



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

Psalm 127(128):1-5

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

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By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life!

1 John 3:1-2,21-24

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.



Parish

Rotas for Readers, Ministers of Holy Communion, Church cleaners Welcomers and Sunday Morning Refreshments. New Rotas are posted on website and noticeboard, and copies are available in the usual places.

Masses Christmastide

S	29		1700	<i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i>
		Feast of Holy Family	1800	For the parish
		<i>Psalter Week 1</i>		
Su	30		0900	Laith Salmons Anniv RIP (Salmons)
			1100	Frank and Ellen Manley RIP (Egan)
M	31		1000*	Victims of earthquake and Tsunami
			1500	<i>Exposition and Rosary</i>
			2300	For the Parish
T	1	Mary Mother of God	1200	Vito Lafrate RIP (Mastroianni)
W	2	Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen	1000*	Victims of earthquake and tsunami
			1600	<i>Reception of body of Clare Banks</i>
Th	3		1100	Funeral Mass of Clare Banks
F	4		1900*	Decsd family and friends of Fitzpatrick/ O'Gorman families followed by 30 mins exposition
S	5	Epiphany of the Lord	1700	<i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i>
		<i>Psalter Week 2</i>	1800	Joseph and Michael Gavin RIP (Gavin)
Su	6		0900	Jerry Harrington RIP (Harrington)
			1100	Mary Whelan RIP (Ward)

Morning/Evening Prayer 20 mins before weekday Masses, *as indicated above **

Exposition: & Vespers 2nd & 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: livingeucharist.wordpress.com/

Please pray for sick parishioners including Pat Serafinas; Thomas Stevenson; Peter & Olwyn Foster; and Fr Neil Bayliss. **Please pray** for William Hemenstall and Bernie Morton who died recently, and Claire Banks whose funeral Mass is at 11am this Thursday, and for Brian Woffinden, Christine O'Reilly, Thomas Melody, Anne Byrne, Sean Finnegan, Frank Bates, John Cassera, Audrey Waterson, Mary Smith and Eugene Marder and all whose anniversaries of death are at this time: **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

NB To include names on the list of isck parishioners please complete form available in the porch and pass to Fr Allen so we meet the requirements of current Data Protection legislation.

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.

**11am on First Fridays (usually).
Next service is January 4th**

Thank you!! Thank you to all who were so kind as to send me Christmas cards, and gifts, and to contribute to the Christmas Offering. It was really generous of you, and is much appreciated.

My very best wishes and prayers are yours as we continue to celebrate Christmas together, and prepare for the New Year.

Fr. Allen

Travelling Solo lunch All who 'travel solo in life' for whatever reason are warmly invited to meet for pub lunch after the 11am Mass on Sunday 6 Jan.

Rosary for Vocations. 3pm on 31/12. All welcome.

Scripture group Next meeting **7.30pm, Mon 4 Feb**, in the Benedict Rm to read Chaps 9 & 10 of St Luke's Gospel. All welcome

Parish Book Clubs meet in the parish house, and all are welcome. **(A) The Daytime Group** Next meets at 1030 on Weds 2 Jan, and the book is *The God who won't let go* by Peter van Breemen, SJ. The book is a prayerful invitation to enter the depths of forgiveness, mercy, compassion and resurrection. **(B) The Night Time Club** Next

meets at 8pm on Jan 28. The book is *With the End in Mind: Dying, Death and Wisdom in an Age of Denial* by Kathryn Mannix a doctor in palliative care who wants us to be better informed and less afraid about dying. In stories from the bedside of her patients, she shares the experiences that enable her to see dying as something we can plan for and manage rather than something to fear and avoid discussing.

Preparation for Baptism of Infants. The next preparation programme starts on Sat 19 Jan from 11-12 noon, in the Benedict Room. Pl see Fr Allen before hand and complete an application form.

Diocese

Celebrating Matrimony Archbishop Bernard invites all couples who celebrate a particular milestone wedding anniversary (10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 45, 50, 60 and each year over 60) AND those newly married or preparing to marry in 2019 to join him for a Thanksgiving Mass on Sunday 3rd February, 11am at St Chad's Cathedral. If you qualify and can attend, please email your details to Fr Allen so that they can be submitted and a personal invitation be issued.

St Joseph's Home, Coleshill, offers Catholic residential care to older people and those living with dementia. Ring 01675 434500 for a chat or to arrange a visit.

Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's January prayer intention is that young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

To find the Pope's other current prayer intentions please visit www.pathwaystogod.org



My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. *Alleluia!*

Luke 2:41-52

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.'

'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

Next Sunday is the Solemnity of the Epiphany

Scripture readings: Is 60:1-6 / Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 / Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Mt 2:1-12 *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.*

The Ordinary of the Mass is found on p200 ff of Laudate.
The Gloria, Holy, Memorial Acclamation and Lamb of God used in Ordinary Time are nos 1013 ff in Laudate.