

POPE FRANCIS prevail in society, the cancer of corruption – there is a great deal of it, the spread of injustice, the icy winds of war. Then too, we may have come face to face with death, because it robbed us of the presence of our loved ones or because we brushed up against it in illness or a serious setback. Then it is easy to yield to disillusionment, once the wellspring of hope has dried up. In these or similar situations – each of us knows our own plights, our paths come to a halt before a row of tombs, and we stand there, filled with sorrow and regret, alone and powerless, repeating the question, “Why?” That chain of “why”...

The women at Easter, however, do not stand frozen before the tomb; rather, the Gospel tells us, “they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples” (v. 8). They bring the news that will change life and history forever: Christ is risen! (v. 6). At the same time, they remember to convey the Lord’s summons to the disciples to go to Galilee, for there they will see him (cf. v. 7). Let us ask ourselves today, brothers and sisters: what does it mean to go to Galilee? Two things: on the one hand, to leave the enclosure of the Upper Room and go to the land of the Gentiles (cf. Mt 4:15), to come forth from hiding and to open themselves up to mission, to leave fear behind and to set out for the future. On the other hand, and this is very beautiful, to return to the origins, for it was precisely in Galilee that everything began. There the Lord had met and first called the disciples. So, to go to Galilee means to return to the grace of the beginnings, to regain the memory that regenerates hope, the “memory of the future” bestowed on us by the Risen One.

This, then, is what the Pasch of the Lord accomplishes: it motivates us to move forward, to leave behind our sense of defeat, to roll away the stone of the tombs in which we often imprison our hope, and to look with confidence to the future, for Christ is risen and has changed the direction of history. Yet, to do this, the Pasch of the Lord takes us back to the grace of our own past; it brings us back to Galilee, where our love story with Jesus began, where the first call took place. In other words, it asks us to relive that moment, that situation, that experience in which we met the Lord, experienced his love and received a radiantly new way of seeing ourselves, the world around us and the mystery of life itself. Brothers and sisters, to rise again, to start anew, to take up the journey, we always need to return to Galilee, that is, to go back, not to an abstract or ideal Jesus, but to the living, concrete and palpable memory of our first encounter with him. Yes, to go forward we need to go back, to remember; to have hope, we need to revive our memory. This is what we are asked to do: to remember and go forward! If you recover that first love, the wonder and joy of your encounter with God, you will keep advancing. So remember, and keep moving forward.

Remember your own Galilee and walk towards it, for it is the “place” where you came to know Jesus personally, where he stopped being just another personage from a distant past, but a living person: not some distant God but the God who is at your side, who more than anyone else knows you and loves you. Brother, sister, remember Galilee, your Galilee, and your call. Remember the Word of God who at a precise moment spoke directly to you. Remember that powerful experience of the Spirit; that great joy of forgiveness experienced after that one confession; that intense and unforgettable moment of prayer; that light that was kindled within you and changed your life; that encounter, that pilgrimage...

Each of us knows where our Galilee is located. Each of us knows the place of his or her interior resurrection, that beginning and foundation, the place where things changed. We cannot leave this in the past; the Risen Lord invites us to return there to celebrate Easter. Remember your Galilee. Remind yourself. Today, relive that memory. Return to that first encounter. Think back on what it was like, reconstruct the context, time and place. Remember the emotions and sensations; see the colours and savour the taste of it. For it is when you forgot that first love, when you failed to remember that first encounter, that the dust began to settle on your heart. That is when you experienced sorrow and, like the disciples, you saw the future as empty, like a tomb with a stone sealing off all hope. Yet today, brother, sister, the power of Easter summons you to roll away every stone of disappointment and mistrust. The Lord is an expert in rolling back the stones of sin and fear. He wants to illuminate your sacred memory, your most beautiful memory, and to make you relive that first encounter with him. Remember and keep moving forward. Return to him and rediscover the grace of God’s resurrection within you! Return to Galilee. Return to your Galilee.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us follow Jesus to Galilee, encounter him and worship him there, where he is waiting for each of us. Let us revive the beauty of that moment when we realized that he is alive and we made him the Lord of our lives. Let us return to Galilee, the Galilee of our first love. Let each of us return to his or her own Galilee, to the place where we first encountered him. Let us rise to new life!

