

**Acts 1:15-17,20-26**

One day Peter stood up to speak to the brothers – there were about a hundred and twenty persons in the congregation: ‘Brothers, the passage of scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit, speaking through David, foretells the fate of Judas, who offered himself as a guide to the men who arrested Jesus – after having been one of our number and actually sharing this ministry of ours. Now in the Book of Psalms it says: Let someone else take his office. ‘We must therefore choose someone who has been with us the whole time that the Lord Jesus was travelling round with us, someone who was with us right from the time when John was baptising until the day when he was taken up from us – and he can act with us as a witness to his resurrection.’

Having nominated two candidates, Joseph known as Barsabbas, whose surname was Justus, and Matthias, they prayed, ‘Lord, you can read everyone’s heart; show us therefore which of these two you have chosen to take over this ministry and apostolate, which Judas abandoned to go to his proper place.’ They then drew lots for them, and as the lot fell to Matthias, he was listed as one of the twelve apostles.

**Psalm 102(103):1-2,11-12,19-20**

*The Lord has set his sway in heaven.*

My soul, give thanks to the Lord all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins.

The Lord has set his sway in heaven and his kingdom is ruling over all. Give thanks to the Lord, all his angels, mighty in power, fulfilling his word.

**1 John 4:11-16**

My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another. No one has ever seen God; but as long as we love one another God will live in us and his love will be complete in us. We can know that we are living in him and he is living in us because he lets us share his Spirit. We ourselves saw and we testify that the Father sent his Son as saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him, and he in God. We ourselves have known and put our faith in God’s love towards ourselves. God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.

**Gospel Acclamation**

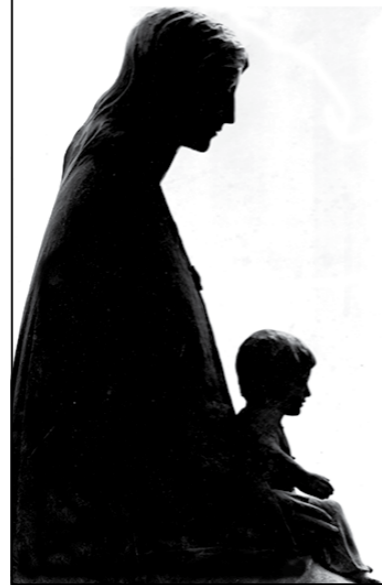
*Alleluia, alleluia!* I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy. *Alleluia!*

**Next Week: Pentecost**

*Scripture readings: Acts of the Apostles 2:1 – 11 / 1 Cor 12:3b – 7, 12 – 13 / Ps 104:1, 24, 29–30, 31, 34 / John 20:19 – 23*

**Please pray for the people of Ireland as they prepare for the forthcoming Referendum on the Eighth Amendment to their Constitution**

In their Spring Statement, the Irish Bishops wrote, ‘Article 40.3.3 (of our Constitution) is a declaration of equality and respect for human life. It represents, at the very foundations and substructure of our laws, a conviction that all human life is worth cherishing equally. To repeal this Article would leave unborn children at the mercy of whatever permissive abortion laws might be introduced in Ireland in the future. We invite people of faith to pray earnestly that Ireland will “choose life” and that the lives of all women and their unborn children will always be loved, valued, welcomed and respected in this country.’



**Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the people of Ireland with wisdom and courage in the forthcoming referendum. In all circumstances may they show love and care for children and their mothers.**

For more information visit: <http://www.chooselife2018.ie>

**John 17:11-19**

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: ‘Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us. While I was with them, I kept those you had given me true to your name. I have watched over them and not one is lost except the one who chose to be lost, and this was to fulfil the scriptures. But now I am coming to you and while still in the world I say these things to share my joy with them to the full. I passed your word on to them, and the world hated them, because they belong to the world no more than I belong to the world. I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world, and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth.’

**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**

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**Parish Priest:** Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** frallenmorris@gmail.com  
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*Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216*

**A warning from Pope Francis**

Two heresies from early Christian times continue to plague us. In neither case is one really concerned about Jesus Christ or others’. The first is Gnosticism – a damaging preoccupation with knowledge about Christ and faith, rather than an authentic living in communion with Christ and in loving service of neighbour. *(Editor: Details of the other will follow next week!)*

Gnosticism presumes ‘a purely subjective faith whose only interest is a certain experience or a set of ideas and bits of information which are meant to console and enlighten, but which ultimately keep one imprisoned in his or her own thoughts and feelings’.

