

Acts 9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 21(22):26-28,30-32

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. May their hearts live for ever and ever!

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him; They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet unborn: 'These things the Lord has done.'

1 John 3:18-24

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make

Next Week: 6th Sunday of Easter

Scripture readings: Acts of the Apostles 10:25 – 26, 34 – 35, 44 – 48 / Psalm 98:1, 2 – 4 / 1 John 4:7 – 10 / John 15:9 – 17

Stepping forward in Faith

Just as you cannot understand Christ apart from the kingdom he came to bring, so too your personal mission is inseparable from the building of that kingdom: "Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Mt 6:33). Your identification with Christ and his will involves a commitment to build with him that kingdom of love, justice and universal peace. Christ himself wants to experience this with you, in all the efforts and sacrifices that it entails, but also in all the joy and enrichment it brings. You cannot grow in holiness without committing yourself, body and soul, to giving your best to this endeavour.

Pope Francis (Gaudete et exsultantes, 25)

mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. *Alleluia!*

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'



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

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US
Telephone: 0121 354 1763 **Email:** stnicholasrc@btinternet.com
Website: www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk
Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** frallenmorris@gmail.com
Parish Safeguarding: Ann Foulds (0121 355 7892) and Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)
Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

Our Mission In Christ

A Christian cannot think of his or her mission on earth without seeing it as a path of holiness, for 'this is the will of God, your sanctification' (1 Thess 4:3). Each saint is a mission, planned by the Father to reflect and embody, at a specific moment in history, a certain aspect of the Gospel.

That mission has its fullest meaning in Christ, and can only be understood through him. At its core, holiness is experiencing, in union with Christ, the mysteries of his life. It consists in uniting ourselves to the Lord's death and resurrection in a unique and personal way, constantly dying and rising anew with him. But it can also entail reproducing in our own lives various aspects of Jesus' earthly life: his hidden life, his life in community, his closeness to the outcast, his poverty and other ways in which he showed his self-sacrificing love. The contemplation of these mysteries, as St Ignatius of Loyola pointed out, leads us to incarnate them in our choices and attitudes. Because 'everything in Jesus' life was a sign of his mystery', 'Christ's whole life is a revelation of the Father', 'Christ's whole life is a mystery of redemption', 'Christ's whole life is a mystery of recapitulation'. 'Christ enables us to live in him all that he himself lived, and he lives it in us'.

The Father's plan is Christ, and ourselves in him. In the end, it is Christ who loves in us, for 'holiness is nothing other than charity lived to the full'. As a result, 'the measure of our holiness stems from the stature that Christ achieves in us, to the extent that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we model our whole life on his'. Every saint is a message which the Holy Spirit takes from the riches of Jesus Christ and gives to his people.

To recognize the word that the Lord wishes to speak to us through one of his saints, we do not need to get

Continued on page 3

Parents & children's choir

I invite parents and children to come a meeting on Saturday 5 May to help form a new parents and children's choir, (indeed possibly even three groups, one for each of the Sunday Masses.) To start with their role would be simply to lead the singing of a Communion song once a month. They would join with the existing musicians - where they exist. Children in the choir would need to be accompanied by one or more parent/guardian.) At the meeting on 5th May we would look how best to support the group and when would be the most convenient time for a monthly rehearsal.

Fr. Allen

A new feast!

The *Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, The Eternal High Priest* has been added to the calendar for England, and is to be celebrated on the Thursday after Pentecost each year.

The feast celebrates Christ's service of his people, and reminds of St Paul's words, 'Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.' St Paul urges all Christians to have the same disposition as Jesus had when he offered himself in sacrifice: that we too should with a humble attitude of mind, offer adoration, honour, praise and thanksgiving to the supreme majesty of God.



