## "Bringing children to church"

First of all, children of all ages are welcome at all of our parish masses. And it is inevitable that younger children will raise the 'noise' level at Mass, even quite considerably. Let's take all that for granted.

However parents, grandparents and god-parents are asked to do more for their children, the children of our parish, than just bring them to church.. They are asked to help those children slowly, gradually, learn how to take part in the Mass, and find meaning there, so that in time they will lean how to have fruitful encounter with Jesus there.

A few things are wroth encouraging -

- Bring children to church in good time before Mass begins, perhaps to join you in offering prayer before Mass before figures of Our Lady or the Sacred Heart, praying especially for the particular things that are happening in their lives and the lives of their families
- Help them to get into the habit of thinking what they want to pray about during the Mass - something to say thank you for, sorry for and help with, for example. Your doing the same and talking with them about your choices offers great encouragement to them.
- During Mass ***regularly*** encourage them to join in responses and songs. It is lovely when this happens. And it is sad to see a number of parents seeming not to join in themselves, and doing nothing to offer encouragement to their children.
- And of course, regularly being part of our parish celebration of Sunday Mass has its place. Parishioners regularly comment on how children are brought to Mass for 'special' things but very few are seen the Sunday after. Without regular practice children cannot learn how to pray the Mass, and acquire the Christian spirit.

The Church warns that unless we help children to take their proper active part, understanding and engaging with what we do, those bringing them to church can be pointless and even harmful to them. Which is the last thing anyone would want. With care that can be avoided and great good done for the children's future life in faith.

Over the past months there have been a number of incidents of theft from the church, and petty vandalism on church grounds. I am getting help from outside agencies to see what might be done to improve security for the church building and its users, especially outside of our regular Mass times.

In the meantime the church will kept locked, except when Masses and other liturgies are scheduled. I am sorry for the loss that this represents for those who have valued the opportunity to make private visits to the church at other times. If I can find a way to make the site more secure so the church can be open as formerly, rest assured this is something I would want to do as soon as is safe. Fr. Allen

## Parish Pilgrimage

Earlier in the year feelers were put out to see who might be intersted in joining a parish pilgrimage to Rome. There were only a few takers, and prices are rocketting at the moment! So plans are being changed. There is still an opportunity to come on pilgrimage - but now to Norfolk not Rome.

As last year, the pilgrimage is arranged place during the Autumn half term to make it possible for families with children to take part in any parts that appeal..

All elements of the pilgrimage are optional. Come along for what you want and stay away from what does not appeal. And arrange your accommodation and transport accordingly

FInal dates and timings are still to be confirmed. But the current plans are to begin with the opportunity to spend a day or two in Walsingham prior to the time on Norwich. It is suggested that those coming book into the Pilgrim Bureau (details of accommodation available at www.walsingham.org.uk/elmham-house-pilgrim-hotel/)

A tour of Ely Cathedral and its stained glass museum is planned for early afternoon on Monday 26th en route to Walsingham, and on the 27th a pilgrimage day in Walsingham with a visit to Binham Priory and, maybe, Wells on Sea in the afternoon. Between Weds 28th and Friday30th September the pilgrimage is based in Norwich where three main events are planned: visits to the Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals and the shrine of Julian of Norwich (with an opportunity to explore the life and teaching of Julian - whose writing *Revelations of Divine Love* are the earliest known writing by an woman in English, and a spiritual resource whose importance has been increasingly recognised in recent years).

Indeed - as it happens this pilgrimage will have quite a focus on Mothers in Faith: Julian in Norwich, Our Lady and Lady Richeldis de Faverches in Walsingham and St Eheldreda in Ely!

# 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*

## April 2026: Parish Masses This week

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sa** | **11** | 6pm | **2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER (*DIVINE MERCY*)** | For the parish |
| **Su** | **12** | 9am | | Audrey and Raymond Gregory RIP (G) |
| | | 11am | | Joe Egan RIP (O'Sullivan) |
| **M** | **13** | | | |
| **T** | **14** | | | |
| **W** | **15** | 10am | *Mass together with Sacrament of the sick* | Jean Lawlor RIP (Wilkinson) |
| **Th** | **16** | 10am | | In Thanksgiving |
| **F** | **17** | 7pm | | Kath Steele RD (Drozd) |
| **S** | **18** | 6pm | **3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER** | Irene Burn RIP (Makepeace) |
| **Su** | **19** | 9am | | For the parish |
| | | 11am | | Joe Egan RIP (Devane) |

***Anointing of the Sick***: Next Liturgies 15th April and 20th May

***Sacrament of Confession:*** Friday 19.30 (after Mass) until 20.00; Saturday 5.30-5.45 — and by appointment

**Please pray for those who are sick** including Elsie Wilkinson, Stephen Gateley, Rita Rhodes, Mary Daniels, Brenda Davies, Lesley Devlin. **Please pray for Dr Judith Champ** who died recently and for Hazel Kemp, John Connolly, Colin Kiernan, May Kerrins, Patrick Muldoon and all whose anniversary occurs at this time. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.***

