

## Parenting Faith

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children share faith, learn to pray, develop and deepen their relationship with God, and neighbour.

Parents are called to be leaders of the domestic church – exercising their role there, sharing in the ministry of Jesus as priest, prophet and king.

This vocation is a privileged one. It can also be a challenging one. So at St Nicholas parish we give time and space for parents to consider different aspects of the life of faith which they are invited to make their own and that they will want to share with their children in the years following baptism.

Typically this will include times to reflect together on

- the power of prayer
- who Jesus is
- the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
- and parenthood

If you are a parent considering baptism for your child, and this is something that you want to explore further, then please speak with Fr Allen after any Sunday Mass.

## 4pm Mass on Saturdays

It is hoped to be able to restart the 4pm Mass on Saturdays. However this can only happen if sufficient volunteers come forward, ready to give of their time and energy to help steward the Mass and clean the church afterwards.

If you are able to help, even once a month, please complete - as soon as possible - one of the white slips of paper available as you enter and leave the church. Fr Allen will then be in touch to try and form a rota ready to begin on May 8th.



In November, the St Nicholas World Development group sent a shipment quality second-hand shoes, clothes and toys to the *Feed My Lamb* school in Uganda.

The shipment has arrived and Claire Dorcus sent this message: *Thank you so much*

*for all the work you are doing collecting shoes and clothes. Can you imagine how much money we would be spending to buy these? Thank you everyone.*

When Covid restrictions ease, the World Development Group will be shipping again. Please start saving items for the school's boys and girls:

- School shoes/trainers/flipflops especially adult sizes 6-10
- Clothes age 12-15yrs
- Toys & games (these were brilliant for during lockdown)

## Prayer at home but with the parish

Full details of our present range of on-opportunities to join with other members of the parish for prayer on-line are given on the homepage of the parish website.

If you know people who are not ready to return to Sunday or weekday Mass, do please help them to make use of the on-line opportunities to remain actively engaged with their parish.

## Newman Community Centre



The NCC? Maybe you know it by its old name of the *Carpenter's Arms*.

The *Newman Community Centre* is now open for a variety of groups in line with current COVID regulations. It will open for other groups as and when the regulations are relaxed.

If you are planning events and would like to hold them at the NCC please ring the Hall Manager, Kay O'Keefe, on 0121 321 2285 or email [newmancc.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:newmancc.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk)

**First Sacraments...** In the parish as in our own lives so many things planned for this past year have been greatly disrupted by the unexpected.

The impact of the pandemic on preparation for first Sacraments has been considerable. Apart from the need to postpone many of those who would be preparing have effectively been away from parish life, and Sunday Mass for a year. So a time of re-integration is now built into the process of preparation.

- It is hoped that over the coming weeks we will see more of those children preparing for Confirmation and First Communion at Mass (in readiness for receiving the Sacraments in the Autumn).
- The next Infants' Baptism preparation course (for parents!) will begin on 8th May.

## CAFOD writes...

*"Thank you for your generous donations of £268.96 to CAFOD's Lent Fast Day We featured Marian and her son Svonzo in Zimbabwe in Lent 2018. The community vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes.*

*This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with the money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support."*



## St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

## Parenting faith

One of the most precious gifts is the gift of faith.

It is a lovely thing when parents wish to raise their child to know and love Jesus - and found their lives on the rock of his love and goodness.

Parents who wish to take on that responsibility, can find themselves in all sorts of circumstances.

- Sometimes both parents are Catholics, and are regular at Sunday Mass, actively seeking to live their Christian faith. Sometimes one parent is active in living their Catholic faith and the other parent comes from a different Christian tradition, and may be active in that or not. Sometimes one parent may be of a different faith, and in some cases one parent may not have faith in God. In some cases parents are both baptised Catholic but have not taken part in the shared life of the Church for some time.
- Sometimes parents are married in the Catholic church. Sometimes they have married outside of the Catholic Church. Sometimes they are not married.
- Sometimes the parents of a child are no longer together, and sometimes just one parent now shoulders the responsibility for parenting their child.
- And then there are families with two mothers, or two fathers, and so on.

Most every family is different. But in all circumstances our parish is ready to help support parents who are ready to step forward, and prepare to take on the responsibilities of

bringing up their children in the practice of our Catholic faith.

The Church speaks of how each family is invited to learn to live as a domestic church. The family at home is seen as THE place where parents and

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## Rapid Testing

To help build on the results of the vaccination programme and the lockdown we are all urged to take the a self-administered rapid test for the virus twice a week. The test kits are available from pharmacies and test centres.

**We are all asked to test twice a week - whether we have COVID symptoms or not. One in 3 people with COVID-19 do not experience any symptoms and can spread the virus unwittingly. Rapid testing detects cases quickly, meaning positive cases can isolate immediately.**

Please use the test to protect yourself and others.