Parish Lunch: Come and join in a parish lunch after the 11am Mass and Corpus Christi procession with children from this year’s Communion Programme on Sunday 11th June. More details to follow.



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

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

Parish Safeguarding: Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)

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

APRIL 2022: PARISH MASSES THIS WEEK

Sa	15	6pm	2nd Sunday of Easter	ints of Marie Breen (Kelly)
Su	16	9am 11am		Margaret & Thomas O’Gorman RIP For the parish
M	17	10am		Funeral of Betty Perks
T	18	10am		John Minister RIP{ (O’Gorman)
W	19	10am		Jack Murphy RIP (Newstead)
Th	20			
F	21	7pm		For those in need (Rhodes)
Sa	22	6pm	3rd Sunday of Easter	Richard Charles RD (Platt)
Su	23	9am 11am		John, Kathleen and Madge McGrath (McG) Seamus Nolan RD

Anointing of the Sick: Last Friday of month 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

Please pray for those who are sick including Andy Kean, Brenda Davies; Gino Mastroianni, David Cotton, Rita Rhodes, Stephen Burke; Lesley Devlin; Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Jean Lawlor; Joanne McShane & Teresa Monteiro. **Please pray** for Patrick Muldoon, Anne Palgrave, Betty Lordan and all whose anniversaries are at this time.

RESOURCES FOR PRAYER.

1. Parish prayer on Zoom (links on parish website homepage)
Morning Prayer: Zoom meeting Monday to Saturday at 8.30am; **Lectio** Sunday at 4pm; **Rosary** Mon at 7pm.
2. Readings of the day and much more at Universalis.com

Parish Car Park

There is free parking in our parish carpark at all times for one hour. Automatic free parking permits are issued:

- On **Saturdays** for those arriving after 5.30pm and leaving before 7.30pm and on **Sundays** if arriving after 8am and leaving before 2pm
- On **Mondays to Wednesdays** if arriving after 9.30am and leaving before 11.30am and on **Fridays** if arriving after 6.30pm and leaving before 8.30pm
- Permits **may** be automatically issued also for **Masses at other times** too, e.g. funerals. Details of such additional free times will be confirmed in newsletter in advance.

Permits for ‘privileged times’ are automatically issued when a vehicle enters the car park during those times. You need do nothing more. At other times, if on site for parish meetings and the like, please scan the QR poster in the church or Benedict Room to extend your ‘free’ parking time.

POPE FRANCIS’ HOMILY FROM THE EASTER VIGIL

The night is drawing to a close and the first light of dawn is appearing upon the horizon as the women set out toward Jesus’ tomb. They make their way forward, bewildered and dismayed, their hearts overwhelmed with grief at the death that took away their Beloved. Yet upon arriving and seeing the empty tomb, they turn around and retrace their steps. They leave the tomb behind and run to the disciples to proclaim a change of course: Jesus is risen and awaits them in Galilee. In their lives, those women experienced Easter as a Pasch, a passage. They pass from walking sorrowfully towards the tomb to running back with joy to the disciples to tell them not only that the Lord is risen, but also that they are to set out immediately to reach a destination, Galilee. There they will meet the Risen Lord. The rebirth of the disciples, the resurrection of their hearts, passes through Galilee. Let us enter into this journey of the disciples from the tomb to Galilee.

The Gospel tells us that the women went “to see the tomb” (Mt 28:1). They think that they will find Jesus in the place of death and that everything is over, forever. Sometimes we too may think that the joy of our encounter with Jesus is something belonging to the past, whereas the present consists mostly of sealed tombs: tombs of disappointment, bitterness and distrust, of the dismay of thinking that “nothing more can be done”, “things will never change”, “better to live for today”, since “there is no certainty about tomorrow”. If we are prey to sorrow, burdened by sadness, laid low by sin, embittered by failure or troubled by some problem, we also know the bitter taste of weariness and the absence of joy.

