

Parenting faith

One of the most precious gifts is the gift of faith. And 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 regular at Sunday Mass, actively seeking to live their Christian faith.
- Sometimes one parent is Catholic 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 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 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.



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'Keeffe, on 0121 321 2285 or email newmancc.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk

First Sacraments...

- The next course for parents to prepare for the baptism of their Infants' Baptism will begin on 8th May.
- Details will be available in the next weeks for the parish programmes to help children presently in year 2 and Year 5 and their families prepare for Confirmation and first Holy Communion

Prayer at home but with the parish

Full details of our present range of 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.

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.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

Helping each other to receive and live the Gospel

This is a work which belongs to each one of us by virtue of our baptism.

We do not learn about Jesus and about the life of faith 'by ourselves'. Neither do we learn all in one go what Jesus means and why he matters, or what we mean and why we matter. Nor is it something we can have firmly under our belt once we have completed our time at school - primary or secondary.

Our faith is something that calls for life-long learning. And it is important for it is the learning that leads us to the fullest appreciation of the gift of life, and that helps us to live that life lovingly and well in Christ.

We can help one another with this in so many ways - in our families, with our friends, as we get on with our daily lives. But there are other times too when it is helpful to make a special place to reflect on faith and faithful living and our part in that.

For example

- when we, or our families, are preparing for the Sacrament that first make us Catholic Christians - Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
- when we face particular challenges in life - for example bereavement, sickness or old age, or retirement, or children leaving home.

There are all sorts of resources to help us at these times, but the most foundational of all should be the Church herself - known in our local parish community.

Over the coming weeks there will be an opportunity for us all to reflect on how we do offer support as a parish, and how we might offer support as a parish.

Do please take a part in that reflection - you yourself and with family and friends.

Continued on p 3.

Clergy Training Fund

There is a retiring collection today for the Fund. If you would like to make a regular donation to the Fund, or Gift Aid your donation, please take one of the leaflets available as you leave the church.

Rapid Testing

To help build on the results of the vaccination programme and 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, and at the entrance to the church.

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 test regularly to protect yourself and others.

Please consider making one test 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

Sa	24	6pm	4th Sunday of Easter	Anna and Joseph Pham RIP (Nguyen)
Su	25	9am 11am		
M	26	10am		
T	27	10am		Margaret Ward RIP (O'Gorman)
W	28	10am		
Th	29			
F	30	7pm		Filipe Pereira RIP (Pereira)
Sa	1	6pm	5th Sunday of Easter	
Su	2	9am 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 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.’

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

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 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.’

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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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 what is perhaps the very oldest known Eucharistic Prayer from the *Didache*, a very early Church Order, perhaps from as early as 60AD!

Helping each other to receive and live the Gospel

continued from page 1

If this work is one we all share in, it is also a work that needs some particular people to help with.

It is work that can be done in all sorts of ways - through friendship and welcome, by being a listening ear, by praying for others, by sharing something of our own faith with those who are searching to better know their faith.

As we start to regroup as a parish following the experience of the Pandemic, could you volunteer your time and the gift of yourself to help others - for example parents preparing for their children receiving first Sacraments; those preparing for marriage.

There are many ways to help. They all begin with us saying - ‘Yes. I think I could be part of that.’