Masses Fifth Week of Easter

Su	28	5th Sunday of Easter	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession Brendan Connolly RIP (Kennedy)
Su	29	Psalter Wk 1	0900 1100	For the parish Leon Syposz RIP (Paszkowski)
M	30		1000 * 1500	May Kerrins RD (Lawlor) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary
T	1		1000 * 1430	May Kerrins RID (Brannan) Mass with St Nicholas school
W	2	St Athanasius	1000*	Joan and Larry Cullinan RIP - Anniv (Lawlor)
Th	3	Ss Philip & James		
F	4	English Martyrs	1100 1900 *	Exposition & Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick Pauline and Ernest Handscomb RIP Anniv
S	5	6th Sunday of Easter	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession Brendan Connolly RIP (Hempenstall)
Su	6	Psalter Wk 2	0900 1100 1800	For the parish Lyn Cassidy RIP Exposition and Evening Prayer

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 Gino Mastroianni, 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 Joseph Tomlinson who has died recently and for Edna Rice, Tony Hands, Patrick Hudson, Vera Siviter, Mary Burgess and all whose anniversaries are at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

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.



Parish

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.

Thank you 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 Sat 19 May from 11-12noon, in the Benedict Room. Pl see Fr Allen before hand and complete an application form.

Parish Scripture Study Group(s). The next session of the Wednesday night group will look at the Old Testament book of the Prophet of Hosea. date for meeting will be notified next week. It is also planned to begin a monthly Monday afternoon group which will begin by reading through St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Interested? 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.

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.

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 Francis' letter on Love and Family life.
- Chapter 3 of Francis' letter on holy living.

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

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.

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 martin-malpas@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.

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 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

Boldmere Music Festival The organising team is looking for volunteers to help set up the gazebos and tables before the event and to help take them down afterwards. 10am - 1am to put them up and 9pm for taking them down. If you can help please email volunteer@boldmere.org

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: why not pray a decade or more at the same time in solidarity with those gathering on the coast. www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk

Novena & Pilgrimage to Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at Maryvale Institute. Thurs 31 May - 8 June: Sermon and Novena each evening at 8pm; Confession 7-7.45 pm. Sunday 10 June, 3.00 pm Open air Mass and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament

Lecture. Prof Gilfredo Marengo of the St. John Paul II Institute in Rome on *Humanae Vitae 50 Years On*. Maryvale Institute, 19 May at 7.30pm

Adoremus, the Eucharistic Congress You can still buy a ticket for *Adoremus*. Taking place in Liverpool from 7-9 September, tickets are £40 per day for Friday and Saturday, with seminars and speakers including Bishop Robert Barron and Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Sunday is open to all, with Adoration and Holy Mass culminating in a Blessed Sacrament procession. To find out more and to book a place visit www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/adoremus.

Continued from page 1

caught up in details, for there we might also encounter mistakes and failures. Not everything a saint says is completely faithful to the Gospel; not everything he or she does is authentic or perfect. What we need to contemplate is the totality of their life, their entire journey of growth in holiness, the reflection of Jesus Christ that emerges when we grasp their overall meaning as a person.

This is a powerful summons to all of us. You too need to see the entirety of your life as a mission. Try to do so by listening to God in prayer and recognizing the signs that he gives you. Always ask the Spirit what Jesus expects from you at every moment of your life and in every decision you must make, so as to discern its place in the mission you have received. Allow the Spirit to forge in you the personal mystery that can reflect Jesus Christ in today's world.

May you come to realize what that word is, the message of Jesus that God wants to speak to the world by your life. Let yourself be transformed. Let yourself be renewed by the Spirit, so that this can happen, lest you fail in your precious mission. The Lord will bring it to fulfilment despite your mistakes and missteps, provided that you do not abandon the path of love but remain ever open to his supernatural grace, which purifies and enlightens.

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.



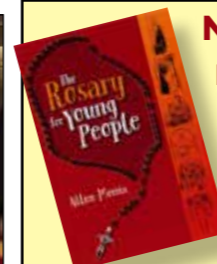
Organised by Pax Travel Ltd, 2nd Floor, 102 Blundell Street, LONDON, N7 9BL
Tel: 020 7485 3003
Email: info@paxtravel.co.uk Web: www.paxtravel.co.uk



New for May 2018

Fr Allen's guide to the Rosary for the young and the young at heart!

On sale now in the Repository for £2.50



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

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.