

MEETING WITH THE RISEN LORD

At the heart of the Catholic sensibility is an appreciation of sacramentality - that Jesus is truly present to us in the symbolic actions that he gifts to us. These include the seven liturgical Sacraments: the sacraments of initiation Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist; the sacraments of Matrimony and Ordination; and the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick. But they include other sacramental realities too - the Church herself being one (sacrament of Christ formed in and through the baptised); and the Scriptures being the other.

Each of these is best thought of as symbolic actions, relationships established between the Lord and us - real presence of him to us and us to him expressed in gift and response, in dialogue, in love and faith. To consider any of them only as 'things' is to miss out on their dynamic quality. Scripture is just a book until we open and read and listen and respond - and the same with the liturgical rites and with the Church herself.

As we saw last week in the story of the disciples on their way to Emmaus - they contributed to the way in which faith was refashioned and restored in them. Without their playing their part - opening their hearts and minds to Jesus, listening and responding, making the connections between what was being explored and their own lives, the Lord's presence would have been pointless. For always the point of his presence is us and our being drawn to the fullness of life in him. And our being drawn together in and with him as Church.

As Church we have two principal responsibilities - to be authentic Church and to carry out our mission of witnessing to the Gospel to the world. The two responsibilities are closely connected - we can hardly do one without doing the other. And for us to do them we need to do them together and with the Lord.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Parents with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 might like to make note of the dates and times of Children's Liturgy of the Word during this term time.

- Sunday 14 May at 9am
- Sunday 28 May at 9am
- Sunday 11th June at 11am
- Sunday 25th June at 9am
- Sunday 9th July at 9am



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.

Archbishop Bernard has highlighted these responsibilities in the Diocesan vision, expressing them thus:

- our responsibility (as individuals and together) to come to church, to pray and to encounter Christ - helping to form missionary disciples and missionary parishes.
- and to invigorate and deepen our worship and sacramental celebrations so that we share in and reflect the divine life of the Trinity

We are called to this not 'to look good' or 'to put on a show' but because to be like this is to be alive in Christ, and is what it is to be Christian and Catholic.

Before Holy Week a group of parishioners were meeting in response to the Pope's invitation to the Church to prepare to celebrate the work of Vatican II and to continue working to fulfil its vision of how we are to be Church.

I have invited that group to come back together to reflect in particular on how that vision related to the Archbishop's vision and the life of our own parish. To be more specific the focus of the coming meetings will be our celebration of Sunday Mass and how it impacts on our lives and how we are Church together.

We need to do this mindful of how things are in the Church right now - including the fact that in 10 years time, in our deanery of 30 parishes there will be only 10 of the current priests under the age of 75. And there are all sorts of reasons for thinking it might not be so many as 10 priests.

Jesus offers life to us and our communities, but we need to look to how we receive and respond to what he offers us. As well as the Archbishop's asking us to look at how we ourselves do this, thought is being given to whether the present parish system serves us well, and the same with our present stock of parish churches.

What we have and how we are is where we start from, but unless it is to be where we finish (!), it cannot be where we stay.

So - do try and come along on Mondays - starting on Monday May 15th and make your contribution to the reflections on how we move forward. I might be wrong but I think of the regulars at the previous meetings only one of us will still be under 75 in 10 years time! The voices of those who are younger also need to be heard as we consider the work that is needed for the health of our parish, the Church and the ministry of the Gospel.

