

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, the Lord, have given me."

'You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

Responsorial Psalm

Please see the separate Lenten Leaflet.

Romans 10:8-13

Scripture says: The word (that is the faith we proclaim) is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Luke 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the

glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you', and again: 'They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: 'You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

Lectio Divina

The very title might put some people off! But that would be a real pity.

The Latin words mean *Divine Reading* and the phrase is sometimes translated as *Sacred Reading*. Those titles might be more accessible but these too may seem a little forbidding!

I like to think of *Lectio* as the spiritual equivalent of a long leisurely hot bath. Sound more appealing?

These days we less often have baths and more often take showers. They are quick and convenient.

We can read scripture in that sort of a way too - reading it for information, for interest.

But *Lectio* invites us to something more, and to something much richer and much more valuable.

Lectio invites us to a comfortable and relaxing soak in God's word. Spending quiet time pondering the words of Scripture, slowly draws us into the presence of the Word himself, Jesus Christ.

Give it a go. Take a passage of this week's scripture. Maybe a whole reading, maybe just a sentence or a phrase. Quietly, gently reflect on it: let the words run through your mind and heart. It may be you end focussing on just one word. No matter. Take your time, relax, chill out and listen for the Lord speaking to you in what you keep hold of... Fr. Allen

Thank you to the youngsters confirmed in December last year for the posters around the church reminding us of social sins. Their work will help all of us to more deeply examine our conscience this Lent and consider where we need to repent and by God's grace live more faithfully and lovingly.

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Next Week: Second Sunday of Lent

Scripture readings: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 / Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14 / Phil 3:17-4:1 / Lk 9:28b-36

The Ordinary of the Mass is found on p200 ff of *Laudate*.

The Lent settings of the Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Lamb of God; and the Creed are provided in a separate leaflet.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US
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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

We need to cultivate an interior space which can give a Christian meaning to commitment and activity.

Without prolonged moments of adoration, of prayerful encounter with the word, of sincere conversation with the Lord, our work easily becomes meaningless; we lose energy as a result of weariness and difficulties, and our fervour dies out.

Exposition and Benediction at St Nicholas

Sunday 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month
1800—1900

Monday **Exposition and Rosary**
1500—1600 Praying for vocations

Friday **Exposition**
1930—2000 and prayer for the Church

Saturday **Exposition and**
1700—1740 **Sacrament of Confession**



Masses Week of the First Sunday of Lent

S	9		1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession Bernie Morton RD (Connor)
Su	10	First Sunday of Lent <i>Psalter Week 1</i>	0900 1100 1800	Gerard McGrath RD (Pocock) Maria and Jan Szambir RIP (Szambir) <i>Prayerful reading of 1 Peter, followed by brief Exposition and Evening Prayer 2nd Sunday</i>
M	11		1000* 1500	Tom Hempenstall RIP (Wilkinson) Exposition and Rosary for Vocations
T	12		1000*	Bernie Morton RD (Rhodes)
W	13		1000*	Mary Hickey Ints (Brennan)
Th	14			
F	15	CAFOD Lenten Fast Day	1000 1900*	Mass with St Nicholas School. All welcome. Socrate Bisconti RD (O'Brien) followed by 30 mins exposition
S	16	Second Sunday of Lent	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession For the parish
Su	17	<i>Psalter Week 2</i>	0900 1100 1800	Martin Coffey RIP (Anniv) (Drozd) For the parish <i>Prayerful reading of 1 Peter, followed by brief Exposition and Evening Prayer</i>

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 Joan James, Pat Serafinas; Thomas Stevenson; Peter & Olwyn Foster; Lea Burke and Peggy Gallagher. **Please pray** for Maria Szambir, Ronald Matthias, Dymphna Murphy, Ellie Manville, 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 sick parishioners please complete the form available in the porch and pass to Fr Allen so we meet the requirements of current Data Protection legislation.

