



4/5 December Newman Community Centre Arrangements are now in place to make the

Fair a COVID safe zone. As elsewhere people are asked to wear masks when visiting the stalls, but these can be removed in the refreshments room. Deacon Gary is coordinating arrangements. To offer help please contact parish office: stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk

The funds raised this year will be divided between the World Development Group and St Chad's Sanctuary.

November devotions

Blessing of Graves: Witton, 28 Nov, 2.30pm
Envelopes for Masses for the dead are available at entrance to the church.

ACTA. Weds 24 Nov 7pm. Zoom meeting with the Diocesan Chief Operating Officer about the Diocesan Plan. To attend, email: actabhm@gmail.com

Consultation about Admission Policy to Bishop Walsh and other local Catholic schools. The Directors of the MAC wish to remove the Catholic Practice Certificate requirement from their Admissions Policy. Failure to ensure that this policy has been implemented fairly has worked against the interests of practicing and non-practicing Catholics from our parish for some years. A notice in porch invites you to register your views.

St Nicholas Primary School has, in error, implied parents need a certificate of Catholic Practice to support applications for admission for 2022-3. They do not. The school website will be corrected soon.

Some dates for the diary

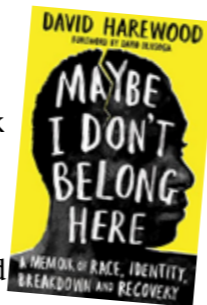
Tues 21st December Parish Reconciliation Service at 7pm
24th December: Mass at 3pm and 6pm
Mass at 9pm **NB ticketed**
25th December: Mass 9am and 11am
26th December: Mass 9am and 11am

Parents who would like their children to assist with presentations of the Christmas Story at the 3 and 6pm Masses on Christmas Eve are asked to sign up on the noticeboard nearest the statue of Our Lady. Volunteers (aged 1- 16, or even older!) are sought for music, for readings, and for acting out the story at these Masses.

It is far from clear what the situation will be with COVID come Christmas. However some members of the parish have expressed concern that if the church is overcrowded they will not feel safe to attend. So, as things stand, the 9pm Mass on Christmas Eve (only) will be ticketed and numbers kept to the safest level.

What's gone wrong? What might be done?

The next meeting of our parish book club - presently reflecting on faults and failings in Church and Society - is this coming Sunday at 7pm.



This meeting focuses on racism, and we have been reading David Harewood's book, *Maybe I don't belong here*. The theme is particularly topical following this week's shocking account of prejudice experienced by former cricketer Azeem Rafiq.

If you've read David Harewood's book do come along and share your response and your thoughts. **Open discussion welcome - we meet to learn!**

Special Needs? A small group of parishioners is meeting to consider how the needs of people with special needs might better be met in our local parishes and schools. They are planning a social meeting for parents and children in February. If you want to be help / be kept in touch, let Fr Allen know.

Bethany Food Bank: December
For our collection on 4/5 December, you might like to think about bringing some more seasonal gifts (non-alcoholic please) that might be distributed by Bethany to the many individuals / families they will be supporting over Christmas and New Year.

Afghan refugees 200 Afghan refugees are being sheltered locally. The local community has responded generously to meet their immediate needs for clothing etc. *The Sanctuary at St Chad's* keeps in close contact to identify continuing needs. We will have a parish collection on to support their work and to help meet other needs going into the New Year.

Care for our Common Home
Why not cycle to church? Bike parking bars available beside the entrance to school.

Parish Finances: Gift aiding your offertory donations to the parish greatly help us we balance our parish finances. To Gift Aid your donations you need to make your offerings either by Standing Order or by Gift Aid envelopes, which ever is most convenient for you. *Forms for Gift-Aid Standing Orders and envelopes are available from Fr Allen.*

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS
The true Spirit of Christmas Giving. CAFOD's scheme allows us to buy gifts that benefit the poorest and most needy in this world. The booklet is available at the entrance to the church.



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
Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **Deacons:** Revv John Garvey and Gary O'Brien
Parish Safeguarding: Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)
Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

Taking part in the Synodal Journey in St Nicholas Parish
Learning with each other to be Catholic, Christian, and Church

An introduction to the journey using a 30 minute video talk by Fr Jan Nowotnik and an opportunity to ask questions and seek answers

4.30 — 6.30pm in the Benedict Room Sunday, November 28th

Vacancy for part time Supervisor for Newman Community Centre
c 20 hours per month, including covering one weekend a month. If you are interested in learning more then, as soon as possible, contact either Fr Allen or Kay O'Keeffe, the hall manager. This is a new post, with final details of monthly hours (days/times) worked out c. a month in advance. We hope to interview those interested on Saturday 27th November from 11am.

Christian? Catholic?
Christian and Catholic is less something we 'are' and more something we are called to become. Key to this 'becoming' is sharing in the life of the Church through gathering to keep Sunday together, and to share in the fruits of the Mass. This helps us live faithfully through the next 6 days and 23 hours. See our parish blog for the Bishops' message on urging us to keep Sunday well. And do try to come to the meeting next Sunday to help with the renewing of Christian life in our parish. All this for our good - and the common good!

PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

Sa 20	6pm		Ints of Gary and Clare O'Brien (Szambir)
Su 21	9am	Christ the King	Jessie Mary Redmond RIP (Redmond)
	11am		For the parish
M 22	10am	St Cecilia	Dec'd family Hugh & Elizabeth McGrath
T 23	10am		Dec'd of Burke and McDonnell families
W 24	10am	St Andrew Dung-Lac	Ints of family of Jean Lawlor (Lawlor)
Th 25			
Fr 26	11am		Service of Exposition and Anointing of the Sick
	7pm		Pauline & Michael Venables RIP (Venables)
Sa 27	6pm		Tom Harper RIP (Gill)
Su 28	9am	1st Sunday of Advent	James McGrath RIP (McGrath)
	11am		For the parish

Morning Prayer: Zoom meeting Monday to Fridays at 8.30am
Rosary: Zoom meeting, Monday at 7pm
Lectio: Zoom meeting, Sunday at 4pm
Sacrament of Confession: Friday evenings after 7pm Mass until 8pm; and 5-5.30pm on Saturday. (Also by appointment)
Anointing of the Sick: Last Friday of month at 11am

Please pray for parishioners who are sick including Christina Drozd, Jean Lawlor, Stephen Burke, Brenda Davies, Elizabeth Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for JBrian Hill, Mary Orrock, Mark Foster, Jane Ball, Susan Hutchinson, Pauline Venables and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

Keeping us ALL safe
The current expectation of the Bishops' Conference (and likely to be the minimum requirements in place until next Spring) is that those attending Mass

- will use the track & trace system, recording contact details for those who do not use the QR code
- wear face-masks
- sanitise their hands on entering the church.

These three things are **required** of those attending Mass at St Nicholas. As the level of infection rises, it is important that when gathering in numbers and in enclosed places we take such steps to protect those who are most vulnerable. Do please continue to use the Lateral Flow tests to check your own infection status - not all who are infected and contagious show symptoms.

Almighty and eternal God, to Jesus Christ, the first-born from the dead, you have granted everlasting dominion and a kingship that shall not pass away. Remove from us every desire for privilege and power, that we may imitate the sacrificial love of Christ our King and, as a royal and priestly people, serve you humbly in our brothers and sisters.

The Introductory Rites *bring us together as one, and prepare ourselves to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.*

Opening Song

Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ for you.
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on the journey,
We are travellers on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will bear the Christ-light for you,
in the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping.
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joys and sorrows,
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we will find such harmony,
born of all we've shared together
of Christ's love and agony.

Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ for you.
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

The Penitential Act

The 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: *The word of God invites us into the unending dialogue between God and his people, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. A brief silence after the readings helps us take the word of God to heart and begin a prayerful response to what we have heard.*

Daniel 7:13-14

I gazed into the visions of the night.
And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,
one like a son of man.
He came to the one of great age
and was led into his presence.
On him was conferred sovereignty,
glory and kingship,
and men of all peoples, nations and languages became
his servants.
His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty
which shall never pass away,
nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

Psalm 92(93):1-2,5

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;
the Lord has robed himself with might,
he has girded himself with power.

The world you made firm, not to be moved;
your throne has stood firm from of old.
From all eternity, O Lord, you are.

Truly your decrees are to be trusted.
Holiness is fitting to your house,
O Lord, until the end of time.

Apocalypse 1:5-8

Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the First-Born from the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. It is he who is coming on the clouds; everyone will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the races of the earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! *Alleluia!*

John 18:33-37

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into

the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

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.

The Prayer of the Faithful

The Liturgy of the Eucharist *re-presents the Sacrifice of Christ to the Father, and his gift of life renewed to the Church, for the service of his mission.*

Food Bank *Our NEXT collection is Sunday December 5th.* Donations can also be made via local supermarkets.

The Offertory

From heav'n You came, helpless babe,
enter'd our world, Your glory veil'd;
not to be served, but to serve,
and give Your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King.
He calls us now to follow Him;
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King*

Come see His hands and His feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice;
hands that flung stars into space,
to cruel nails surrendered

So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone Him;
each other's needs to prefer;
for it is Christ we're serving

The Eucharistic Prayer *is a memorial of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation, in in which the Body and Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and we join with Christ in offering Sacrifice to the Father*

The Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

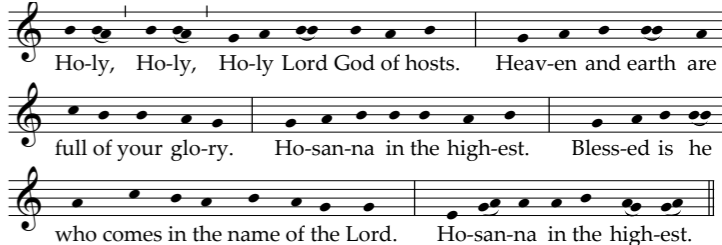
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

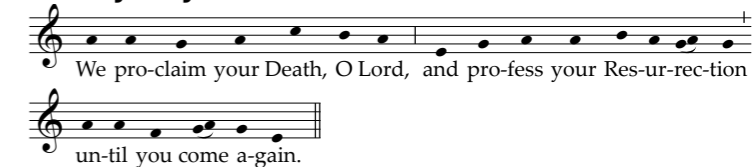
It is right and just.

Sanctus



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are
full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The mystery of faith.



We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Res-ur-rec-tion
un-til you come a-gain.

THE COMMUNION RITE: *The Lord offers reconciliation in and with the invitation to share in the food and drink that is his Body and Blood. Love and mercy are the condition and the fruit of communion in the Lord.*

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Song of Thanksgiving

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight,
thy unction grace bestoweth:
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
good shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

The Concluding Rites *send us out to live the love of God. Our mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.*

Blessing and Dismissal

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