

RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGE OF THE DIOCESAN VISION

In a recent Pastoral Letter Archbishop Bernard reminded us of his call to the Diocese:

- to come to church, to pray and to encounter Christ – helping to form missionary disciples and missionary parishes.
- to invigorate and deepen our worship and sacramental celebrations so that we share in and reflect the divine life of the Trinity

To help us reflect further over the coming weeks, over the coming weeks the newsletter contains material for our reflection on some of this

As you read it, ask yourself how this compares to how things are at St Nicholas. Ask yourself too whether there is something you might do to help us better fulfill the vision. And where you see others making their contribution to our common life - whether you have said ‘thank you’ to them recently?

Fr. Allen

SUNDAY MASS, 2000

Part Two: The 10am Mass Begins

At 9:45 the choir is assembled and a brief but serious rehearsal begins, firming up what was practiced last Wednesday evening. This warm-up of voices lasts until just a few minutes before the liturgy is to begin; toward the end many in the now two-thirds full church join in singing. By now the presider is vested and stands with servers and lectors near the main entrance, adding to the welcome of the ushers. The ushers, knowing the church will be full, are doing their best to fill the pews nearest the altar first. They make special efforts to see that parents with very small infants get places in the first rows (where there are more comfortable chairs).

Likewise, the ushers invite any who would find the communion procession difficult to take places in those areas throughout the assembly space with room for wheelchairs. The ushers point out to any newcomers with pre-school children that child care is available, or they are welcome to have their children with them (it is surely not appropriate to have them in a separate room). The sacristan has invited the gift-bearers to bring the bread and wine forward at the proper time and is now going over the “check-list for Sunday Mass” before joining the assembly. Sponsors and catechumens find each other and fill in the first few rows of one section of the church.

Although people go out of their way to greet one another and be gracious, it is never done in such a way that you feel one person is the host and another is the guest. Everyone is at home.

At one minute before 10 o’clock, the cantor greets the assembly and asks them to give some brief attention to the hymn that will be used as a recessional today. As they conclude this little rehearsal,

the cantor announces the hymnal number of the procession song, then stands quietly for a moment before gesturing for everyone to rise as the instrumentalists begin to lead everyone into singing a hymn of praise that seems to build verse by verse. The procession of servers with cross and candles, lectors (one of them with the Lectionary held high), and presider waits at the edge of the assembly until the second verse begins, then moves slowly forward. By that time, each minister, including the presider, is singing.

At Our Lady of the Angels, the renovation put people on three sides of the area where the altar and the ambo are, so most members of the assembly are able to participate more fully with the other members of the assembly. For a year now it has been the custom, once the entrance song begins, for the people on either side of the aisle in the long central part of the church to turn toward the aisle until the procession has passed. In fact, they are turning toward each other, becoming conscious of each other’s presence as the church begins its liturgy. The peace greeting, when it comes later on, will somehow seal this communion, this sense of being not individuals, but the assembled Church offering its praise, thanks, lament and intercession before God.

As the singing continues, the presider greets the altar with a kiss. At the chair, he continues to sing with the assembly. When the singing ends, all make the Sign of the Cross: we do all that we do in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Looking at the assembly, the presider then exchanges the greeting. In two or three well-prepared sentences he invites -- maybe exhorts is a better word -- the assembly to enter well into this liturgy. He is careful not to speak in any way that would imply it is his liturgy, or that the people assembled are guests. Nothing he says makes trivial what is about to be done here.

The rites by which the community assembles are quite simple during these Sundays in Ordinary Time compared with how the parish begins its liturgy during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter. Year-round, however, these rites conclude when the presider calls everyone to prayer: “Oremos/Let us pray.” And then, in response, silence. This silence is long enough to settle into, and like song, creates the Church. The presider has been praying this opening prayer all week by himself, and now he speaks it in a clear and understandable proclamation. The loud “Amen”; says that the assembly has heard.

When the people at Our Lady of the Angels sit down, there is usually a sense that in all these moments -- from the alarm clock to this Amen -- the Spirit has brought them somewhere: into the worship space they call the “church,” and even more into the Church itself, into the assembly that will here pray not as so many individuals, but as the Body of Christ.

Extract from Gather Faithfully Together: A Guide for Sunday Mass. Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles



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

MAY/JUNE 2023: PARISH MASSES THIS WEEK

| | | | | |
|----|----|------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sa | 27 | 6pm | | For the parish |
| Su | 28 | 9am | PENTECOST | Bridget Small RIP (Egan) |
| | | 11am | | Piotr Stazewski RIP (Stazewski) |
| M | 29 | 10am | CONSECRATION OF CHURCH | |
| T | 30 | 10am | | Gino Mastroianni RD (Green) |
| W | 31 | 10am | Visitation | |
| Th | 1 | | Jesus, High Priest | |
| F | 2 | 7pm | | |
| Sa | 3 | 6pm | | Breen Family (Kenny) |
| Su | 4 | 9am | TRINITY SUNDAY | For the parish |
| | | 11am | | Michael Dube (Szambir) |

Anointing of the Sick: Next celebration is 30th June at 11am

Sacrament of Confession: Friday 18.30-18.55; 19.30 (after Mass), until 20.00; and Sat 5.30-5.45 — and by appointment

Please pray for those who are sick including Andy Kean, Brenda Davies; David Cotton, Rita Rhodes, Stephen Burke; Lesley Devlin; Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Jean Lawlor; Joanne McShane & Teresa Monteiro. Please pray for Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Eileen Hill, Leslie Stuchbury, Zechariah Rutherford, James Dougherty, Elizaabeth Need, Sharon Timperley, James O’Riordan and all whose anniversaries are at this time.

