

**Exodus 3:1-8,13-15**

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' Moses answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers,' he said, 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow, the home of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "I Am has sent me to you."' And God also said to Moses, 'You are to say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Please see the separate Lenten Leaflet.*

**1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12**

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

**Next Week: Fourth Sunday of Lent**

*Scripture readings: Jos 5:9a, 10-12 / Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 / 2 Cor 5:17-21 / Lk 15:1-3, 11-12*

**W**e 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**



These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Glory and praise to you, O Christ.* Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. *Glory and praise to you, O Christ.*

**Luke 13:1-9**

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

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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*

**Why does the Church keep Lent?**

There are basically two reasons.

The first, and the one that probably comes most easily to mind, is that it is a time to repent of our sins, and turn from those things which mark and mar our lives. And so we have our Lenten Pences and we are urged to make use of the Sacrament of Confession for the healing of our lives.

**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.



The second, and – for my money – the most important, is that we keep Lent to help us to better know our need for Easter, find fresh gratitude that the gift

of Easter has been given to us, and the joy that makes us ready and able to celebrate it. Lent is summed up, and Easter is launched in the extraordinarily important Liturgies of the Triduum – that bridge of three days between the seasons of Lent and Easter. They begin on the evening of Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, continue with the Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday and culminating in the most important of them all – the Easter Vigil.

Do please give thought to clearing your diary so as to make the most of these days and the liturgies.

**You deserve it!**



**Prayer in Holy Week**

<b>Palm Sunday</b> 14 April	Mass: 6pm Saturday, and 9am & 11am Sunday
Mon 15	• Mass at 10am
Tues 16	
Weds 17	• Mass at 10am • <i>Chrism Mass at St Chad's Cathedral, 11.30am</i>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> 18 April	• 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper. • <i>(Optional!) Watching at altar of repose, ending with Night Prayer at 10.45pm</i>
<b>Good Friday</b> 19 April	• 9.30am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer • 11am Stations of the Cross (beginning in playground of St Nicholas School) • 3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion • 7pm Quiet prayer at the Cross, and Night Prayer
<b>Holy Saturday</b> 20 April	• 10am Morning Prayer and Office of Readings • 8pm Easter Vigil
<b>Easter Sunday</b> 21 April	• Mass at 9am & 11am • 4.30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Evening Prayer

**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



**Masses Week of the Third Sunday of Lent**

S	23	Third Sunday of Lent <i>Psalter Week 3 and Lenten Proper</i>	1700 1800	<b>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</b> Thomas Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
Su	24		0900 1100 1700	For the parish Tony Lawlor RIP (Lawlor) Prayerful reading of 1 Peter, followed by brief Exposition and Evening Prayer
M	25	<b>ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</b>	1000* 1030 1500	Tom Hempenstall (Hickey) <b>Reflection on the Last Words (Benedict Rm)</b> <b>Exposition and Rosary for Vocations</b>
T	26		1000*	Decsd members of Cleary Family (Sterling)
W	27		1000*	Christine Davis (McNeil)
Th	28			
F	29		1900*	Christopher Bayliss Ints (Hempenstall) <b>followed by 30 mins exposition</b>
S	30	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent <i>Psalter Week 4 and Lenten Proper</i></b>	1700 1800	<b>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</b> Gerard McGrath RD (Craig)
Su	31		0900 1100 1700	For the parish For Syria Prayerful reading of 1 Peter, followed by brief Exposition and Evening Prayer

**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 Betty Sawbridge who died recently, and whose funeral Mass is at 10am on Tuesday 9th April, and for Philip Cassera, Sheila Hindle, Sarah Finnegan, Tony Lawlor, Eileen Headley, Bernard Floor, 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.

## 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, 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 are good to commit to memory, to hold in our hearts, one of the most important 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.

- One of the songs we are using regularly at Mass during Lent is the following.

**Jesus, name above all names, Beautiful Saviour, glorious Lord. Emmanuel, God is with us. Blessed Redeemer, Living word.**

It is a song of devotion, and will also be regularly used as a song during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Committed to heart it is a beautiful song to use when we want to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and praise at any time.

**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 brief meeting after the Sunday Masses **THIS WEEKEND** to introduce these liturgies to the youngsters and their families and help them to volunteer to help and take part.

## Parish

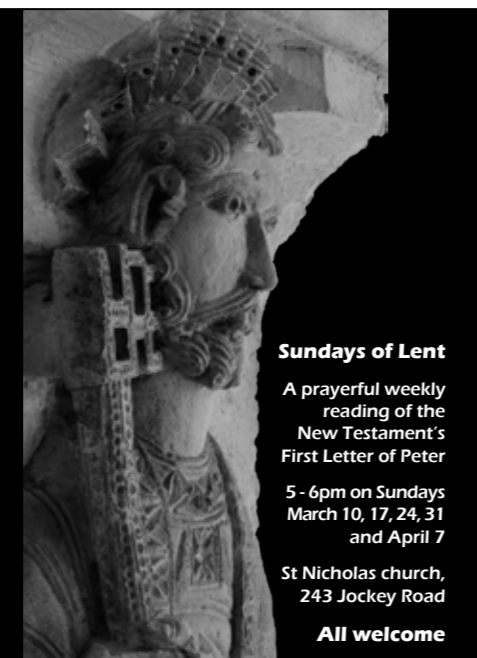
**CAFOD Lent Fast Day.** There is a retiring collection today for our Lenten donations to CAFOD. CAFOD is presently collecting to relieve the emergency in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi caused by Cyclone Idai. Envelopes are available or you can donate directly online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

**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

**Rotas. 1. Greeters** Thank you to Judy Pocock for the new rota which has been circulated and copies are available in the porch. **2. The Rota for Holy Week** has been prepared. Thank you to those readers who have made themselves available.

## Dads' Get Together

The next meeting is on Monday 8th April at 8pm. It will include a reflection from Paul Wildman on being a dad. Lively conversation, with nice food and drink too.



### 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

**Still lots of places for ministers of Holy Communion to sign up.**

**Scripture group** 7.30pm, Mon 29 April in the Benedict Room to read Chaps 13 & 14 of Luke's Gospel. All welcome. **Teas and Coffees in Benedict Room** after each Sunday Mass. All are 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.

**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!)

**50/50 Club** winners for March: 1st prize Mrs P. Ord 2nd prize Ms C. Howlett and 3rd prize Mrs P. Bligh. *Final call: If you have recently paid a sub by Giro, please spk to Fr Allen, we don't have your address in case you win!*

## Shop 'til you drop (in the parish Repository!)

Easter cards; Mother's Day Card and Holy Communion gifts all available now!

**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.*

**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.

## Hope and Challenge for Lent



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>)

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...

**The Traidcraft Stall** continues to operate each month, but on a smaller scale and concentrating mainly on food products.

**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.

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

## Diocese

**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](mailto:beccy.roseman@kenelmouthtrust.org.uk)

**Teacher of Mathematics** and a **Teacher of Science** (UPS/MPS) sought for St Edmund Campion Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre with effect from September 2019. A TLR2B will be available to the successful candidates for a Curriculum/Pastoral responsibility. Application pack from Mary Finnegan, PA to Headteacher, on 0121 464 7040 or [www.stedcamp.bham.sch.uk](http://www.stedcamp.bham.sch.uk)

**St Joseph's Home, Coleshill,** offers Catholic residential care to older people

## Family Stations of the Cross Good Friday, 11am

There will be a rehearsal at 2pm on Monday 15 April for ALL who wish to be involved in acting out the parts of the Passion in this service.

All children and adults are welcome to come and take a part.



**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.**

Pope Francis

- **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?**