Lent resources

- **Calendar for Lent** - especially for children
- **Walk with me** - especially for grown-ups. Take one as a gift for a friend!
- **Parish Lent cards** - take a handful and spread them around. Leave them on buses and in cafes, in offices - anywhere and everywhere. Share the good news.



Be Prepared!

PENITENTIAL SERVICES

- Mon 8/4 Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield 7pm
- Tues 9/4 Holy Cross, Walmley, 7pm
- Weds 10/4 St Nicholas. **2-6pm** Exposition & individual confessions; **7.30pm** Penance Service
- Tues 16 April, Erdington Abbey, 7pm



Hope and Challenge for Lent

4 BBC Radio 4 and the Bible Society have joined forces to produce some resources to help consider what the Bible has to say about loneliness.

These are being provided for each week of Lent, taking one of Jesus' 'Words from the Cross' as their starting point.

The 'Word' for the week will form the focus for the Sunday Service on Radio 4 (Sundays 8.10am beginning 10th March and available afterwards on iplayer and on <https://bbc.in/2TfpMUK>)

Additional resources will be available on the Bible Society website at <https://bit.ly/2T96pg0>.

There will also be a chance to reflect on the theme and reflections over a cup of tea or coffee after the Monday 10am Mass each Monday of Lent. All are welcome - and if you know someone who is isolated do please consider inviting them to come with you...



Lent is here... all change!

Well, not *all* change, exactly but quite a lot. Changes because we are now keeping Lent together.

- We have a black and white newsletter, but printed on mauve paper to indicate the season. A sign of fasting ...
- At St Nicholas we will use the Confiteor in the Penitential Act at the beginning of each Mass. It's been some time since we have used it regularly, so here is the text. Why not learn it off by heart - *something helpful to do this Lent!*

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, we continue:

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask

blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

- We don't sing the Gloria during Lent, except on particular feast days (NB St Patrick disappears from the Calendar this year, as his feast day is eclipsed by the 2nd Sunday of Lent. However, here at St Nicholas, we will celebrate a commemoration Mass of St Patrick on at the 7pm Mass on 15th March)
- During Lent we will sing one of the Common Psalms provided by the Church to help us sing the Psalm at Mass. The text and chant melody are on the Lent music sheet.
- We fast also from the *Alleluia*, and sing the responsory given on the Lent sheet.
- Each Lenten Mass ends with a Prayer over the People for our particular strengthening for the more faithful keeping of this season of prayer and penance.

Do you find that you would like a little help to better understand the pattern of the Mass, and the meaning of its parts? *A Beginners Guide to Praying the Mass* might offer just the help you need. Don't be put off by subtitle 'Explaining the Mass to young people of Communion age'. It is not suited only to children, lots of adults have found it helpful too!!

Parish

St Patrick's Race Night. Next Saturday, 7.30pm at Carpenter's Arms. Tickets available to the door £7 adults, £5 students, Family ticket £20 - price includes fish and chips. Bring your own drink. All proceeds to the Bishop Walsh School Lourdes fund.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day next Friday. We are invited to fast from one meal on this day, and invited to make a donation to CAFOD to support those who are in great need.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the appeal for St Chad's Cathedral. £320.12 was raised.

Teas and Coffees in Benedict Room after each Sunday Mass. All are welcome.

Rotas for Readers and Ministers of Holy Communion New Rotas have been emailed and are available on website and in porch. **A reminder of the afternoon for Readers: 4-6pm this Sunday, with opportunity to take part in the prayer with 1 Peter and exposition at 6pm**

Scripture group 7.30pm, Mon 18 March, in the Benedict Room to read Chaps 11 & 12 of Luke's Gospel. All welcome.

Mass Intentions Please note that the Mass Intentions for April and most of May have now been allocated. Do please book early for special dates to avoid disappointment.

Preparation for Baptism of Infants. The next preparation programme starts on Sat 6 April from 12 noon - 1pm, in the Benedict Room. Pl see Fr Allen before hand for an application form.

