

Freeing up the parish's carpark for parish use

Regular users of the parish car park will be aware of the number of vehicles that are parked there without permission – including on Sundays and during our major festivals – taking up parking spaces that are needed by parishioners attending Mass.

The law makes it very difficult to deal with persistent offenders, even if we know why they are and know their address. To control access to the car park it has been decided to establish a contract with a car park management firm who will be installing the sort of number plate recognition cameras as we are likely to be familiar with from car parks elsewhere (including that of our neighbour, the Sutton Park Hotel).

As this is being done mostly for the convenience of parishioners needing or wanting to come to Mass by car, care has been taken that the new arrangements will inconvenience you as little as possible.

The equipment for the system is being installed on the 27th February and will be active from Monday 6th March.

Finally, as said last week at Mass, if the new system presents you with a problem, please see me **as soon as possible** and I will see what can be done to make things easier for you.

Fr. Allen

New Parking arrangement

There will be free access for **anyone at any time** for an hour. This will be of help to those who want to do a quick shop on Boldmere Road or who are dropping off children at school in the morning or collecting them at night.

In addition there are other times when people can use the carpark in the usual way.

- **for those coming to Sunday Mass.** On Saturdays there will be free access for those arriving after 5.30pm and leaving before 7.30pm on Saturday; and on, Sundays free parking for those arriving after 8am and leaving before 2pm.
- **for those coming to weekday Mass** there will be free access between 9.30am and 11.30am on Mondays to Wednesdays, and from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Fridays)

What about other times? What if people are here at other times and for over an hour - for example to attend a different service in the church, or parish meetings in the parish house, Benedict Room or Newman Community Centre? The answer is that to avoid incurring the parking penalty they will need to use a smart phone to scan a QR code. Just as many of us will have done during COVID for Track and Trace. But remember, if you are here for a regular Sunday or weekday service, and arrive and leave within the time slots listed above, you will NOT need to scan the code.



QR Code

What is a QR code? You can see one here. It is a square filled with lines. QR stands for quick response, and a QR code is a two dimensional barcode. When you arrive you use a smart phone to scan the Code (which will be available on a poster in the church, or meeting room). This connects you to a website, where you **carefully** enter your Vehicle Registration Code, and this records that you have permission to use the car park for as long as that event lasts.

The new system does present a certain inconvenience on some people who have legitimate reason to use the parish car park. If it presents you with real difficulty, please see Fr Allen to see what can be done. Hopefully we will get used to it very quickly - and no longer will our (your!) access to the parish car park be frustrated by people taking up space who have no right to be there, and who prevent church-goers' legitimate use of the car park.

Ready to begin to prepare for your child's baptism?

The next parents' preparation sessions begin on Saturday 11th March at 12noon. For more information please speak with Fr Allen.

Parents meeting

The leaders of the parish Children's Liturgy Group are hosting a meeting for young parents after the 9am Mass in the Benedict Room on Sunday 26th February. The meeting offers parents a chance to meet up socially, and also give some thought as to what further support might be helpful to them and their families in enjoying, celebrating and benefiting from their faith. All are welcome - children too!

Exploring Vatican II

For notes from this group's last interesting and prayerful meeting, please see the parish blog for 22nd February.

At our next meeting, Monday at 7.30pm in the Benedict Room, we will take a look at Fratelli Tutti, the Pope's recent letter about how we talk and relate to others - especially but not only those who we see as 'different'. In our day there are many, many ways in which we can let our voice be heard, but often we do not listen well to what others are saying. Pope Francis draws on our tradition to help us do better.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **Deacon:** Rev John Garvey

Parish Safeguarding: Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)

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

Parish Finances

Each year, at the beginning of February our parish financial report is submitted to the Archdiocese for examination.

The summary of the parish financial report for 2022 is on the board in the porch, and also available on the parish website.

Thank you to all in the parish who by your donations support the parish and its work. Especially in these times offering that support to the parish can be difficult to perhaps many of us. So even more than usual, thank you.

Thank you to the members of the Parish Finance Committee for their oversight and guidance. They each make their contribution - but a particular thanks to Brain Devlin who chairs the Committee and its meetings, looks after the Gift Aid scheme and does a lot of work to ensure the Financial Report is in good shape.

There are two particular ways in which those of us who make donations can maximise their value to the parish. First of all, for those of us who pay income tax, we can gift-aid our donations. This means the parish can reclaim from the government 25p for every £1 donated. Secondly, we can make our donations by standing order - this helps with parish budgeting and reduces the need for cash handling in the parish. For more details on how to do these things, please see the leaflet on the table as you come into church. That said, we are of course grateful to receive all donations of any size, made in anyway!

