

Scripture Group. The group continues its gentle reading of the *Acts of the Apostles*. New people always welcome. Next meeting is 7.30pm on 20 January, in the Benedict Room- read Chaps 9, 10 and 11 and just come along...

Getting married? A reminder that a minimum of six month's notice is required for those who intend to marry in the Catholic Church. Giving 12 months notice, makes it much easier to complete the required marriage preparation course etc.

Diocese

Bishop Walsh: 6th form prospectus in porch.
St Joseph's, Coleshill, offers residential care to older people and those with dementia in a Catholic setting, (Mass said daily by resident priests). Respite bedrooms are available for those who could benefit from a short stay. Call 01675 434500 for a chat or to visit.

Other

Lifeline for Marriages Is your marriage stressed, unloving, cold? Do

Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for January is that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.

To find the Pope's other current prayer intentions please visit www.pathwaystogod.org/my-prayer-life/praying-pope



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 what you need! Info from 0788 729 6983 or www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Domestic abuse of older women is particularly under reported and recorded. Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid is offering a session to raise awareness of the issues faced by women aged 55+ who are experiencing abuse, how to ask questions and how and where to refer those who want support. Tues 28 Jan; 09:30 to 12:30 at St Giles Hospice, Lindridge Rd, B75 6JB. The event is free to attend. If you wish to attend, please register via Eventbrite, <https://bit.ly/37kC1m5>

Parish Drawing Group

Last summer a few parishioners came together under the leadership of Tony Sawbridge and Geraldine Foster to learn a little about portraiture and take part in a project to help commemorate this January's 75th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. The final artwork will be featured in the national service of Commemoration - to be shown of the BBC on 27 Jan, and at Mass here on the 26 Jan.

People enjoyed the experience so much that the Drawing group is starting up again in February. The plan is to meet on Tuesdays after the post-Mass social - on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. All Welcome!!

Applying for 2020 place at St Nicholas School?

Full details of admission process and requirements are on the school website.

Catholic parents who have attended Mass weekly for 5 years are encouraged to obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice to support their application.

To request this Certificate please complete the form provided in the porch and return it to Fr Allen after any Sunday Mass.



Owning our Faith and Calling

Do please complete and return this form to Fr Allen to register your interest in *Owning our Faith and Calling*. (Feel free to hand it in in person, post through Presbytery door, or fold and put in the Collection Bags.)

Registering your interest does not commit you to anything, but will be a great help with our parish planning.

Name

Address

Telephone

Email

Preferred day of week/time(s) for meeting

.....

In Hospital or going there?

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.

Whole Community Catechesis: Epiphany

- 1. Listen to the word**
What do you hear that encourages or challenges you?
- 2. Look into Your Life**
 - **Q4Children:** What gifts has God entrusted to you?
 - **Q4Youth:** Who helps you to make the most of your gifts? Who makes it more difficult for you to be yourself and make the very most of your gifts?
 - **Q4Adults:** How do you help others to enjoy the gift that they are?



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US
Telephone: 0121 354 1763 **Email:** stnicholasrc@btinternet.com
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

Parish

Teas & Coffees after Sun morning Masses.

Preparation for Baptism of Infants
The next preparation programme starts on Saturday 11th Jan from 11am-12 noon in the Benedict Room. Please see Fr Allen beforehand for an application form.

Travelling Solo lunch All who 'travel solo in life' for whatever reason are invited to join with others after the Sunday 11am Mass for a jolly Sunday lunch at a local pub. *Next lunch: Our Christmastime lunch: Jan 5.*

Rosary for Vocations. The Rosary group meets in church Mondays at 3pm to pray for vocations. All welcome.

Book Club. Next book is *100 poems* by Seamus Heaney. Read the book and come to discuss. The Presbytery, 8pm, 6 January.

Owning our Faith and Calling

Thank you to all those who have come forward ready to lead or take part in small groups.

There may well be more groups but at the moment these seem pretty certain

- Sunday evening: 7pm - location to be confirmed
- Monday evening: 8pm in Benedict Room
- Tuesday: 7.30pm in Benedict Room
- Wednesday: 1115, in Church Road
- Wednesday or Friday: - during day time and in Antrobus Road

There is still plenty of opportunity for others to offer to lead other groups at other times and in other locations - pubs, cafes, homes...

Each group will meet once a month, and meet for about 90 minutes.

What will each monthly meeting involve?

The most important thing is the opportunity to meet and talk with other parishioners about our faith in Jesus Christ.

