

### Genesis 15:5-12,17-18

Taking Abram outside, the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can.' 'Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

### Responsorial Psalm

Please see the separate Lenten Leaflet.

### Philippians 3:17-4:1

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

### Gospel Acclamation

*Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!* From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' *Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!*

### Next Week: Third Sunday of Lent

Scripture readings: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 / Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 / 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 / Lk 13:1-9

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 1700-1900** *Weekly during Lent*
- Monday 1500-1600** **Exposition and Rosary** *Praying for vocations*
- Friday 1930-2000** **Exposition** *and prayer for the Church*
- Saturday 1700-1740** **Exposition and Sacrament of Confession**



### Luke 9:28-36

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' - He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

### A prayer for those with dementia and for their carers.

**L**oving Father, you are close to the broken hearted. Look with compassion on those whose lost memories have robbed them of home and belonging. Comfort and strengthen those who care for them. May all make their home in you. This we ask through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

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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  
**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*

### How is Lent going?

What with knife-crime, bin strikes, Brexit, and all, maybe our spirits are low. As I write the news is still coming in about the barbaric murders in the mosques in Christchurch - the latest in a horrendous series of attacks on people gathered to worship God. The slaughter of people of faith - Jews, Christians, Muslims, and others - is rarely out of the headlines. It is surely demonic - but as we were reminded by the Gospel last Sunday, of himself the devil can only tempt. For things to happen he requires people like us to cooperate with him. The horror of Christchurch is but one sign that some people do choose the devil over God.

This Lent we are all encouraged to turn to Jesus afresh and learn from him how to better resist temptation and, most especially, learn better how to cooperate with Jesus. We are joined with him in Baptism, strengthened and equipped for service on Confirmation, and each week offered fresh nourishment by him in word and Communion. And we need to be...

Sometimes we take the good for granted. The present mess in the world reminds we need to work for the good - and not alone.

### Masses Week of the Second Sunday of Lent

S	16	1700 1800	<b>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession For the parish</b>
	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> <i>Psalter Week 2</i>		
Su	17	0900 1100 1700	Martin Coffey RIP (Anniv) (Drozdz) For the parish <i>Prayerful reading of 1 Peter, followed by brief Exposition and Evening Prayer</i>
M	18	1000* 1500	Tom Hempenstall RIP (Lawlor) <b>Exposition and Rosary for Vocations</b>
T	19	1000* 1400	<b>ST JOSEPH</b> Patricia Hughes RIP Anniv (Brookes) Mass wth St Nicholas School. All welcome.
W	20	1000*	Bernie Morton RD (Mooney)
Th	21		
F	22	1900*	Patrick, Catherine & Terence Devenney & Frank Mullin RIP (Devenney) <b>followed by 30 mins exposition</b>
S	23	1700 1800	<b>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</b> Thomas Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
Su	24	0900 1100 1700	For the parish <i>Tony Lawlor RIP (Lawlor)</i> <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** weekly during Lent, 5-6pm; **& 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 Ellie Manville, Bronia Shmid, Kath Devanney, Philip Cassera, Shiela Hindle, Paul Garvey, Sarah Finnegan 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 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...

## From Mass to Memory

What prayers, what songs do you carry in your hearts? Prayer, songs that you can call to mind, and pray from the heart.

It is good to know the regular prayers of the Mass, i.e. the 'Ordinary' of the Mass, such as the *Confiteor*, 'I Confess' that we are using this Lent. Praying it from heart makes such a difference - and it is a prayer we are invited to pray before we are invited to pray before we make our Confession. Multi-purpose prayers are really good to commit memory!

**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.**

- Of all the multi purpose prayers that it is good to commit to memory, to hold in our hearts, perhaps the most important in Christian tradition, after the Lord's Prayer, the 'Our Father, is the Jesus Prayer. This prayer is prayed constantly by some, and very regularly by others, it comes to their lips whenever they are reminded of their need for the mercy and love of God:

**Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

It is one of the prayers recommended by the Church for use as a prayer of sorrow, an act of contrition, **when** we make our Confession.

- During Lent, we are using Psalm 50, one of the Lectionary's Common Psalms for Lent, at all of our weekday and Sunday Lenten Masses. This is partly so we can all sing it together, at least at those Sunday Masses where we have musicians. But also so that we might learn those words off by heart, and hold close to ourselves those ancient words of love, trust and hope.

