

Covid Step Three... and preparing for what comes next

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So for example, how do we best

- resume our parish support of local food banks;- contribution?
- meet the changing needs for church cleaning and health security?
- go about bringing up to date our parish records of parishioners, so as to more robustly respond to the needs of the isolated and those in need?
- reinstate the opportunities for social gatherings after Sunday Mass and in the week?
- reintroduce and develop parish music ministry?
- reintroduce Children's Liturgy of the Word?
- provide further opportunities for Confession and celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick?
- make best use of the Newman Centre?

A lot to think about... More about this next week....

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.

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.



Virtual Pilgrimage

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



The virtual pilgrimage starts on 30 May (Trinity Sunday) at 3pm.

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

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

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 wandering?

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?



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding: Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)
Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

Send down, O God, upon your people the flame of your Holy Spirit, and fill with the abundance of your sevenfold gift the Church you brought forth from your Son's pierced side.

May your life-giving Spirit lend fire to our words and strength to our witness. Send us forth to the nations of the world to proclaim with boldness your wondrous work of raising Christ to your right hand.

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.

One in 3 people with COVID-19 do not experience symptoms but can still spread the virus. Rapid testing detects cases quickly, meaning positive cases can isolate immediately.

Please test twice weekly to protect yourself and others, including the day before you come to Sunday Mass.

Help keep everyone safe.

Covid Step Three... and preparing for what comes next

The current relaxation of Covid restrictions has little direct effect on how things are done in church to keep us safe. The major changes - for example the return to congregational song - will take place following Step 4, after June 21st.

Until then we maintain the same disciplines with cleaning the church and stewarding, and social distancing until Step 4, or until it becomes clear that the concerns posed by the current Covid variants have been dealt with. Thank you again to all those whose generosity in volunteering makes this possible.

For the moment little change but this is a good time to begin to plan for what might happen when the 'new normal' arrives.

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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. **Social distancing:** Please keep a social distance of 1m from anyone not of your household.

Please do not stay in benches for conversation after Mass has ended. Instead leave the church promptly and keep 'safe distance'.

Thank you for your cooperation.

PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

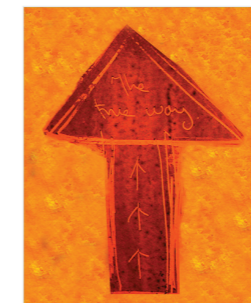
| Day | Time | Notes |
|-------|------|----------------------------------------------|
| Sa 22 | 4pm | Pentecost |
| | 6pm | |
| Su 23 | 9am | Roman Pol RD (Bollard) |
| | 11am | Ints Frakie O'Donnell For the parish |
| M 24 | 10am | |
| T 25 | 10am | Mary Gavin RIP (McDermott) |
| W 26 | 10am | Kate O'Malley Ints |
| Th 27 | | |
| F 28 | 7pm | Patsy MacEaney RD |
| Sa 29 | 4pm | Trinity Sunday |
| | 6pm | |
| Su 30 | 9am | For the parish Devlin family intentions |
| | 11am | Fr Joyce (Byrne) Tony Lawlor RIP (Lawlor) |

Please pray for sick parishioners including Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for George Eaton, Zachariah Rutherford and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

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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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: *The word of God invites us into the unending dialogue between God and his people, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. This hearing and responding is essential to the Mass. A brief time of quiet after the readings helps us to take the word of God to heart and begin a prayerful response to what we have heard.*

Acts 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

Psalm 103(104):1,24,29-31,34

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches.

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord.

Galatians 5:16-25

If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires.

Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

Sequence

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light,
From the clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure
Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow

Thou in toil art comfort sweet
Pleasant coolness in the heat
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay
All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew
On our dryness pour thy dew
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will
Melt the frozen, warm the chill
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die
Give us life with thee on high
Give us joys that never end.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. *Alleluia!*

John 20:19-23

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*At the words that follow,
up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all bow.*

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.

The Prayer of the Faithful

The Liturgy of the Eucharist *is the re-presentation of the Sacrifice of Christ to the Father, and his gift of life renewed to the Church, for the service of his mission.*

The Offertory: *There is no collection during Mass. Instead, please put 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: *The Lord offers reconciliation in and with the invitation to share in the food and drink that is his Body and Blood. Love and mercy are the condition and the fruit of communion in the Lord.*

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Please observe the regulations on social distancing when processing to receive Holy Communion.

Prayer after Communion

The Concluding Rites *sends us out live in our daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ 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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What makes 'the Bidding Prayers' the Prayer of the Faithful?

As Covid restrictions are relaxed this Prayer is restored to our celebration, and it is a good opportunity to remember why the more proper title is 'Prayer of the Faithful'.

Note, **the Prayer** of the Faithful' – 'Prayer' not 'Prayers', for it is one prayer, with different moments.

And **Of the Faithful**, for it is a prayer that the whole assembly makes to the Father, directly, by virtue of its royal priesthood, conferred in Baptism. Intentions are offered by the deacon or readers, usually, but the prayer is what all offer in the silences that follow.

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 continue to look at the Eucharistic Prayer of the 2-3rd C **Apostolic Tradition**, comparing and contrasting it with our Eucharistic Prayer II which is based on the earlier prayer.