the recent meeting of our local cluster of parishes can be found on the Cluster’s blog: <https://catholicsuttoncoldfield.wordpress.com>*

Support Boldmere Library

The survival of local libraries is in doubt - including the future of Boldmere library. Yet such resources are of invaluable benefit to many members of our community. A new plan is being developed to help Boldmere library to be open more days a week, and be available for wider community use.

*To become a **Friend of Boldmere Library** please email rob.pocock@birmingham.gov.uk putting ‘Library Friends’ in the subject line for more information.*

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

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 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

God put Abraham to the test. ‘Abraham, Abraham’ he called. ‘Here I am’ he replied. ‘Take your son,’ God said ‘your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.’

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. ‘Abraham, Abraham’ he said. ‘I am here’ he replied. ‘Do not raise your hand against the boy’ the angel said. ‘Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.’ Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. ‘I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.’

Psalms 115(116):10,15-19

I trusted, even when I said:
‘I am sorely afflicted,’
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord’s name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil

before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Romans 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud the Father’s voice was heard: ‘This is my Son, the Be-loved. Listen to him.’ Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: ‘Rabbi,’ he said ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.’ Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what ‘rising from the dead’ could mean.

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

All: Through our lives and by our prayers,
your kingdom come.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

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

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Communion Rite

Communion thanksgiving
Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

Because of copyright restrictions it is not possible in the version of the newsletter that is published on-line to include the texts of hymns/songs that will be sung at our Sunday celebrations of Mass.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: 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. Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Songs: Longing for light: © 1993, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. A new commandment. Anonymous. Re-printed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-A-742254. All rights reserved.

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.

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