

Acts 4:8-12

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

Psalm 117(118):1,8-9,21-23,26,28-29

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men; it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

I will thank you for you have answered and you are my saviour. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord;

You are my God, I thank you. My God, I praise you. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end.

1 John 3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the



Next Week: 5th Sunday of Easter

Scripture readings: Acts of the Apostles 9:26 – 31 / Psalm 22:26 – 27, 28, 30, 31 – 32 / 1 John 3:18 – 24 / John 15:1 – 8

Stepping forward in Faith

Thes holiness to which the Lord calls you will grow through small gestures.

Here is an example: a woman goes shopping, she meets a neighbour and they begin to speak, and the gossip starts. But she says in her heart: "No, I will not speak badly of anyone". This is a step forward in holiness.

Later, at home, one of her children wants to talk to her about his hopes and dreams, and even though she is tired, she sits down and listens with patience and love. That is another sacrifice that brings holiness.

Later she experiences some anxiety, but recalling the love of the Virgin Mary, she takes her rosary and prays with faith. Yet another path of holiness.

Later still, she goes out onto the street, encounters a poor person and stops to say a kind word to him. One more step.

Pope Francis (Gaudete et exsultantes, 16)

future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. *Alleluia!*

John 10:11-18

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

'I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd.

'The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Ordinary of the Mass is found on p200 ff of Laudate. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible are published and copyright © 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.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

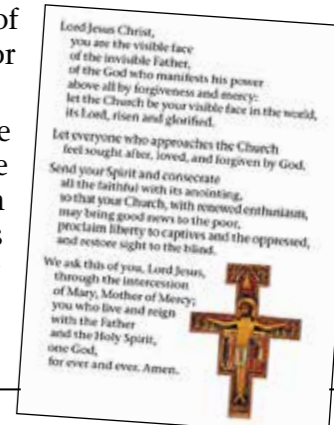
This Sunday is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

On this day, we tend to pray in particular for vocations to the ministries of priesthood or diaconate or to religious life. We should pray for these vocations, gifts from the Church to the Church. But more fundamental yet is the vocation of all Christians, and the vocation of our communities, that helps the Church to be truly a gift of God to the world.

A priority for us here at St Nick's has to be praying for a deeper sense for the vocation of our parish, and the vocation of the communities, the families, that are so significant a part of the parish. Parents have the double challenge of living faithfully themselves, and of

helping establish patterns for faithful life in their families.

Do please take and use one of the prayer cards available today. ke several, share them around, and invite others to pray with us too for our faithful and fruitful life as Church.



Masses Fourth Week of Easter

Su	21	4th Sunday of Easter <i>Psalter Wk 4</i>	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession Brian Kerins RIP (McDermott)
Su	22		0900 1100 1800	For the parish Maria Phan and Paul Nguyen RIP (Nguyen) Exposition and Evening Prayer
M	23	ST GEORGE	1000* 1500	Gino Mastroianni - health (Leese) Expositon of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary
T	24		0900 1020 1430	Funeral Mass of May Kerins Bridie Quinn RD (Gavin) (<i>fol. by refreshments</i>) Mass with St Nicholas school
W	25	St Mark	1000*	Ints Sr Therese O'Brien (Byrne)
Th	26			
F	27		1900*	Jackie Wilson RD (Leese)
S	28	5th Sunday of Easter <i>Psalter Wk 1</i>	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession Brendan Connolly RIP (Kennedy)
Su	29		0900 1100	For the parish Leon Syposz RIP(Paszkowski)

Morning/Evening Prayer 20 mins before weekday Masses as indicated above*
Exposition: & Vespers 2nd & 4th Suns, 6-7pm; **& Benediction** Mon at 3pm

Reconciliation Sat. 1700-1730 (Exposition until 1740) and by arrangement.

Baptism, Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick: by arrangement.

Nourishing prayer at home: livingeucharist.wordpress.com/

Please pray for sick parishioners including Margaret Stroud, Philip Redmond, Jude Turner, Margaret O'Gorman, Peter & Olwen Foster, Mary Gavin, Frank Kemp, Josie Newman, Brenda Davies; Leah Burke, Tess Carnero, Joan James, Sarah Johnston, Bridie Moffatt, Bernie Morton, Danuta Evans, Michael McDermott - and Fr Gabriel Maguire, our Dean. **Please pray for all who have died** including May Kerins who have died recently and for Betty Lordan, Kathleen Callaghan and all whose anniversaries are at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

cf Pope Francis Gaudete et Exsultate, 1, 2 14-15

Parish

Congratulations to Eleanor, who at our first Mass of Sunday today, is received into the Church, and confirmed and receives her first Communion; to Jackie and Chris who are confirmed and receive their first Communion, to George who receives his first Holy Communion, and to William who is baptised, confirmed and receives his First Communion. Please keep them in your prayers.