**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.

## 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.

## Parish

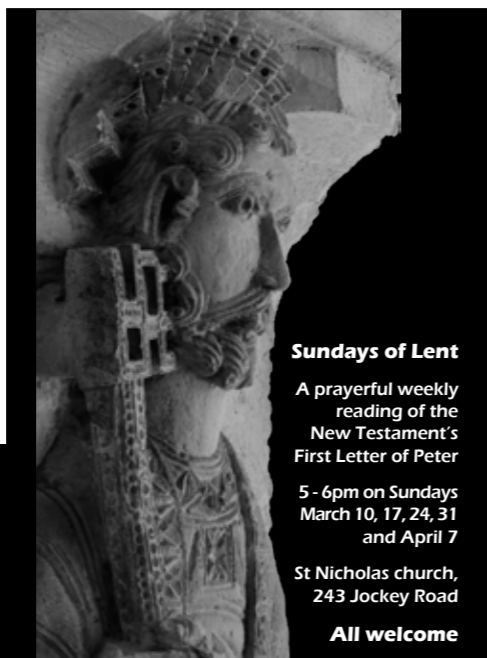
**CAFOD Lent Fast Day** Friday was CAFOD Fast Day. There is a retiring collection for CAFOD this Sunday.

**GIFT Aid** The new boxes of weekly envelopes are available in the McEvilly Room. Please do collect today!! Forms for those who wish to join scheme or set up standing order are available in porch

**Parish 2018 Financial Report.** This has been submitted to the Archdiocese and is published on the noticeboard. Thank you to all who contribute their money to provide financial support to the parish, to the diocese and its works. Thank you also to those who run the Repository and the 50/50 club - and to the members of the Finance Committee for their assistance also. The repair and refurbishment work, (now long awaited!), are on schedule to be carried out during the summer.

**St Patrick's Race Night.** This 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.

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



### 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

**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 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

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

**Tabor House, Birmingham's only permanent night shelter,** is looking for volunteers to help, especially overnight

**The annual Diocesan Novena of Prayer for the Cause of Canonisation of Blessed Dominic Barberi begins on Wednesday March 20 and concludes on Friday March 29.**

O God, who so lovingly raised Blessed Dominic to the heights of holiness, learning and apostolic zeal and made him a powerful minister of your mercy, listen to our humble request.

We pray that you will, in your goodness, grant a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Dominic, so that the Church may further honour him on earth and that many more people will come to know and to invoke the help of this faithful servant of the Church.

This we ask through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Mother of Holy Hope: pray for us.  
 Blessed Dominic Barberi: pray for us.  
 Blessed John Henry Newman: pray for us.

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.

**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 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

**Experienced carer** needed by local family for their elderly Mother. Regular hrs, 7 dpwk. 07930301224

**A talk by LIFE**, Sat 23 March at 11.00 in the Grimshaw Room, St. Chad's Cathedral.

**Birmingham Night Shelter** is considering a fresh way of operating. Please see Parish blog of 11 March for further details and to share your thoughts.

**Parish Book Club:** 8pm on Monday May 6 to discuss *The Rotter's Club* by Jonathan Coe. Three teenage friends grow up in 1970s Brum watching their lives change as their world gets involved with IRA bombs, progressive and punk rock, girls and political strikes. All are welcome. Read the book and come to chat about it, and enjoy good company and 'refreshments'. Meet in parish house.

**Over the past weeks we have been invited to pray for the recently confirmed, those preparing for Confirmation & those preparing to receive Holy Communion**

## Preparing to receive Holy Communion

Maeve; Anthony; Matilda; Isla; Conor; Martha; Marta; Javier; Maria; Dominic; Phoebe; Rosemary; Louisa; Evie; Freya; Ryan; Lucas; Adam; Oscar; Thomas; Oliver; Eamon; Fintan; Thomas; Aoife; Tilly; Alfie; Ben; Edith; Eva; Ella; Orla; Oliver; Gracie; Martyna.

## Preparing for Confirmation

Sienna; Grace; Ella; Alexander; Benjamin; George; Maddox; Camilla; Jacob; Isla; Arrietty; Jessica; Keira; Aidan; William; Rose; Aoife; Eamon; Elizabeth; Olivia; Emily; Orla; Evie; Thomas; Nuala; Erin; Damian; Patrick; Isaac; Isabelle; Rory; Tess; Joseph; Eleanor.

## Those confirmed recently

Eve; Ella; Harriet; Elizabeth; Orlagh; Ella; Siyue; Oscar; Eva; Nicolas; Joanna; Charlie; Zach; Mikey; Victoria; Alexander; Emily; Jack; Callum; Finn; Jack; Charlie; Jack; Evie; Leon; Alexander; Giannis; George; Ruby; Raj; Sophia; Aoife; Lena; Louie; Caitlin; Daisy; Anna; George; Niall; Freddie; Jack.

**Do please keep them, and their families in your prayers.**

## 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 Mondays 25 March, April 1 and April 8. (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 Tuesdays 26 March, 2 April and 9 April. (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*