***RESOURCES FOR PRAYER.***

1. ***Parish Morning Prayer***: Mon-Sat, at 8.30am (Zoom link on website)
2. ***Readings of the day*** and much more at Universalis.com
3. ***The Sunday Scriptures*** are a richer resource for spiritual growth when we read and pray with them before the Sunday (and again after the Sunday). Next Sunday's readings are Acts 2:14, 22–33 / Psalm 16:1–2, 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11 / 1 Peter 1:17–21 / Luke 24:13–35

***WEEKDAY SOCIAL.*** Tuesdays after 10am Mass.

**PARISH CAR PARK** 1 hour's free parking is available for anyone at anytime in our carpark. Automatic free parking is available too on **Sat** 5.30pm to 7.30pm; **Sunday** 8am to 2pm; **Mon, Tues, Weds** 9.30am to 11.30am; and **Fri** 6.30pm to 8.30pm. *At other times, please - if in church or here for meetings - please use the QR code 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

**Our parish is part of Catholic Sutton Coldfield.**
**This cluster of Parishes is made up of the parishes of Holy Cross & St Francis, Walmley; Sacred Heart, Four Oaks; Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield; and St Nicholas , Boldmere.**

**Parish repair and renewal project 2026-7** To guide the Parish Pastoral Council in how to proceed with the renewal project. Please complete the questionnaire provided. Background information has been circulated and is posted in the church and on the parish website. *Paper copies of the questionnaire are available in the church but, if possible, please use the online form - on the website or by this QR code.* Please submit your response by Ascension Day - May 15th.

**Lent Alms:** Thank you to all who directed their Lenten Alms through the parish to the World Development Group. You contributed £1,200.19 towards the costs of the Feed My Lambs school in Uganda.

**Parish Repository:** Cards and gifts for celebrations of First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Open after Sunday morning Masses.

## SUNDAY FRIENDS celebrate Easter

*Sunday Friends* welcomes everyone especially people with learning disabilities and or autism and their families who are at the heart of the group. It is an opportunity to come together to have fun, sing and build friendships. It is for anyone who would like to come, for all ages, people of faith or none and it is free.

Newman Centre,
Sunday 3rd May 1:30-3pm

## The Introductory Rites

### Opening Song

### 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.

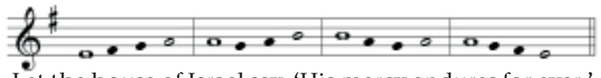
### The Collect

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Acts 2:42-47

The believers devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the Apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the Temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they shared their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

### Ps 118(117):2-4. 13-15b. 22-24.



Let the house of Israel say, 'His mercy endures for ever.'
Let the house of Aaron say, 'His mercy endures for ever.'
Let those who fear the LORD say,
'His mercy endures for ever.'

They pushed me, pushed me hard to knock me down, /
but the LORD was my helper.
The LORD is my strength and my song; /
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and salvation
in the tents of the righteous.

The stone that the builders rejected /
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done, a marvel in our eyes.
This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad.

### 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

### John 20:19-31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord'. But he said to them, 'Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.'

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in 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

O King of might and splendour,
creator most adored,
this sacrifice we render to thee as sovereign Lord.
May these our gifts be pleasing unto thy majesty,
from sin, O Lord, release us, who have offended thee.

Thy body thou hast given,
thy blood thou hast outpoured,
that sin might be forgiven, O Jesus, living Lord.
As now with love most tender, thy death we celebrate,
our lives in self-surrender to thee we consecrate.

### The Eucharistic Prayer

### Sanctus

### The mystery of faith

## The Communion Rite

### Communion thanksgiving

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!

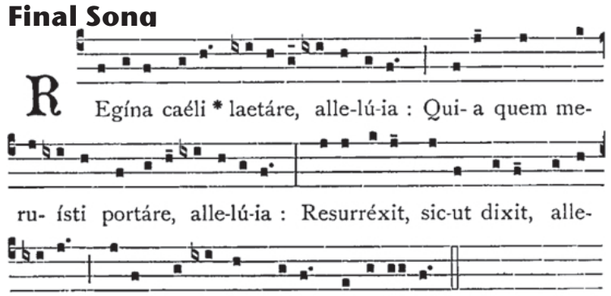
He is King, he is King!
He will draw all nations to him, he is King;
and the time shall be when the world shall sing
that Jesus Christ is King!

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!

### Prayer after Communion

## Concluding Rites

### Final Song




*Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.*
*For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.*
*Has risen, as he said, alleluia.*
*Pray for us to God, alleluia.*

**Gift Aid Envelopes** are available now for those who still wish to use them. Most parishioners in the Gift Aid scheme donate nowby Standing Order (forms available on the newsletter table) or by the dedicated Card Reader.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS **Scripture readings:** ***The English Standard Version of the Bible, Catholic Edition,*** *copyright 2017 by Crossway.* **The Psalms:** *Abbey Psalms and Canticles © 2018 USCCB.* **Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal*** *© 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy.* ***Songs***: Gloria, Sanctus and Memorial Acclamation. *Marty Haugen, International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL)Tune: © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc. ;* Sing praises to the Lord, alleluia. Text © 1985, 1990, Christopher Walker. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. He is Lord. *Text anonymous. Texts of copyrighted songs are reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-A-742254. All rights reserved.*