RESOURCES FOR PRAYER.

- Parish prayer on Zoom (links on parish website homepage) Morning Prayer: Zoom meeting Monday to Saturday at 8.30am; Lectio Sunday at 4pm; Rosary Mon at 7pm.
- Readings of the day and much more at Universalis.com

Parish Car Park

Free parking is available for anyone at anytime in our parish carpark. In addition, automatic free parking permits are issued:

- On Saturdays for those arriving after 5.30pm and leaving before 7.30pm; and on Sundays for those arriving after 8am and leaving before 2pm
- On Mondays to Wednesdays for those arriving after 9.30am and leaving before 11.30am and on Fridays those arriving after 6.30pm and leaving before 8.30pm

At other times, if on site for parish meetings and the like - and needing to park for more than 1 hour, please scan the QR poster in the church or Benedict Room to extend your ‘free’ parking time.

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,

Young Families Group meets after 9am Mass this Sunday!

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

Parents with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 might like to make note of the dates and times of Children’s Liturgy of the Word during this term time.

- Sunday 28 May at 9am
- Sunday 11th June at 11am
- Sunday 25th June at 9am
- Sunday 9th July at 9am



Colour and Light

A gathering for all those who want to enjoy making art (of all sorts and at all levels) Meets in the Benedict Room each Wednesday from 1-3pm (access from behind the church). All are welcome.

On this feast of Pentecost you are invited to cut out and keep these prayers. Please use them to pray for the faith, life and mission of our parish

Lord, renew your wonders in this our day as by a new Pentecost.

Father, pour out your Spirit upon your people and grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your Word and a new consecration to your service, that your love may grow among us and your Kingdom come.

God the Holy Spirit, Comforter and Sanctifier. Melt our hearts that we may accept your love. Renew our minds that we may know your truth. Strengthen our will that we may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Introductory Rites

Opening Song

Come Holy Ghost, Creator come
from thy bright heavenly throne,
come, take possession of our souls,
and make them all thine own.

Thou who art called the Paraclete,
best gift of God above,
the lving spring, the living fire,
sweet unction and true love.

Thou who art sev’nfold in thy grace,
finger of God’s right hand;
his promise, teaching little ones
to speak and understand.

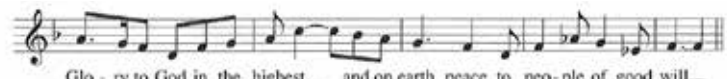
O guide our minds with thy blest light,
with love our hearts inflame;
and with thy strength, which ne’er decays,
confirm our mortal frame.

Far from us drive our deadly foe:
true peace unto us bring;
and through all perils lead us safe
beneath thy sacred wing.

Through thee may we the Father know,
through thee th’eternal Son,
and thee the Spirit of them both,
thrice-blessed Three in One.

All glory to the Father be,
with his co-equal Son:
the same to thee, great Paraclete,
while endless ages run.

Gloria



Glo - ry to God in the highest... and on earth peace to peo - ple 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.

Glory to God...

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.

Glory to God...

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.

Glory to God... Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Collect

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The Liturgy of the Word

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.

1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13

No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord’ unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

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.’

Homily

The Creed

Prayer of the Faithful

All: Through our lives and by our prayers,
your kingdom come.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Offertory *NB Our next collections for the Bethany Food Bank are June 4th and 18th*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us...

The Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord... God of hosts.



Hea - ven and earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. *Fine*



Repeat Hosanna

Bles - sed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord... Ho -



Save... us, save... us, Sa - viour of the world,



for by your Cross and Re - sur - rection you have set us... free.

The mystery of faith

The Communion Rite

Communion thanksgiving

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
through this world’s tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us
for your help is full and free,
here possessing every blessing
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, by your grace restore us -
all our weaknesses are plain;
you have lived on earth before us,
you have felt our grief and pain:
tempted, taunted, yet undaunted,
from the depths you rose again.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with holy peace;
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cease:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
ever shall our joys increase.

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

Blessing and Dismissal

Corpus Christi and Parish Lunch

Come and join in a parish lunch after the 11am Mass and Corpus Christi procession with children from this year’s Communion Programme on Sunday 11th June.

Entry fee (includes Burger/hot dog, salad and a soft drink) £4 per adult, £2 per child, £10 family of four, children 3 and under go free - as do First Communion children taking part in the procession.

Tickets on sale next Sunday and on the day.

Games available for younger children.
Confectionery, snacks and licensed bar.

The Newman Centre – doors open at Midday, and this event hosted by young leaders from **Sutton Coldfield Adventure Unit @ St Nicholas**



The Regina Caeli is the Marian antiphon sung at teh end of Night Prayer in Eastertide. You might like to sing it as Easter comes to an end this Sunday evening. And if you don’t know it, google ‘Regina Caeli’ and take a listen!

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia;
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia:
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

*Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
for he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia,
hHas risen as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.*