

Together in Christ?

Make use of Lent to help build up our sense of parish and our mission as Church.

Can you find time and energy to have a chat with others about some questions related to the Sunday Gospel, exploring something of the social implications of the Gospel?

You can have the conversation with anyone - family members, colleagues at work; friends - either in person, or by phone, or on Zoom. Mostly - given some of the questions - it will be easier to have the conversation with other Christians, but not difficult to explore them with non-Christians - and maybe the conversation with them will prove even more interesting! If having any such a conversation seems impractical - itself, maybe, a sign of the sort of challenges we face, as individuals, and as Church - you are welcome to join in an open Zoom gathering with Fr Allen, each Sunday at 5pm. Details are posted on the parish blog each Saturday evening.

Mark 9:2-10

This is my Son, the Beloved

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said '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 to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

- When did you last say/think 'It is wonderful for us to be here?' What do you remember of that time/event?
- How do we listen to Jesus? When?
- What difference has listening to Jesus (or not listening!) made to you?
- What difference does it make to others when we listen or don't listen to them?
- What does 'rising from the dead' mean to you?
- Who, in our society, seems to have the worst quality of life?
- Whose life has most been curtailed in the Pandemic?
- What has our local community done to help make things better? What more might be done? And how?
- How might our church community make a difference?

Holy Week/Easter

The Government 'road-map' for relaxing COVID restrictions does not go into much detail about how these will affect churches. However it seems unlikely we can see any relaxation until after Easter.

So it seems sensible to use the same ticketing service as we used for Christmas. Tickets will be required for the Palm Sunday Masses, 6pm on 27/3 and 9 and 11am on 28/3; for the Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.30pm on Thursday 1/4; the Solemn Liturgy, 3pm on Good Friday 2/4; the Easter Vigil, 8pm on Saturday 3/4; and the 9am and 11am Masses on Easter Day.

Tickets (free) will be available from 3pm on Sunday 14/3. Details of how to book them will be published in the parish newsletter.

Prayer at home but with the parish

Morning Prayer: Mon to Sat at 0830. This simple form of prayer is based on Scripture, especially the psalms - and is easy to join in. All are welcome. *Zoom link available on the parish website home page. Click on the link between 8.25 and 8.30am and wait to be 'admitted'.*

Rosary: On Mondays at 7pm people come together to pray, in turn, one of the sets of the Mysteries. *The Zoom link is on the parish website home page. Click on the link between 6.55 and 7pm and wait to be 'admitted'.*

Prefer quiet prayer alone? : Why not make space for a daily reflection on Scripture? Perhaps continuing during the week to pray with the readings from for Sunday Mass, and provided in the newsletter. Or the Gospel of each day's Mass, which is posted on the parish Blog.

Helping keep the parish solvent!

Our parish finances are not as strong as they might be. The following are way which can help us get things onto a better footing in 2021.

- If you are in a position to make your offertory donation by Standing Order, and Gift Aid it also, it helps us greatly.
- The Parish 50/50 club is a valued source of parish income (and for those lucky enough to win in the monthly draws!) If you have not joined why not think about it. **50% of the income comes to the parish and 50% goes out in prize money.**

Forms are available as you leave church for Standing Orders /Gift Aid and 50/50 club. They can also be downloaded from <http://bit.ly/2Yp1g4r>



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

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Parish Safeguarding: Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)
Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

Living Light

Stay with me, and then I shall begin to shine as Thou shinest: so to shine as to be a light to others.
 The light, O Jesus, will be all from Thee.
 None of it will be mine. No merit to me.
 It will be Thou who shinest through me upon others.
 O let me thus praise Thee, in the way which Thou dost love best, by shining on all those around me.
 Give light to them as well as to me; light them with me, through me.
 Teach me to show forth Thy praise, Thy truth, Thy will.
 Make me preach Thee without preaching
 —not by words, but by my example and by the catching force, the sympathetic influence, of what I do—
 by my visible resemblance to Thy saints, and the evident fulness of the love which my heart bears to Thee.

St John Henry Newman

We have only just begin Lent but already plans are beginning to be formed for an Easter programme of events to help start to shape the future role of the newly-named Newman Community Centre - formerly the Carpenter's Arms.

A range of speakers is being arranged to help us and other residents in Boldmere and nearby to consider potential uses for our Centre, building on the work it already does.

The hope was to have these talks given live, on-site, but the Government's 'roadmap' suggests we will have to have these as Zoom meetings.

Fr. Allen

Do please continue to pray for Gary O'Brien and for Claire his wife, over the weeks and months to come. Over these days the final decisions are being made regarding Gary's hoped-for ordination as deacon. And so far so good!

