

**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



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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**  
*The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.*

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.

**Stepping forward in Faith**

The presence of constantly new gadgets, the excitement of travel and an endless array of consumer goods at times leave no room for God's voice to be heard. We are overwhelmed by words, by superficial pleasures and by an increasing din, filled not by joy but rather by the discontent of those whose lives have lost meaning. How can we fail to realize the need to stop this rat race and to recover the personal space needed to carry on a heartfelt dialogue with God? Finding that space may prove painful but it is always fruitful. Sooner or later, we have to face our true selves and let the Lord enter.

*Pope Francis (Gaudete et exsultantes, 29)*

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 servant 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 commissioned 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.'



**St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere**

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**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 II**

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.

It is not healthy to love silence while fleeing interaction with others, to want peace and quiet while avoiding activity, to seek prayer while disdaining service. Everything can be accepted and integrated into our life in this world, and become a part of our path to holiness. We are called to be contemplatives even in the midst of action, and to grow in holiness by responsibly and generously carrying out our proper mission.

Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy. On the contrary, you will become what the Father had in mind when he created you, and you will be faithful to your deepest self. To depend on God sets us free from every form of enslavement and leads us to recognize our great dignity. We see this in Saint Josephine Bakhita: 'Abducted and sold into slavery at the tender age of seven, she suffered much at the hands of cruel masters. But she came to understand the profound truth that God, and not man, is the true Master of every human being, of every human life.'

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**Thursday 10 May, Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord:**

This Solemnity is a Holyday of Obligation. Details of parish Masses are given below.

**Thy Kingdom Come.**

Ascension Day is also the start of a period of ten days' spiritual preparation for Pentecost. We are invited to join with millions of Christians

in a global wave of prayer entitled *Thy Kingdom Come*. To be part of this remarkable ecumenical venture simply pray the Pentecost Novena (available at www.cpo.org.uk) or other prayers designed for families, parishes, groups and individuals (available at www.thykingdomcome.global) with daily podcasts from our Bishops' Conference at www.catholicnews.org.uk/pentecost-novena



**Masses Sixth Week of Easter**

<b>Su</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6th Sunday of Easter</b> <i>Psalter Wk 2</i>	1700 1800	<i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i> Brendan Connolly RIP (Hempenstall)
<b>Su</b>	<b>6</b>		0900 1100 1800	For the parish Lyn Cassidy RIP <i>Exposition and Evening Prayer</i>
<b>M</b>	<b>7</b>		1000 * 1500	May Kerrins RD (Burke) <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary</i>
<b>T</b>	<b>8</b>		1000 *	Tony Lawlor RIP - Anniv. (Lawlor)
<b>W</b>	<b>9</b>		1000*	Marie Rowland RD (Wilkinson)
<b>Th</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>ASCENSION DAY</b>	1000 * 1400 1900 *	Dom Brennan RIP (Brennan) Mass with St Nicholas School (All welcome) For the parish
<b>F</b>	<b>11</b>	English Martyrs	1900 *	Joseph Drozd RIP Anniv (Drozd)
<b>S</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7th Sunday of Easter</b> <i>Psalter Wk 3</i>	1700 1800	<i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i> Teresa Gill RIP (Gill)
<b>Su</b>	<b>13</b>		0900 1100	For the parish Tom Crewe Ints

**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 & Olwyn 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 Annie McGrath (Funeral 11am at Holy Trinity on 15 May) and Joseph Tomlinson (Funeral 1130 at St Nicholas on 15/ May) who have 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.**

**Next Week: 7th Sunday of Easter**

*Scripture readings: Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17, 20-26 / Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 / 1 John 4:11-16 / Jn 1:11-19*

**The Ordinary of the Mass is found on p200 ff of Laudate.**  
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## Parish

**Retiring Collection** Next Sunday there is a retiring collection for the Catholic Communications Network, which assists the Bishops of England and Wales communicate through Mass Media.