Finally, the Archdiocese encourages us to consider including the Church - parish or diocese or our charities - when we are thinking including instructions about bequests and our wills. For more details on this please visit <http://bit.ly/3YLELEe>

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023 PARISH MASSES THIS WEEK

| | | | | |
|----|----|------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sa | 25 | 6pm | | Jillian Charles RIP (Platt) |
| Su | 26 | 9am | 1st Sunday of Lent | Dave Pullinger RIP (McGrath) |
| | | 11am | | For the parish |
| M | 27 | 10am | | John Minister RD (Cummings) |
| T | 28 | 10am | | Roger Nuttall RIP (Cummings) |
| W | 1 | 10am | St David | Betty Perks (O'Sullivan) |
| Th | 2 | 10am | ST CHAD | Maureen Cleary RIP (Sterling) |
| F | 3 | 7pm | | Jose Persiva Gomez RIP |
| Sa | 4 | 6pm | | |
| | | 9am | 2nd Sunday of Lent | For the parish |
| Su | 5 | 11am | | |

Sacrament of Confession: Friday 19.30 (after Mass), until 8pm; and Sat 5-5.30pm. **Anointing of the Sick:** 11am, last Friday of month

Please pray for parishioners who are sick including Stephen Burke; Brenda Davies; Lesley Devlin; Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Jean Lawlor; Joanne McShane & Teresa Monteiro. **Please pray** for Rachel Upham whose funeral mass will be at 11am on March 14th and for John Minister, a former teacher at Bishop Walsh, who died recently and Ray Simmonds, Margaret Healy, John Banks and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **May all these enjoy the gift of peace Christ offers to us.**

RESOURCES FOR PRAYER

1. 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.
2. Readings of the day and much more at **Universalis.com**
3. Sunday's **Scripture readings:** food for prayer during the week.

Teas and Coffees in the Benedict Room after Wednesday Morning Mass — all are welcome

Colour and Light

A gathering space for all those who want to enjoy making art (of all sorts and at all levels)



Colour and Light will meet in the Benedict Room each Wednesday afternoon from 1-3pm beginning on 8th March. All are welcome.

Each week there will be a very brief 'lesson' especially for beginners - one on drawing, one on painting. Less frequently - if we are lucky - we will have visits from local artists to talk of their work and maybe give a demonstration.

But you and everyone is welcome simply to come and do whatever you want - paint, draw, sew, knit, doodle, use a colouring book. Just come and create, and enjoy the company.

Basic artists materials are available for anyone to use for free - but you are welcome to bring your own materials.

For more information please speak with Geraldine Foster or Fr Allen

The Introductory Rites

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.

The Liturgy of the Word

Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

Now the serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Psalm 50(51):3-6,12-14,17



Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Romans 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. 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. *Glory and praise to you, O Christ.*

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: 'Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: 'He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will

support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: 'You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: 'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

Homily

The Apostles' Creed

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

Prayer of the Faithful

Priest: We pray to the Lord.

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

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Offertory

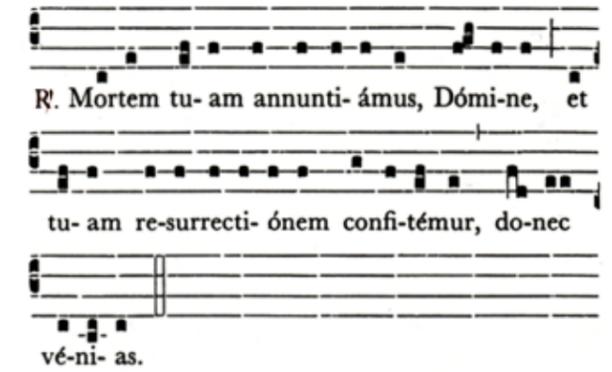
NB Our next collections for the Bethany Food Bank are March 5th and 19th

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to him, do not be afraid,
in him rejoicing: the Lord is near; (x2)

The Eucharistic Prayer



Mystery of faith



The Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer

Communion thanksgiving

*Bread for the world: a world of hunger.
Wine for all peoples: people who thirst.
May we who eat be bread for others.
May we who drink pour out our love.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life, broken to reach and heal the wounds of human pain. Where we divide your people you are waiting there on bended knee to wash our feet with endless care.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the wine of peace, poured into hearts once broken and where dryness sleeps.

Where we are tired and weary you are waiting there to be the way which beckons us beyond despair.

Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to your feast, at which the rich and powerful have become the least. Where we survive on others in our human greed you walk among us begging for your ev'ry need.

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

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CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal

Thank you for your generous response to the recent emergency appeal. This week we have the annual CAFOD's Family Fast Day on Friday 3rd Feb, and the annual Lenten appeal on Sunday 5th Feb. That collection will CAFOD support those at risk because of the climate crisis and ensure that CAFOD can quickly respond to other less publicised emergencies. Give today using the envelope or at cafod.org.uk/give and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

Flowers + decoration of the church It would be great to get together a small group of people to help with decorating the church for Sundays and seasons.. Interested? Please speak with Fr Allen.