CAFOD Lent Appeal

Donations to CAFOD can be put in the basket as you leave church. If you can GIFT AID your donation do please use a CAFOD envelope.

Donate online at cafod.org.uk/lent or use a CAFOD envelope. Or via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10*.

*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For more information, go to: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice



Open your phone camera to scan

Keeping Safe at for Mass

Face coverings: Regulations require members of the congregation, aged 5 and over, to wear face-coverings over their nose and mouth throughout the time we are in church. *If you have an exemption certificate please confirm in advance with Fr Allen, so appropriate seating can be arranged for you (and to safeguard others.)*

Social distancing: Please keep a social distance of 1m from anyone not of your household. *If going into an empty bench, please sit in the middle space, and leave any remaining space on the aisle for the next to arrive. Do not make people climb over you to get into the bench.*

Thank you for your cooperation.

MASS DURING THE HEALTH CRISIS

On days when there is no public Mass (because no volunteers for stewarding/cleaning) Fr Allen celebrates Mass 'privately' in the church usually at 0830.

Day	Time	Special Occasion	Remarks
Sa 27	6pm		For the parish
Su 28	9am	2nd Sunday in Lent	Breda Tarrant RIP (Egan)
	11am		Larry and Joan Cullinan RIP (Lawlor)
M 1	10am	St David	Ints of Tyler Middledith family (Foster)
T 2	10am	St Chad	Fr Joyce (Byrne)
W 3	10am		Nora Devine RIP
Th 4			
F 5	7pm		For recovery from COVID (McDermott)
Sa 6	6pm	3rd Sunday in Lent	For the parish
	9am		Lea Burke RD (O'Gorman)
Su 7	11am		Michael Venables RD (Green)

Confessions COVID restrictions prevent confessions being heard in the church, or indoors. However, if you wish to celebrate Reconciliation please contact Fr Allen who will be happy to arrange a time and place (outdoors) to celebrate this sacrament of mercy with you.

Please pray for sick parishioners including Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for Michael Venables, Mike O'Reilly and Fr Oliver Kemp who died recently and for Ray Simmonds, Margaret Healy and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

The Introductory Rites

The Introductory Rites help us come together as one, establish communion and prepare ourselves to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.

The Penitential Act

Confiteor

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, they say:

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.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

Hearing the word proclaimed in worship, we again enter into the unending dialogue between God and the people of the covenant shared in Christ, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. The proclamation of the word is essential to the Mass

A brief time of quiet after the readings allows us to take the word of God to heart and begin to prepare a prayerful response to what we have heard.

Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of

the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Psalms 115(116):10,15-19

I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted,'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Romans 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said '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 to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

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!

Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he

remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful (*omitted at the Bishop's request*)

Apostles Creed

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

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

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.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does, because at its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing and making available his saving work among us.

The Offertory

There is no offertory collection at this time. Instead, you are invited to place your offerings in the basket at the entrance to the church as you arrive, or as you leave.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer, the centre and summit of the entire celebration is a memorial proclamation of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation, a proclamation in which the Body and Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and the people are joined to Christ in offering his Sacrifice to the Father

The Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: **And with your spirit.**
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right and just.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

Eating and drinking together of the Lord's Body and Blood in a Paschal meal is the culmination of the Eucharist. The themes underlying these rites are mutual love and reconciliation. These are the condition and the fruit of worthy communion and the unity of the many in the One.

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Please observe the regulations on social distancing when processing to receive Holy Communion.

As you approach the minister, please do so with arms at "full stretch" to keep a good distance between you.

Communion will be given silently, and in the hand only. (Your hands - palms upwards, one of top of the other - should be extended as flatly as possible.)

Prayer after Communion

The Concluding Rites

The brief Concluding Rite sends us forth to put into effect in our daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ which we have celebrated. Our mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

Blessing and Dismissal

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Our Parish Lenten Collection (taken at the Mass of the Lord's Supper) will this year be divided 50/50 between the World Development Group and the parish SVP Group.

Have a bicycle you no longer need?

The Bike Project is in urgent need of bikes to be fixed & donated to refugees and asylum seekers in Birmingham, London and their surrounding areas.

For details <https://thebikeproject.co.uk/>

New on Parish Blog for 2021

Weekly mini-essays exploring the Eucharist. Origins and influences on the Mass; exploring particular prayers; and looking at how we celebrate - and how we might celebrate more fruitfully....

www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

This week take a look at the accounts of the early Church and of the Breaking of Bread.