Colour and Light

A gathering space for all those who want to enjoy making art (of all sorts and at all levels)

Colour and Light meets in the Benedict Room each Wednesday afternoon from 1-3pm (access from behind the church). Next meeting All are welcome. For more information please speak with Geraldine Foster or Fr Allen.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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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/MAY 2023: PARISH MASSES THIS WEEK

Sa	29	6pm		Marie Breen RD
Su	30	9am	4th Sunday of Easter	Noreen Sullivan (O'Gorman)
		11am		For the parish
M	1	10am		Nora and John Devine RIP (Fegan)
T	2	10am	St Athanasius	Burke Family Ints (Warallo)
W	3	10am	Ss Philip & James	Gerald Devine RIP (Fegan)
Th	4			
F	5	7pm		
Sa	6	6pm	5th Sunday of Easter	Reuben Makepeace RIP (M)
Su	7	9am		Joseph Drozd RIP (Drozd)
		11am		For the parish

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; David Cotton, Rita Rhodes, Stephen Burke; Lesley Devlin; Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Jean Lawlor; Joanne McShane & Teresa Monteiro. **Please pray** for Gino Mastroianni whose funeral is here on Friday 26 May at 11am; and for Charles Stroud, Tony Hands, Mary Burgess 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.

Help Your Marriage

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Does talking only make it worse? *Retrouvaille* is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For information or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 13-15 October 2023, call or text 07973 380443 or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

THE LONDON MARATHON & CAFOD

Matteo Belardi writes: Running the TCS London has been an incredible privilege and an unforgettable experience. I was happy my 3:51:57 time and even more with what was achieved for the CAFOD fundraising. In the end £611 was raised.

You can still donate to CAFOD by going to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mbelardi

A WEEK OF ONLINE GUIDED PRAYER FROM 11-17 MAY FOR ALL WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY CLERICAL ABUSE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

This offers a safe space for FREE, one to one, confidential sessions of guided prayer with a fully trained Prayer Guide. *All are welcome, whether a survivor, family member or other person shocked and horrified by the sexual abuse crisis. To find out more and to book a place email journeytogetherij@gmail.com*

THERE IS A RETIRING COLLECTION TODAY for the Priests' Training Fund.

The Introductory Rites

Opening Song

Hail Redeemer, King divine!
Priest and Lamb, the throne is thine;
King, whose reign shall never cease,
Prince of everlasting peace.
Angels, saints and nations sing:
“Praised be Jesus Christ our King;
Lord of life, earth, sky and sea, King of love on Calvary!”

King, whose name creation thrills,
rule our hearts, our minds, our wills;
till in peace, each nation rings
with thy praises, King of kings.

King most holy, King of truth,
guard the lowly, guide the youth;
Christ thou King of glory bright,
be to us eternal light.

Shepherd-king, o’er mountains steep
homeward bring the wandering sheep;
shelter in one royal fold
states and kingdoms, new and old.

Gloria

Glo - ry to God in the highest, and on earth peace to peo- ple 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.

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 2:14,36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: ‘The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.’

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, ‘What must we do, brothers?’ ‘You must repent,’ Peter answered ‘and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is

for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.’ He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, ‘Save yourselves from this perverse generation.’ They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Psalm 22(23)

*The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.*

1 Peter 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation

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

John 10:1-10

Jesus said: ‘I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who

enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.’

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again: ‘I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.’

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 May 7th and 21st*

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas,
Deus Ibi est

(Where there is charity and love, there is God.)

The Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus
*Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord... God of hosts.
Hea-ven and earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho -*
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Repeat Hosanna
Bles-sed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord... Ho -

The mystery of faith
*Save... us, save... us, Sa- viour of the world,
for by your Cross and Re-sur - rection you have set us... free.*

The Communion Rite

Communion thanksgiving

We walk by faith and not by sight:
no gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e’er spoke,
but we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod;
yet in his promise we rejoice,
and cry, ‘My Lord and God.’

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
and may our faith abound;
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:

That when our life and faith is done
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are
in full and endless sight.

We walk by faith, and not by sight:
no gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e’er spoke,
but we believe him near.

Concluding Rites

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Prayer for King Charles

The Bishops invite us to keep May 3-5 as a Triduum of Prayer for the King before his coronation.

Prayer cards are available for use at home, and the 7pm Mass on 5th May will be for the intentions of the King - as will be the 11am Mass on Sun 7th, the day after the Coronation.

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.