*An intellect without God and without flesh*  
 Thanks be to God, throughout the history of the Church it has always been clear that a person’s perfection is measured not by the information or knowledge they possess, but by the depth of their charity. ‘Gnostics’ do not understand this, because they judge others based on their ability to understand the complexity of certain doctrines. They think of the intellect as separate from the flesh, and thus become incapable of touching Christ’s suffering flesh in others, locked up as they are in an encyclopaedia of abstractions. In the end, by disembodiment the mystery, they prefer ‘a God without Christ, a Christ without the Church, a Church without her people’.

*A doctrine without mystery*  
 Gnosticism is a most sinister ideology because, while unduly exalting knowledge or a specific experience, it considers its own vision of reality to be perfect. Thus, perhaps without even realizing it, this ideology feeds on itself and becomes even more myopic. It can become all the more illusory when it masks itself as a disembodied spirituality. For gnosticism ‘by its very nature seeks to domesticate the mystery’, whether the mystery of God and his *Continued on page 3*



**Parish Lunch:** All are invited to a shared parish lunch in the Carpenters Arms on Sunday 10th June, directly after the 11am Mass.

The parish will provide drinks, but parishioners are all invited to bring a plate of food to share. (NB Please bring plenty to share! Families might like to cooperate and, for example, bring a particular course)

It would be lovely if at this celebration we were able to taste something of the national or regional foods associated with the various areas and nations from which our community comes. It would be good, too, to have live or recorded music for the celebration - again regional and national flavours would be especially welcome.

Would eight or nine people be ready to volunteer to take responsibility to set up the hall and coordinate the drinks and clear up afterwards? There is a sheet for those ready to volunteer to sign up in the porch.

**Masses Seventh Week of Easter**

<b>Su</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7th Sunday of Easter</b> <i>Psalter Wk 3</i>	1700	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession
			1800	Teresa Gill RIP (Gill)
<b>Su</b>	<b>13</b>		0900	For the parish
			1100	Tom Crewe Ints
			1800	Exposition and Evening Prayer
<b>M</b>	<b>14</b>	St Matthias	1000 *	Margaret Loughrey RIP (Banks)
			1500	Expositon of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary
<b>T</b>	<b>15</b>		1000 *	Margaret Loughrey RIP (Banks)
			1130	Funeral service of Joseph Tomlinson
			1230	Mass with St Nicholas school - all welcome
<b>W</b>	<b>16</b>		1000 *	Mrs Kerr RIP (Kearney)
<b>Th</b>	<b>17</b>			
<b>F</b>	<b>18</b>		1900 *	Eileen Gahan RIP Aniv(Gahan)
<b>S</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Pentecost</b> <i>(From Monday: Psalter Wk 3)</i>	1700	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession
			1800	For the parish
<b>Su</b>	<b>20</b>		0900	Aidan Redmond RIP (Redmond)
			1100	Elizabeth Bowen RIP
			1800	Exposition and Evening Prayer (end of Easter season)

**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/](http://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, 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, Holy Trinity, 15 May), Joseph Tomlinson (Funeral: 1130, St Nicholas, 15 May) and Elish Kearney and John Gallagher who died recently and also for Joseph Drozd, Monica Brugger, Eileen Bartropp, Christopher Doyle, Margaret Knowles, Paul Barry, Daniel Murray, and all whose anniversaries are at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

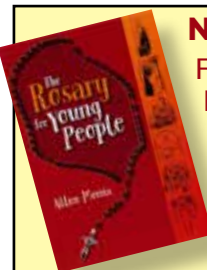
## Parish

**Retiring Collection** There is a retiring collection today for the Catholic Communications Network, to assist the Bishops of England and Wales' communications through Mass Media.