**Interested in finding the fullness of 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 donations received two weeks ago to the *Clergy Training Fund* which came to a total of £466.38

**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 nurses and doctors.**

**Travelling Solo** Lunch meeting after 11am Mass this 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.

**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.

**Refreshments** in Benedict Room after Sunday 9 and 10am Masses (also after 10am Mass on Tuesdays). All welcome.

## Diocese

**Assistant Headteacher - Catholic Life and RE** who is a committed and practising Catholic required at St Edmund Campion Catholic School for September 2018. Closing date: 17 May. Further details and application pack from Mary Finnegan, PA to Headteacher, on 0121 464 7040.

**Archdiocese of Birmingham Pilgrimage to Walsingham** Saturday 12 May 2018 12.noon Rosary Procession from Friday Market Place to the Chapel of

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 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

**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

**Torchlight Procession in honour of Our Lady.** Oscott College, 12 May at 8pm. All welcome.

**A Lifeline for Marriages** Is your marriage stressed, unloving, cold? Do you want to improve your communication? Have you separated, divorced, or are you

Reconciliation; 1.30pm Lunch; 1.30pm The Sacrament of Reconciliation;

## Mary & 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.

Sundays 6 and 13 May: Prayer: 5-5.30pm. Coffee and cake: 5.30-6pm. **All welcome.**



## 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.

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](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**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](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/adoremus).

**Maryvale scholarship** for BD course for academic year 2018-19. Details from [undergrad@maryvale.ac.uk](mailto:undergrad@maryvale.ac.uk)

## Parish Scripture Study Groups

These groups are open to all parishioners and friends. No expertise in Scripture required, just an interest...

1. The next session of the **Wednesday Scripture and Cake group** will look at the Old Testament book of the Prophet of Hosea.: Weds 6 June at 7pm. Pl read through the book and consider what it says about love and relationships between human beings and human beings and God.
2. First meeting of the new **Scripture and Soup Monday afternoon group** is on Mon 21 May from 1.30-2.30pm. We will be reading Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Please have a read through the letter in advance, and we will then begin to look at the background to the Letter and its abiding relevance for us.

## Parish Book Clubs.

1. The next book for the **Monday evening Book Club** is the novel *The Cellist of Sarejovo* by Steven Galloway. Read the book and come to parish house at 8pm on Mon 18 June for glass of wine and a chat.
2. The first meeting of the new **Wednesday morning Book Club** will meet for coffee and cake and chat after the 10am Mass on Wenesday 13 June. The first book up for discussion is Cardinal Nichol's new book: *Faith finding a voice*.

## Parents & children's choir Now rescheduled to 10th June to avoid clash with Bank Holiday Weekend, First Communions and Half Term!

Parents and children (any age!) are invited to a brief get together after the 6pm Mass on Saturday 12th June 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 will look how best to support the group and when would be the most convenient time for a monthly rehearsal.



## 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.

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This experience became a source of great wisdom for this humble daughter of Africa'.

To the extent that each Christian grows in holiness, he or she will bear greater fruit for our world. The bishops of West Africa have observed that 'we are being called in the spirit of the New Evangelization to be evangelized and to evangelize through the empowering of all you, the baptized, to take up your roles as salt of the earth and light of the world wherever you find yourselves'.

Do not be afraid to set your sights higher, to allow yourself to be loved and liberated by God. Do not be afraid to let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit. Holiness does not make you less human, since it is an encounter between your weakness and the power of God's grace. For in the words of León Bloy, when all is said and done, 'the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint'.

Pope Francis *Gaudete et Exsultate*, 20-21; 32-34

## 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](http://www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/pilgrimage.html) or from Fr Allen Morris (0121 354 1763 or [stnicholasrc@btinternet.com](mailto:stnicholasrc@btinternet.com)) or from Pax Travel.



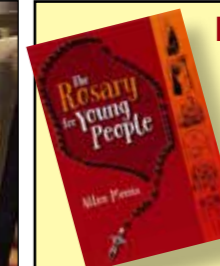
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## New for May 2018

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 June 1st**