Interested in following them to a fuller life in the Church? You are welcome to a meeting in the Benedict Room at 7pm Monday May 7th. The meeting is for any non-Catholic who would like to know more about Christian faith, or any non-Catholic Christian who would like to learn more about the Catholic Church and the Catholic faith; or Catholics who have not been confirmed or made their first Communion.

There is a retiring collection today for the Clergy Training Fund.

Refreshments in Benedict Room after Sunday 9 and 10am Masses (also after 10am Mass on Tuesdays). All welcome.

Monday Rosary for Vocations. The Rosary group meets each Monday at 3pm

to pray for all vocations in the Church. **This week we pray for parents.**

Travelling Solo Next lunch meeting is after 11am Mass on Sun 6 May. All who 'travel alone' - single, the divorced or separated, widows and widowers - are welcome.

Preparation for Baptism of Infants. The next preparation programme begins Saturday 19th May from 11-12noon, in the Benedict Room. Please see Fr Allen before hand and complete an application form.

Parish Scripture Study Group. The next meeting is on Weds 25 April at 7pm to look at the Book of Psalms. The Psalms are a key element of the Church's daily prayer and feature in our every celebration of Mass. Where do they come from? How do we pray them? Can we pray them? All are welcome. *For a sheet of psalms to read in preparation for the meeting, please see Fr Allen*

Parish Book Club. The next meeting looks at C.S. Lewis's *Surprised by Joy*. Mon 30th April at 8pm in parish house. All welcome.

50/50 Club The St Nicholas 50/50 Club has been established for nearly 20 years. It raises extra funds for the support of the parish, and provides a bit of fun for parishioners. The income received

from the Members' annual subscription is divided equally between the parish and the members of the club. There is a monthly draw, on the 3rd Tuesday of each month during the coffee morning held after the 10am Mass. Application forms to join are available in the porch.

Do you drive to church on Sunday morning? If so - unless you are disabled - please use the school car park, accessible at the end of Wakefield Close, the next turning on the right, away from Boldmere Road. This means that the church car park is kept relatively free for those who most need to use it. They will be most grateful for your thoughtfulness.

The Bell The next issue will be prepared for June. Martin Malpas is looking for items for inclusion. If you have any ideas please speak to him or email him on martinmalpas@tiscali.co.uk. *Thank you to The Bell team for their recent donation of £1000 to Bishop Walsh School Lourdes Fund.*

50/50 Club Winners in April are Mrs G Foster Mr F. Kemp and Mrs P. Platt.

Winter Night Shelter Debrief and planning meeting. 7.30pm, Weds 25 April at Room 1, Wylde Green United Reformed Church

Diocese

Archdiocese of Birmingham Pilgrimage to Walsingham Saturday 12 May 2018 12.noon Rosary Procession from Friday Market Place to the Chapel of Reconciliation; 1.30pm Lunch; 1.30pm The Sacrament of Reconciliation; 1.30pm Eucharistic Adoration; 3.00pm Benediction; 3.30pm Mass.

Serving the local community Local schools, including Catholic schools, are regularly in need of new governors. The role of Governor has changed significantly over recent years. What is especially needed is people with knowledge and experience in business, finance, HR or with a legal background. But if you don't have any of these specific skills, you may have other qualities that would be beneficial to a school. Training is provided to help individuals carry out the role. More detail at www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/governors

Residential and Respite Care St Joseph's Home, Coleshill, offers residential care in a Catholic setting to older people and those living with dementia. Respite bedrooms are also available for those who could benefit from a short stay. If you or someone you know might benefit from the care offered at St Joseph's, please call 01675 434500 for an informal chat or to arrange a visit.

Other

Leonard Cheshire Disability are looking for

individual who can drive and are happy to learn to drive a Minibus to help a disabled person socialise, go shopping and pursue their interests. Notice in porch. Ring Cassie on 01213547753 for more information.