At times, we may simply feel weary about our daily routine, tired of taking risks in a cold, hard world where only the clever and the strong seem to get ahead. At other times, we may feel helpless and discouraged before the power of evil, the conflicts that tear relationships apart, the attitudes of calculation and indifference that seem to *continued on p4*

The Introductory Rites

Opening Song

Sing praises to the Lord, Alleluia,
Sing praise to greet the Word, Alleluia.
The Word is a sign of God’s wisdom and love,
Alleluia, Alleluia.

God’s truth can set us free, Alleluia,
Christ Jesus is the key, Alleluia.
Our ears hear the Word, but it lives in our hearts...

We listen to your voice, Alleluia,
We praise you and rejoice, Alleluia,
Your Spirit is with us, She breathes in your Word...

The Penitential Act

Gloria



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.

Glory to God...

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.

Glory to God...

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.

Glory to God... Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

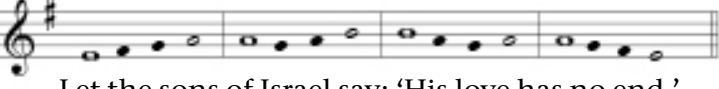
Acts 2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

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Psalm 117(118):2-4,13-15,22-24



Let the sons of Israel say: ‘His love has no end.’
Let the sons of Aaron say: ‘His love has no end.’
Let those who fear the Lord say:
‘His love has no end.’

I was thrust down, thrust down and falling,
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just.
The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad.

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God’s power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: ‘You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’ Alleluia!

John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, ‘Peace be with you’, and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. ‘As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.’ After saying this he breathed on them and said: ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.’

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disci-

ples said, ‘We have seen the Lord’, he answered, ‘Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.’ Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. ‘Peace be with you’ he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.’ Thomas replied, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him: ‘You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

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 April 16th and May 7th

He is Lord, he is Lord!
He is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord!

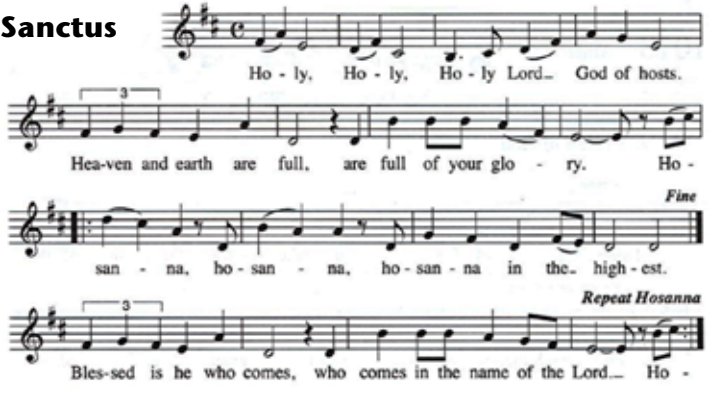
He is King, he is King!
He will draw all nations to him, he is King;
and the time shall be when the world shall sing
that Jesus Christ is King!

He is Love, he is Love!
He has shown us by his life that he is Love;
all his people sing with one voice of joy
that Jesus Christ is Love!

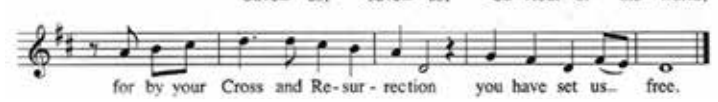
He is Life, he is Life!
He has died to set us free and he is Life;
and he calls us all to live evermore,
for Jesus Christ is Life.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus



The mystery of faith



The Communion Rite

The Lord’s Prayer

Communion thanksgiving

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,
born as one of us, Mary’s Son.
Led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus, help us see you are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, now and ev’ry day
teach us how to pray, Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this in remembrance, Lord, of you.
Into our lives your pow’r breaks through, living Lord.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I would come to you,
live my life for you, Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,
into my life your pow’r breaks through, living Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

Dismissal

Go in peace. Alleluia, Alleluia
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Young Families Group

The Young Families group meets in the Benedict Room for refreshments, for chat and getting to know one another after the 9am Mass on the last Sunday of each month.

This timing will also allow people who attend the 11am Mass to join before they go to Mass. Next meeting is 30 April.

In addition, the group is also thinking of having a day out in Spring (May/June perhaps) nearby to enjoy the weather (hopefully!) and have some fun.

Keep an eye on the newsletter for more information.