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

Volunteers needed to help strengthen our teams of money counters and for the banking of the moneys counted. If you would be able to help even once a month, please see Fr Allen. (Counting and banking are carried out at different times depending on teams, so if you have the time we can surely make use of your offer!)

Travelling Solo lunch All who 'travel solo in life' for whatever reason are warmly invited to meet in Benedict Room for coffee after the 11am Mass on Sunday April 7th, and then join the group for a pub lunch.

50/50 Club If you have recently paid a sub by Giro, please spk to Fr Allen, we don't have your address in case you win!

Diocese

Dementia Prayer week runs from Mon 11 - Tues 19 March is in the Diocese. We

Parish Book Club: 8pm on Mar 11 to discuss *A Time to Keep* by George Mackay Brown - a slim volume of short stories of life on Orkney. **All are welcome. Just read the book and come and chat about it, and enjoy good company and 'refreshments'. Meet in parish house.**

Preparing for the Triduum

Children confirmed last year and those to be confirmed this year are all invited to take an active part in the preparation and celebration of the principal liturgies of the Triduum - The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Solemn Liturgy on Good Friday and the great Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night.

These liturgies form the heart of the Church's celebration of the Paschal Mystery. There will be a meeting after the Sunday Masses on 23 and 24 March to introduce these liturgies to the youngsters and their families and help them to volunteer to help and take part.

will have particular prayers for those with Dementia and their carers and family on at Mass on Weds 13 March.

Vacancy for PA to Vicar General. Permanent/Full-time (35 hrs pw), based at Cathedral House, St. Chad's Queensway, Birmingham Salary: £25,000 to £30,000 p.a. More details from gerry.dryden@rc-birmingham.org or 0121 230 6224.

St Edmund Campion Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre wish to appoint a headteacher with effect from 1 September 2019 due to the retirement of the current headteacher. For further details Please contact Mary Finnegan, PA to Headteacher, On 0121 464 7040.

Discernment Weekend for men aged 30-35 The Beda College in Rome is running a discernment weekend for men between the ages of 30 and 55 from Friday 30 Aug to Sunday 1 Sept at St Beuno's Spirituality Centre in North Wales. Details at <https://bit.ly/2WYF4Mm>

Tabor House, Birmingham's only permanent night shelter, is looking for volunteers to help, especially overnight and mentors. Interested in finding out more? Come to Open evening: Weds 20 March 6pm - 8pm at St Anne's Training Room, 96 Bradford Street, Birmingham, B12 0PY. Contact Sharon McCall: 07387 418319 for further information.

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

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Sat 25 to Fri 31 May This is the largest gathering of the Diocesan family outside of the diocese. The pastoral theme for all pilgrims to Lourdes for 2019 is 'Blessed

Why read the First Letter of Peter?

1. It is Scripture, the word of God.
2. It explores what it means to be a Christian in the world.

As Lenten reading, it prepares us for our Easter renewal of Baptismal promises.

are the poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Full details on our website and at www.tangney-tours.com

Interreligious Dialogue: Archdiocese Commission Study Day On Inter-Faith Matters. Dr. John McDade - Britain Today: No Religion or Many Religions? Thurs 14 March 10.30 - 3.30, Grimshaw Room, St. Chad's Cathedral. Suggested contribution: £15 per head to include hot lunch & speaker's fee. Details in porch.

Young People's Summer Camp 2019 Book now for Week 1: Aug 4-8 or Week 2: Aug 11-15. Experience a life-changing encounter with God in a way like never before through powerful moments of prayer, crazy activities, exciting day trips, challenging talks and so much more... Don't miss out on your place at Summer Camp 2019! For more information email beccy.roseman@kenelmouthtrust.org.uk

Other

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

Every Life Matters

You are invited to a talk by **LIFE** Sat 23 March at 11.00 in the Grimshaw Room, St. Chad's Cathedral, B'ham

