

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). All are welcome. For more information please speak with Geraldine Foster or Fr Allen.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US

Website: www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk

E-mail: stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk **Telephone:** 0121 354 1763

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

MAY 2023: PARISH MASSES THIS WEEK

Sa	6	6pm		Reuben Makepeace RIP (M)
Su	7	9am	5th Sunday of Easter	Joseph Drozd RIP (Drozd)
		11am		For the parish
M	8	10am		
T	9	9.30am NB time		Gino Mastroianni (RD) Redmond
W	10	10am		Ints of AnneMarie & Dave Cotton (Warallo)
Th	11			
F	12	7pm		
Sa	13	6pm	6th Sunday of Easter	Teresa Gill RIP (Gill)
Su	14	9am		Aidan Redmond RIP (R)
		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 Mary Burgess, Pauline Handsome, Joseph Drozd, Monica Brugger, Eileen Bartropp 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

Free parking is available for anyone at anytime in our parish carpark. In addition, automatic free parking permits are issued:

- On **Saturdays** for those arriving after 5.30pm and leaving before 7.30pm; and on **Sundays** for those arriving after 8am and leaving before 2pm
- On **Mondays to Wednesdays** for those arriving after 9.30am and leaving before 11.30am and on **Fridays** those arriving after 6.30pm and leaving before 8.30pm

At other times, if on site for parish meetings and the like, and needing to park for more than 1 hour please scan the QR poster in the church or Benedict Room to extend your 'free' parking time.

A WEEK OF ONLINE GUIDED PRAYER FROM 11-17 MAY FOR ALL WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY CLERICAL ABUSE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. This retreat 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 ae email journeytogetherij@gmail.com*

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

May is Mary's Month

Do you have petitions to send to the Grotto at Lourdes?

Mary Drozd is going with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes on 27th May and has agreed to take parishioner's petitions to place at the Grotto. *If you wish your petitions to be presented, please place them in a sealed envelope and put in the folder pinned to the board by the Lady chapel by Weds 24 May.*

The Rosary Why not mark May by joining the group that meets on Zoom each Monday evening at 7pm to pray one of the set of Mysteries of the Rosary. It takes just 15 minutes, and is a lovely opportunity to remember Mary's role in salvation history. To join the Zoom meeting, use the link on the front page of the parish website or go to <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92780004050>



The Introductory Rites

Opening Song

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.

When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you;
you will never sink beneath the waves.

When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames.

When the fear of loneliness is looming,
then remember I am at your side.

When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes.

You are mine, O my child, I am your Father,
and I love you with a perfect love.

Gloria



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

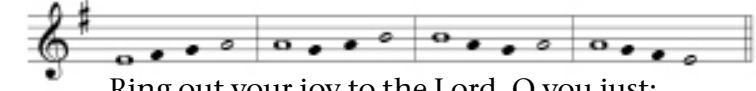
Acts 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was in-
creasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the
Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows
were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meet-
ing of the disciples and addressed them, ‘It would not
be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give
out food; you, brothers, must select from among your-
selves seven men of good reputation, filled with the
Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty
to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer
and to the service of the word.’ The whole assembly
approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man

full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Phil-
ip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nico-
laus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented
these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands
on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the num-
ber of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased,
and a large group of priests made their submission to
the faith.

Psalms 32(33):1-2,4-5,18-19



Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

1 Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but cho-
sen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close
to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that of-
fers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has
made acceptable to God, may be living stones mak-
ing a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay
in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and
the man who rests his trust on it will not be disap-
pointed. That means that for you who are believers, it
is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by
the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to
stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stum-
ble over it because they do not believe in the word; it
was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a conse-
crated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of
God who called you out of the darkness into his won-
derful light.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: ‘I am the Way, the Truth
and the Life. No one can come to the Father except
through me.’ Alleluia!

John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Do not let your hearts be
troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are
many rooms in my Father’s house; if there were not,
I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a
place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a
place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where
I am you may be too. You know the way to the place

where I am going.’

Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are
going, so how can we know the way?’

Jesus said: ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No
one can come to the Father except through me. If
you know me, you know my Father too. From this
moment you know him and have seen him.’

Philip said, ‘Lord, let us see the Father and then we
shall be satisfied.’

‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip,’ said Jesus
to him ‘and you still do not know me? To have seen
me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say,
“Let us see the Father”? Do you not believe that I am
in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I
say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Fa-
ther, living in me, who is doing this work. You must
believe me when I say that I am in the Father and
the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this
work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly,
whoever believes in me will perform the same works
as I do myself, he will perform even greater works,
because I am going to the Father.’

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

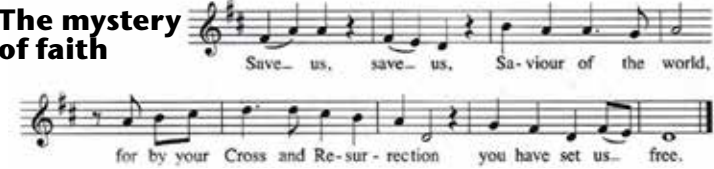
The Offertory NB Our next collections for the Bethany Food Bank are today and May 21st

Take our bread, we ask you, Take our hearts, we love you,
Take our lives, oh Father, We are yours, we are yours.

Yours as we stand at the table you set,
Yours as we eat the bread our hearts can’t forget.
We are the signs of your life with us yet;
We are yours, we are yours.

Your holy people stand washed in your blood,
Spirit-filled, yet hungry, we await your food.
Poor though we are, we have brought ourselves to you:
We are yours, we are yours.

The Eucharistic Prayer



The Communion Rite

Communion thanksgiving

Oh the word of my Lord, deep within my being.
Oh the word of my Lord, you have filled my mind.

Before I formed you in the womb,
I knew you through and through.
I chose you to be mine.
Before you left your mother’s side,
I called to you, my child, to be my sign.

I know that you are very young,
but I will make you strong -
I will fill you with my word,
and you will travel through the land
fulfilling my command, which you have learned.

And everywhere you are to go,
my hand will follow you
you will not be alone,
in all the danger that you fear
you’ll find me very near, your words my own.

With all my strength you will be filled
you will destroy and build,
for that is my design.
You will create and overthrow,
reap harvests I will sow - your word is mine.

Concluding Rites

The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone who
fled to thy protection, implored thy help,
or sought thy intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O
Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come,
before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O
Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my
petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.
Amen.

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