

Virtual Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Although the Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes cannot take place in the usual way this year, its organisers have arranged a replacement online programme of events.

All will be accessible via <https://bit.ly/3b8UsyJ> or birminghamdiocese.org.uk

The virtual pilgrimage will start on Sunday 30 May (Trinity Sunday) at 3pm with a live-streamed Opening Mass from St Chad's Cathedral.



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.

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 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.



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



School Governors needed for St Edmund Campion school

Governors' key tasks are to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; hold senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the school, its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

For more information please email houghtonr@stedcamp.bham.sch.uk

Back in business?

An opportunity for Christians and others to come together for a time of quiet prayer and reflection

All are welcome to this on-line event

6-6.45pm
Sunday
16th May



Link to the time of prayer from www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk

An event of Churches Together in Boldmere, Wylde Green & Banners Gate

The Zoom link for 'Back in business' will be available on the home page of the parish website on Sunday next.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

God of all nations
in the gift of your Son
you have embraced the world
with a love that takes away our sin
and bestows perfect joy
Grant to all who have been
reborn in baptism
fidelity in serving you
and generosity in loving one another.

Wondering about faith?

The experience of COVID has been a challenging one for all sorts of people and in all sorts of ways. People who thought they were strong in faith may have found their certainties shaken. People who did not think about God and faith at all have found themselves newly grateful that they were able to turn to the Lord in their distress, but may be unsure what to do next. And some might just feel they are wandering, wondering...



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As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with experienced local Church agency, Caritas India, to provide vital support to poor and marginalised communities. Donations to CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns, and set up safely run isolation & quarantine centres. Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic.

In addition you can donate online: cafod.org.uk/give

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 symptoms but can spread the virus unwittingly. Rapid testing detects cases quickly, meaning positive cases can isolate immediately.*

Please test regularly to protect yourself and others, including 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 8	4pm		
	6pm		
Su 9	9am	6th Sunday of Easter	Mairead Knowles RIP (Devlin)
	11am		For the parish
M 10	10am		Fr John Kearns RIP (Green)
T 11	10am		The people of India (Cummings)
W 12			Joseph Drozd RIP (Drozd)
Th 13	10am	ASCENSION	For the parish
	7pm		
F 14	7pm	St Matthias	
Sa 15	4pm	7th Sunday of Easter	Teresa Gill RIP (Gill)
	6pm		
Su 16	9am		For the parish
	11am		For the parish

Please pray for sick parishioners including Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for Jim O'Neill who died recently, and for Pauline Handiscome, Joseph Drozd, Monica Brugger, Eileen Bartropp; Christopher Doyle, Margaret Knowles, Paul Barry 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 10:25-26,34-35,44-48

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

Psalm 97(98):1-4

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm

have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,
ring out your joy.

1 John 4:7-10

My dear people, let us love one another
since love comes from God and everyone who loves is
begotten by God and knows God.
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.
God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the
world his only Son so that we could have life through
him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will
keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we
shall come to him.' *Alleluia!*

John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:
'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments you will remain in my
love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.
I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.
This is my commandment:
love one another, as I have loved you.
A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends, if you do what I command you.
I shall not call you servants any more, because a serv-
ant does not know his master's business; I call you
friends, because I have made known to you everything
I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I com-
missioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that
will last; and then the Father will give you anything
you ask him in my name.
What I command you is to love one another.'

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 early Christian document that is the source of our present Eucharistic Prayer II. But all may not be as it seems...

Wondering about faith? *cont'd from page 1*

It is hoped that very soon COVID restrictions will be relaxed sufficiently to allow for us to begin to meeting face to face again - and when we do it is a chance to revive the parish Journey in Faith group.

Journey in Faith is a place for people to explore the who and what Jesus is; and the Church; and themselves. All are welcome. **If you are interested do let Fr Allen know.** That way when a time is being arranged for some first get together he can check what day /time will best suit you and others.

Just wondering?

Is your child preparing for First Communion or Confirmation? Want to know how best to support them?

Just wondering?

Sharing life with a person of faith - Christian or not - and have questions about your faith? Or theirs?

Never been baptised or confirmed or made First Communion? Now wondering how to go about it?

Brought up in another church but find that the Catholic Church offers something more?

Just drifted away and now find you seem to be drifting back?

Chances to get together.

The opportunities to come together socially in the parish life have been very limited in recent months. Hopefully we will be able to resume Sunday teas and coffees soon.

In the meantime, two dates for the diary

- Sunday September 19th for an evening celebration to mark John Garvey's ordination as deacon and Gary O'Brien's eagerly anticipated ordination as deacon, and also to mark the formal renaming of the Newman Community Centre (it's the anniversary of the saint's beatification at Cofton Park)
- Weekend of 4/5 December - our usual Advent Fair, and a chance to celebrate St Nicholas whose feast day falls on 6th December.