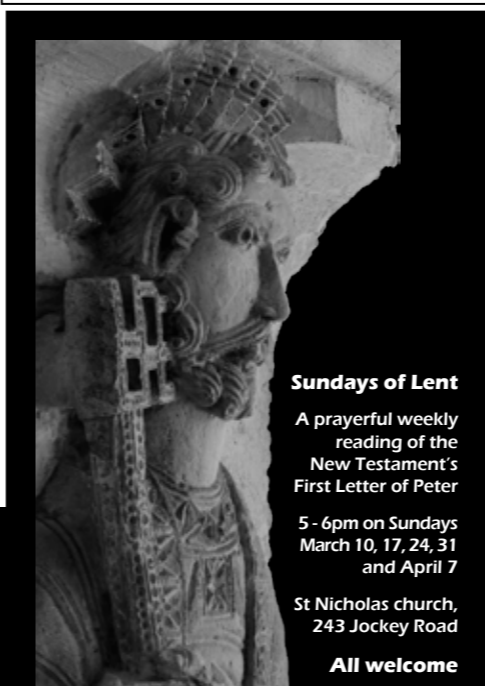
LIFE's mission is to create a just society which has the utmost respect for all human life from fertilisation.

We provide nationwide practical and emotional support to women, children and men affected by abortion. Life's online service supported 6,668 women last year alone! That's 18 each day.

Light refreshments available from 10.30

Donation requested for entry - all proceed going to **LIFE**. (Suggested £5)

Organised by Catholic Women's League Info from the secretary: 0121 475 1227 / 07767 457625



Sundays of Lent

A prayerful weekly reading of the New Testament's First Letter of Peter

5 - 6pm on Sundays March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7

St Nicholas church, 243 Jockey Road

All welcome



Admissions to local Catholic Schools

The Board of Directors (BoD) of the St John Paul II Multi Academy has confirmed the Admission arrangements for September 2020 for the original member schools, including St Nicholas, St Joseph's and Bishop Walsh.

Priority for admission is to be given to practising families/children. The BoD requires this practice to be confirmed by a certificate of practice which is to be issued when the parish priest **is satisfied that at least one Catholic parent or carer (along with the child if he or she is over seven years old) have (except when it was impossible to do so) attended Mass weekly on Sundays and holy days of obligation for at least five years (or, in the case of a child, since the age of seven).**

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

Andrew Mitchell MP Lent Lecture 15th March 7.30pm at Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church

Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust Copies of annual report are in the porch.

Children in Year 5 and below are invited to lead our parish Stations of the Cross at 11am on Good Friday.

Children are invited to take the parts of Jesus, Mary, Simon of Cyrene, Romans and others. **If you are interested in taking part then please sign up in porch.**



Children in yr 3 and above are invited to train as **ALTAR SERVERS**. The training for Altar Servers will take place over three sessions, from 4.30 - 5.15 on Fridays 2, 9 and 16 March. (Servers are asked to commit themselves to regularly serve at a particular Sunday Mass)



To help the children give of their best it would be very helpful to have adult servers to guide them. Training is available for men and women willing to offer this help at two Sunday Masses a month.

Children in year 4 and above - and any adults interested - are invited to train as READERS FOR MASS.

The training will take place over three session after the 6pm Mass on Saturdays 24 Feb and 3 and 10 March. (Readers are asked to commit themselves to serve at a particular Sunday Mass and read once or twice a month as per rota.



Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for March is that Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.



To find the Pope's other current prayer intentions please visit <http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org/>

Today, in various parts of the world, sometimes in silence – often a complicit silence – great numbers of Christians are marginalized,.... subjected to violence and even death, not infrequently without due intervention on the part of those who could defend their sacrosanct rights.

• **Pray for Christian brothers and sisters who meet with persecution, and who live in fear of violence.**

• **Learn more about the situation faced by Christians in Iraq and Egypt, in Palestine, in Nigeria and other places of prejudice and discrimination.**

• **Who experiences prejudice and discrimination in our country? How might we show solidarity with them?**

Pope Francis