

continued from page 3 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.'

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



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 shortly for the parish programmes to help children presently in year 2 and Year 5 and their families prepare for Confirmation and first Holy Communion

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 email Fr Allen today.

as priest, prophet and king. This vocation is a privileged one. It can also be challenging! 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.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse 2021

Working together with survivors of abuse in the Church the Bishops of England and Wales have chosen the Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter as the Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse - 4 May 2021.

This day has been moved from its former time in Lent to make it clear that this is principally a day of prayer for those who have been abused in a season of hope and new life, before rather than being a penitential day for the failure of the Church and others to respond to the scourge of abuse. There are many other opportunities for the latter - which is of course also important.

A range of resources for use on or around the day - or indeed at any time have been produced and can be found at <https://bit.ly/3ny5XEY>. The opportunities to make fullest use of them in the parish are as yet rather limited because of restrictions around COVID. However at this time they are, of course available for personal use.

Our parish Mass on 4th May will be offered for the victims and survivors of abuse. Please come and join your voice to our prayer.

Prayer For Healing And Reconciliation

Praise to you Father of our Lord Jesus Christ the source of all consolation and hope. Be the refuge and guardian of all who suffer from abuse and violence. Comfort them and send healing for their wounds of the body, soul and spirit. Help us all and make us one with you in your love for justice as we deepen our respect for the dignity of every human life. Giver of peace, make us one in celebrating your praise, both now and forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A leaflet has been prepared for the help of those who have not yet been able to bring their abuse to the attention of the Church or others, and so receive help. It can be downloaded from the link above.

Rapid Testing

To help build on the results of the vaccination programme and lockdown we are all urged to take 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	1	6pm	5th Sunday of Easter	Marie Hazen RIP (Bollard)
Su	2	9am		For the parish
		11am		
M	3	10am	Ss Philip & James	
T	4	10am	English Martyrs	For victims of abuse in the Church
W	5	10am		
Th	6			
F	7	7pm		Fr Joyce (Byrne)
Sa	8	6pm	5th Sunday of Easter	Mairead Knowles RIP (Devlin)
Su	9	9am		For the parish
		11am		

Please pray for sick parishioners including Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for Tony Hands, Patrick Hudson, Vera Siviter, Mary Burgess, Pauline Handiscombe, Joseph Drozd 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 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.

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

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 to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples 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 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 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 an account Sunday Eucharist from 150AD. Spot what is the same as today and see what is different!

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.

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

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