**Please consider testing each week on the day before you come to Sunday Mass.**

**Help keep everyone safe.**

## Keeping Safe at Mass

**Face coverings:** Regulations require members of the congregation, aged 5 and over, to wear face-coverings over their nose and mouth when in church. *Anyone with an exemption certificate should confirm in advance with Fr Allen, so appropriate seating can be arranged (and to safeguard you and others.)*

**Social distancing:** Please keep a social distance of 1m from anyone not of your household.

**Thank you for your cooperation.**

## PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

Day	Time	Notes
Sa 17	6pm	For the parish
Su 18	9am	3rd Sunday of Easter
	11am	
M 19	10am	Joan Hill RIP (Cummings)
T 20	10am	Private intention
W 21	10am	Private intention
Th 22	10am	
F 23	7pm	ST GEORGE
Sa 24	6pm	Anna and Joseph Pham RIP (Nguyen)
Su 25	9am	4th Sunday of Easter
	11am	

**Please pray for sick parishioners** including Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for Anne Palgrave, Betty Lordan, Don Tomlinson, Mary Cosgrove, Patricia Gallagher and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

## The Introductory Rites

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

## 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

*Hearing the word proclaimed in worship, we again enter into the unending dialogue between God and the people of the covenant shared in Christ, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. The proclamation of the word is essential to the Mass*

*A brief time of quiet after the readings allows us to take the word of God to heart and begin to prepare a prayerful response to what we have heard.*

### Acts 3:13-15,17-19

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

### Psalms 4:2,4,7,9

When I call, answer me, O God of justice;  
from anguish you released me,  
have mercy and hear me!

It is the Lord who grants favours  
to those whom he loves;  
the Lord hears me whenever I call him.

'What can bring us happiness?' many say.  
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once  
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

### 1 John 2:1-5

I am writing this, my children,  
to stop you sinning;  
but if anyone should sin,  
we have our advocate with the Father,  
Jesus Christ, who is just;  
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,  
and not only ours,  
but the whole world's.

We can be sure that we know God  
only by keeping his commandments.  
Anyone who says, 'I know him',  
and does not keep his commandments, is a liar,  
refusing to admit the truth.  
But when anyone does obey what he has said,  
God's love comes to perfection in him.

### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.  
*Alleluia!*

### Luke 24:35-48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it, and they stood there dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

### Homily

**Prayer of the Faithful** (omitted at the Bishop's request)

### Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.*

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 Liturgy of the Eucharist

*The Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does, because at its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing and making available his saving work among us.*

### The Offertory

*There is no offertory collection at this time. Instead, you are invited to place your offerings in the basket at the entrance to the church as you arrive, or as you leave.*

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*The Eucharistic Prayer, the centre and summit of the entire celebration is a memorial proclamation of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation, a proclamation in which the Body and Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and the people are joined to Christ in offering his 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

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

### The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.

### THE COMMUNION RITE

*Eating and drinking together of the Lord's Body and Blood in a Paschal meal is the culmination of the Eucharist. The themes underlying these rites are mutual love and reconciliation. These are the condition and the fruit of*

*worthy communion and the unity of the many in the One.*

### The Lord's Prayer

### Invitation to Communion

*Please observe the regulations on social distancing when processing to receive Holy Communion.*

*As you approach the minister, please do so with arms at "full stretch" to keep a good distance between you.*

*Communion will be given silently, and in the hand only. (Your hands - palms upwards, one of top of the other - should be extended as flatly as possible.)*

### Prayer after Communion

### The Concluding Rites

*The brief Concluding Rite sends us forth to put into effect in our daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ which we have celebrated. 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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**Thank you** to all those who so kindly donated to the Easter Offering collection this year. It was kind to do so at the end of a year when the finances of many individuals and families having taken a hammering. Your thoughtfulness and generosity, at this time especially, is very much appreciated.

Thank you very much also to those who sent cards and other gifts too.

Mass will be offered during the week for your intentions and those of your families.

Fr. Allen

### Exploring the Eucharist

Weekly mini-essays exploring the Eucharist. Origins and influences on the Mass; exploring particular prayers; and looking at how we celebrate - and how we might celebrate more fruitfully....

**www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com**

This week we look at rite of Blessing and sprinkling of water which is especially associated with Sunday Mass during Easter (though not this year!)

### Holy Week Collections

Thank you to all those who donated to the Good Friday collection which raised £206.84 for the Holy Places.

And thank you to those who donated Lenten Alms at the Mass on Holy Thursday which raised £287.06. The Lenten Alms collection will be divided equally between the parish SVP group and the World Development Group.