

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.

You and everyone are welcome to come and simply 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.

Exploring Vatican II

Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others; The light, O Jesus, will be all from you; none of it will be mine; It will be you, shining on others, through me. St John Henry Newman

Monday night's discussion focused on Chapter 2 of *Fratelli Tutti* and, in particular, on the parable of The Good Samaritan.

We thought about how the challenging nature of the parable can be lost if it's thought of as simply asking us to be kind. It would have been incredibly shocking to Jesus' hearers. The implied criticism of the members of the religious authorities who passed by, putting the compliance with religious laws above offering care and showing compassion to the injured man and the fact that a member of the despised Samaritans was the one who reached out without thought of reward or praise.

We discussed how, sometimes, it is hard to do the right thing or be sure what the right thing is. It can be challenging to ask ourselves our motives for doing good. *The Good Samaritan* overturns all the restrictions that we might try to place onto the commandment of love. Everyone should feel called to become the other person's neighbour, without limitations.

In thinking of meeting strangers on the road we came back to the idea of having meaningful conversations and of the need to provide opportunities to encourage these to take place.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal

Thank you for your generous response to the recent emergency appeal to assist the survivors of the recent Turkish/Syrian earthquake.

This Sunday we have the annual Lenten appeal. The annual collection will help 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.

Also this year one of our parishioners, Matteo, is part of the National CAFOD Team running in the London Marathon. If you want to sponsor him please visit his Just Giving page at <http://bit.ly/3Z3L06Dor> use the link on our parish blog for 20th February



Young Families Group

A note from the group coordinators, following its meeting on Sun 26 Feb:

The first thing we wanted to mention is that it looks like a Young Families Group has been well received among us. Even some of those who could not attend our last two meetings expressed the willingness to do so in the near future and this gives us some motives to try and make our gatherings a regular appointment where everyone is welcome.

Simplicity will probably be key, so we are looking at organising our meetings after the 9am Mass that most of us attend, having some chats and refreshments, but at the same time getting to know each other a bit more. However, this timing will also allow people who attend the 11am Mass to join *before* they go to Mass.

In addition, we are also thinking of having a day out in Spring (May/June perhaps) nearby to enjoy the weather (hopefully!) and have some fun.

Keep an eye on the newsletter for more information



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 Car Park

The new car park arrangements came into effect last Monday.

A reminder that a single-period free parking permit is automatically issued

- On Saturdays for those arriving after 5.30pm and leaving before 7.30pm,; and on Sundays for those arriving after 8am and leaving before 2pm a free permit covering those hours is automatically issued. **This means that the vast majority of those coming by car to Sunday Mass need do nothing other than arrive and leave within the given times**
- On Mondays to Wednesdays for those arriving after 9.30am and leaving before 11.30am and on Friday for those arriving after 6.30pm and leaving before 8.30pm a free permit covering those hours is automatically issued. **This means that the vast majority of those coming by car to Weekday**

Mass need do nothing other than arrive and leave within the given times

Permits will be automatically issued in this way for our Masses at other times too - e.g. funerals and Holy Week services. The times of eligibility for permits for these other events will be confirmed well in advance.

These automatic permits are automatically issued each time a vehicle enters drive onto the car park during the 'privileged' times. You need do nothing more.

At other times free parking is automatically permitted for ONE HOUR. So long as you arrive and leave within a period of 60 minutes you do not need to do anything more.

However, if you are attending an event in the church or meeting rooms that is **not** covered by the automatic permit then **when you arrive** please use a smart-phone to scan **the QR code which will be available where your meeting takes place**, and enter your vehicle registration number. If you do not have a smart-phone, meeting organisers will be asked to ensure one is available for your use.