**Afternoon for Ministers of Holy Communion.** Sunday 20 May 4-7pm

**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 vocations to the Religious life*


**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



**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.  
Prayer this Sunday from 5-5.30pm.  
Coffee and cake: 5.30-6pm. **All welcome.**






**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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Email: [info@paxtravel.co.uk](mailto:info@paxtravel.co.uk) Web: [www.paxtravel.co.uk](http://www.paxtravel.co.uk)

**Pentecost! Come and pray in thanksgiving for the gift of God's Spirit to you and the Church.**



**Masses as usual next Sunday, plus a service of Exposition and thanksgiving from 6-7pm to conclude the Easter season.**

**Travelling Solo** Next meeting coincides with the parish lunch - Carpenter's Arms, Sunday 10th June after the 11am Mass. 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 23 June 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.

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


**Readers trip to London** on 30th May. Joining instructions etc available in porch.

**Diocese Assistant Headteacher - Catholic Life and RE.** St Edmund Campion Catholic School require a committed, practising Catholic for September 2018. Closing date: 17 May. 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 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 available for those who could benefit from a short stay. If you or someone you

**Parents & children's choir**  
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 need to be accompanied by one or more parent/guardian.) At the meeting on 12 June we will look how best to support the group and when would be the most convenient time for a monthly rehearsal.



**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.

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 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. To find out more and to book a place visit [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/adoremus](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/adoremus).

**Sacred Heart 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 Mass and Blessed Sacrament Procession.

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

**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 [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

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


**Parish Book Clubs.**

- 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.
- The first meeting of the new **Wednesday morning Book Club** will meet for coffee and cake and chat after the 10am Mass on Wednesday 13 June. The first book up for discussion is Cardinal Nichol's new book: *Faith finding a voice*.

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

- 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.
- First meeting of the new **Scripture and Soup Monday afternoon group** is on Mon 21 May from 1.30-2.30pm. We will read Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Please have a read through the letter in advance, and we will start our meeting with a look at the background to the Letter and its abiding relevance for us.

**Pray with Pope Francis**  
The Pope's prayer intention for May is that the lay faithful may fulfil their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.  
To find the Pope's other current prayer intentions please visit <http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org/>



*Continued from page 1*  
grace, or the mystery of others' lives. When somebody has an answer for every question, it is a sign that they are not on the right road. They may well be false prophets, who use religion for their own purposes, to promote their own psychological or intellectual theories. God infinitely transcends us; he is full of surprises. We are not the ones to determine when and how we will encounter him; the exact times and places of that encounter are not up to us. Someone who wants everything to be clear and sure presumes to control God's transcendence.  
Nor can we claim to say where God is not, because God is mysteriously present in the life of every person, in a way that he himself chooses, and we cannot exclude this by our presumed certainties. Even when someone's life appears completely wrecked, even when we see it devastated by vices or addictions, God is present there. If we let ourselves be guided by the Spirit rather than our own preconceptions, we can and must try to find the Lord in every human life. This is part of the mystery that a gnostic mentality cannot accept, since it is beyond its control.  
*The limits of reason*  
It is not easy to grasp the truth that

we have received from the Lord. And it is even more difficult to express it. So we cannot claim that our way of understanding this truth authorizes us to exercise a strict supervision over others' lives. Here I would note that in the Church there legitimately coexist different ways of interpreting many aspects of doctrine and Christian life; in their variety, they 'help to express more clearly the immense riches of God's word'

Saint John Paul II warned of the temptation on the part of those in the Church who are more highly educated 'to feel somehow superior to other members of the faithful'. In point of fact, what we think we know should always motivate us to respond more fully to God's love. Indeed, 'you learn so as to live: theology and holiness are inseparable'.

When Saint Francis of Assisi saw that some of his disciples were engaged in teaching, he wanted to avoid the temptation to gnosticism. He wrote to Saint Anthony of Padua: 'I am pleased that you teach sacred theology to the brothers, provided that... you do not extinguish the spirit of prayer and devotion during study of this kind'. Francis recognized the temptation to turn the Christian experience into a set of intellectual exercises that distance us from the freshness of the Gospel. Saint Bonaventure, on the other hand, pointed out that true Christian wisdom can never be separated from mercy towards our neighbour: 'The greatest possible wisdom is to share fruitfully what we have to give... Even as mercy is the companion of wisdom, avarice is its enemy'. 'There are activities that, united to contemplation, do not prevent the latter, but rather facilitate it, such as works of mercy and devotion'.

Pope Francis *Gaudete et Exsultate*, cf 35-46

**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**