A Lifeline for Marriages Is your marriage stressed, unloving, cold? Do you want to improve your communication? Have you separated, divorced, or are you thinking of doing so? Do you want to try again? The Retrouvaille programme may be just what you need! More info from 0788 729 6983 or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Baroness Nuala O'Loan's Conscientious Objection (Medical Activities) Bill is proceeding through Parliament. This Bill will protect medical staff from having to be involved in abortion-related activities and activities involving the withdrawal of medication, nutrition and fluids from patients at the end of life. This is an important Bill and further information about it, including how to contact your MP, can be found at <http://www.freeconscience.org.uk>

Rosary on the Coast for Faith, Life and Peace in the British Isles Sunday 29 April 2018 at 3pm. This is a day of Pilgrimage and Prayer for the re-flourishing of our Faith, for the grace to build a Culture of Life and for True Peace to reign in the hearts of all peoples and nations. www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk

Quiz night at Maryvale. Sunday 22nd April, 7pm. Details in porch.

Mary and the Church: Lectio divina

Following the prayerful and popular Lent times of prayer with the parables there is a further opportunity to come together for similar quiet prayer. This time the focus will be on Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church.

Sunday 29 April; 6 and 13 May.

Prayer: 5-5.30pm.

Coffee and cake: 5.30-6pm.

All welcome.



Deepening love and holiness

Growth in love and holiness does not just happen.

We rely on the maturing of the grace of God in us, and even God's grace builds on nature, our will and desire to respond to the opportunities that he sets before us.

In recent times Pope Francis has offered the Church reflections on Marriage and family, and on holiness.

Two key chapters from those reflections have been extracted and are made available on the parish website for easier access. They are surely likely to be valuable reading for anyone, but are offered especially for parents to support their vocation, their responsibility, for sharing faith in their families.

- Chapter 4 of the Pope's letter on Love and Family life.
- Chapter 3 of the Pope's letter on holy living.

stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/deepening-love-and-holiness

In Hospital or going there?

Roman Catholic Chaplains are appointed to all of the local hospitals.

Patients, and relatives of patients, are urged to make sure that Catholic patients admitted to hospital are registered as Roman Catholic on admission. If they wish to be visited by the Catholic Chaplain, they should ask the ward nurse to arrange this.

Data protection legislation means that unless this is done your details will not be passed to the Chaplain.

If you wish to be visited by Fr Allen as well as the hospital chaplain then please let him know. It is very helpful if you can give details of the ward the patient is on.

Many people find it helpful to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick when they experience serious ill health. If you would like to receive the Sacrament, please let Fr Allen know.

A Journey with St Paul: A Pilgrimage to Ephesus, Miletus and Izmir. Led by Fr Allen Morris 13th - 17th October 2018.



A gentle, thoughtful and prayerful pilgrimage is planned with visits to places associated with St Paul, and to the House of Mary at Ephesus. A chance to learn more about St Paul, his background and teachings.

More details from www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/pilgrimage.html or from Fr Allen Morris (0121 354 1763 or stnicholasrc@btinternet.com) or from Pax Travel.

For the sick and those who care for them

A simple and brief monthly service of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayer for the sick and for carers, and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Followed by light lunch.

Need help to get to the service? Let Fr Allen know.

11am on First Fridays. Next service is 4th May



Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for April is that economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.

To find the Pope's other current prayer intentions please visit <http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org/>

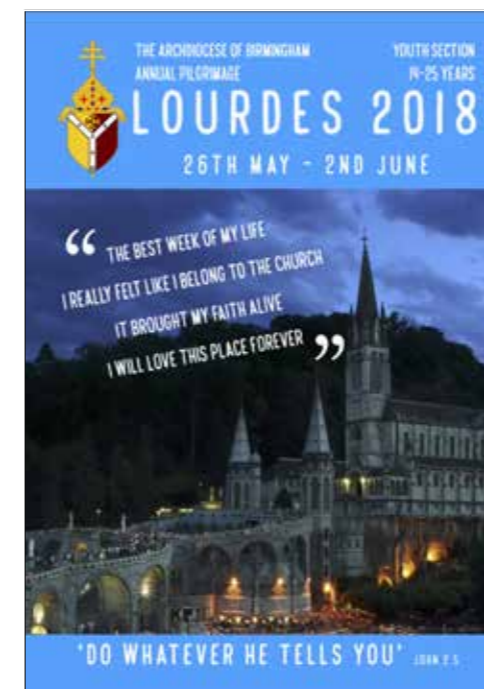


A Trip to London: Wednesday 30th May

A visit to the British Library and to Westminster Cathedral has been organised for our parish's Readers. Other members of the parish are welcome to join us. Timings for the trip are

- Meeting in the lobby of the British Library ready to go into the permanent exhibition of ancient biblical manuscripts (free) at 10.30am. (The visit will take c1hr)
- Meeting inside the main doors at Westminster Cathedral for tour at 2pm, and Mass at 3pm

Those on the trip are welcome to take part in either or both events. Those coming should make their own travel arrangements - rail or bus.



Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. For more details ring 017322 886666