The system is designed to ensure our car park is more available for parishioners' use and to inconvenience as few parishioners as possible! **If it causes you difficulties, please see Fr Allen to see what more can be done.**

MARCH 2023		PARISH MASSES THIS WEEK	
Sa	11	6pm	For the parish
Su	12	9am	3rd Sunday of Lent Sean Butler RIP (McGrath)
		11am	
M	13	10am	Mollie Bagnall RIP (Walsh)
T	14	11am	Funeral Mass of Rachel Upham
W	15	10am	Ints of Lucy Szambir (S)
Th	16		
F	17	7pm	St Patrick Rachel Upham RD (Burke)
Sa	18	6pm	4th Sunday of Lent Thomas Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
Su	19	9am	For the parish
		11am	Rachel Upham (Meehan)

Sacrament of Confession: Friday 19.30 (after Mass), until 8pm; and Sat 5-5.30pm - and by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick: 11am, last Friday of month

Please pray for parishioners who are sick including Gino Mastroianni, David Cotton, Rita Rhodes, Stephen Burke; Brenda Davies; Lesley Devlin; Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Jean Lawlor; Joanne McShane & Teresa Monteiro. **Please pray** for Rachel Upham (funeral details above) and Maria Szambir, Ronald Matthias, Dymphna Murphy, Ellie Manville, Betty Sawbridge, Edward Murphy, Bronia Schmid 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

Confession Times

It is rare for people to come to confession on Saturday evenings, and many more are coming on Fridays. So as to better serve the current need, Confession times - from Sunday 26th March - will change to Friday 18.30-18.55; 19.30 (after Mass), until 20.00; and Sat 5.30-5.45. - and by appointment. *(NB This change will not effect the times already booked for children making their first Confession.)*

Want to explore faith for your own sake

- perhaps to be baptised or received into the Church? Please speak with Fr Allen, or just come to the parish house for brief chat over coffee on Tues 21st March.

The Introductory Rites

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

The Liturgy of the Word

Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?'

Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' the Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9



Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us:
for he is our God and we/
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

Romans 5:1-2,5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged
righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and

through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace
in which we can boast about looking forward to God's
glory. And this hope is not deceptive, because the love
of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy
Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless
when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful
men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though
of course for someone really worthy, a man might be
prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is
that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! Lord, you are really the
saviour of the world: give me the living water, so that I
may never get thirsty. *Glory and praise to you, O Christ!*

John 4:5-16,19-26,39-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near
the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well
is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight
down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When
a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to
her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the
town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him,
'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan,
for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Sa-
maritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God
is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me
a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he
would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well
is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a
greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well
and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?'

Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get
thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that
I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that
I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling
up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so
that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here
again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fa-
thers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that
Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.'

Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father neither on this
mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do
not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation
comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact
it is here already – when true worshippers will wor-
ship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of
worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those
who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is,
Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us
everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on
the strength of the woman's testimony when she said,

'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samar-
itans came up to him, they begged him to stay with
them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to
them many more came to believe; and they said to
the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of
what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and
we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful

Priest: We pray to the Lord.

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

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.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Offertory *NB Our next collections for the Bethany
Food Bank are today and 19th March*

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus Ibi est
(Where there is charity and love, there is God.)

The Eucharistic Prayer



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The Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer

Communion thanksgiving

Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast;
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,
wash me with water flowing from thy side.

Strength and protection may thy passion be;
O Blessed Jesus, hear and answer me;
deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me;
so shall I never, ever part from thee.

Guard and defend me from the foe malign;
in death's dread moment make me only thine;
call me, and bid me come to thee on high,
when I may praise thee with thy saints for aye.

Concluding Rites

Gift Aid & Planned Giving Envelopes

Many people who are in a position to Gift Aid their
offertory gift to support the life and work of the parish
prefer to do this by Standing Order. This is increasing-
ly encouraged in the Diocese, for all sorts of reasons.

- **The form to set up Gift Aid and Standing Orders** is available on the table at the entrance into the church.
- **New Envelopes for those in the Gift Aid scheme** but not using Standing Orders are now available in the church.
- **Weekly envelopes** (for those who plan their giving but do not Gift Aid), should see Fr Allen who can provide boxes of envelopes for their use.

St Patrick's Night Celebrate Ireland's history and
culture in readings of literature & music recordings.
8pm in Benedict Room (access by outside ramp at
back of church.) Bring your own drinks and snacks.

Sunday Friends are meeting on Sunday 12th
March 2-4pm in The Newman Community Centre.
All are welcome to join us for an inclusive and
fun afternoon, particularly people with learning
disabilities/special needs and or autism and their
family/ carers. The activities will be about 'Preparing
for Easter'. Refreshments will be provided.