- The conversation begins with reflection on a passage of Scripture, and looking at how it relates to our own experience.
- The conversation continues with a look at a few paragraphs from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* that speak about the person and mission of Jesus Christ

MASSES AND OTHER LITURGIES Season of Christmas

Day	Time	Liturgy	Notes
Sa 4	1700 1800	Epiphany <i>Proper Psalter</i>	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession Janina and Michael Usowicz RIP (Usowicz)
Su 5	0900 1100		Brian Kerins RIP (Kerins) For the parish
M 6	1000* 1500		Olwyn Foster RD (Lawlor) <i>Exposition and Rosary for Vocations</i>
T 7	1000		Decsd family & friends of John and Mary Drozd
W 8	1000		Funeral Mass of Pauline Venables
Th 9	1000		Decsd family & friends of Patricia Platt
F 10	1000 1100 1900		Mass with St Nicholas school - all welcome <i>Anointing of the Sick and Exposition</i> Decsd of Burke and McDonnell families
Sa 11	1700 1800	Baptism of the Lord <i>Proper Psalter</i>	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession Olwyn Foster RD (Lavelle)
Su 12	0900 1100		Michael and Christine Tully RIP (Freeman) For the parish

Scripture readings for Mass next Sunday
Is 42:1-4, 6-7 / Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 / Acts 10:34-38 / Mt 3:13-17

Morning/Evening Prayer 20 mins before weekday Masses, *as indicated above* *
Exposition: & Vespers 2nd and 4th Suns of month, 6-7pm; **& Rosary** 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: *Living Eucharist:* <https://livingeucharist.wordpress.com/>. Also universalis.com or <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

Please pray for sick parishioners including Gerry Coyle; Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke, Peggy Gallagher, Hazel Kemp. **Please pray** for Canon Gerry Breen who died recently and Arthur Aston, (funeral 7/1, 1pm); Pauline Venables (Funeral Mass 8/1, 10am), and Tony McCorry (funeral service, 15/1, 1245pm) and for Brendon Carroll, Jerome Harrington, Ken Hearne, Ronald Astley and all whose anniversaries of death are at this time: **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

- The session closes by considering some practical ways of taking the conversation further, and with a short time of prayer.

Will it be very formal?

Put like that, meetings might seem very structured and maybe a bit heavy going. But they really should not be: experience suggests that once the members of a group get comfortable with one another, and are ready to trust one another, the meeting relaxes and finds its own way through the materials provided.

Must I join a group to take part?

The way to get the most out of the process is to be part of a group - because that's the only way to be part of the conversation with others (and they and you are key to Owning our Faith and Calling!) But the month's Scripture passage, extracts

from the Catechism and reflection questions will probably appear in the newsletter during each month.

Where can I find out more?

There is a link on the front page of our parish website that takes you to the materials provided for the first meeting for those who would like to know more! Go to www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk

How do I join a group?

In the next couple of weeks the details of the various groups will be confirmed and you can sign up for a group then. But group sizes are limited (to allow for everyone to contribute to the conversation) so do think whether you would like to set up your own group with a few friends - and be able to invite in a few more people too...

Fr. Allen

Introductory Rites

Entrance Song

As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped
to that lowly cradle-bed,
there to bend the knee before
him whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
at that cradle rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy,
pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

Gloria

*Glory to God, (x3) in the highest, and on earth peace
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.

The Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night
still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his
glory appears. The nations come to your light and
kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling
and coming towards you, your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart
throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow
to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels
in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian
and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing
gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Psalm 71 (72):1-2,7-8,10-13 (all sing)

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.

Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted
by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it
was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of
the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed
through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was
unknown to any men in past generations; it means that
pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are
parts of the same body, and that the same promise has
been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have
come to do the Lord homage. *Alleluia!*

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea
during the reign of King Herod, some wise men
came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the
infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star
as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When
King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so
was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all
the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and
enquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is
what the prophet wrote: 'And you, Bethlehem, in
the land of Judah, you are by no means least among
the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him
privately. He asked them the exact date on which the
star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem.
'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when
you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go
and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king
had to say, they set out. And there in front of them
was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and
halted over the place where the child was. The sight
of the star filled them with delight, and going into
the house they saw the child with his mother Mary,
and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then,
opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold

and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned
in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to
their own country by a different way.

The Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

At the following words, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayer of the Faithful

We pray to the Lord. Through our lives and by our
prayers, Your kingdom come.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Song

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor the earth sustain
heaven and earth shall flee away,
when he comes to reign.

In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk,
and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim thronged the air.
But only his Mother in her maiden bliss
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes, who comes in the name of
the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, save us, Saviour of the world, for by your
Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Rite

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us. (x2)
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

Communion Song

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright,
round yon Virgin Mother and child;
holy infant, so tender and mild;
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour, is born, Christ, the Saviour, is born.

Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Concluding Rites

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for His bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all,
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the Babe was born for you.
Christ the Babe was born for you.

