

Dads’ Meeting

The next meeting of our laid-back, chilled out Dads’ group is scheduled for Monday 4th March at 7.45pm. Meeting, as usual, in the Benedict Room. Bring a bottle to drink/share! Warm snacks will be provided.

The focus of the meeting will be the recent ‘starting the conversation’ meeting at Four Oaks. All topics raised can be explored, but maybe we will focus especially on what more might be done - by us - to draw young people into fuller participation in the life of the Church.

All young Dads are welcome!

A fresh invitation to ALL in year 3 (and older - even up to age 90, or even older).

It would be good to have more servers at Mass. Volunteer now and be match-fit in time for Holy Week!

Interested in learning more? Stay in church for a brief meeting after each of THIS Sunday’s Masses.

NEW Women’s Group

Come to a new vibrant Women’s Group at our parish church and connect with like-minded women, share the joys and challenges of being a woman in today’s world, being a mother - if you are one, and deepen your faith in a warm and welcoming environment. Build friendships, join enriching discussions, and engage in activities that resonate with local women. Whether you’re single, married, a new mother, a seasoned parent, or simply seeking to connect with other Catholic women, our group provides understanding, support, and encouragement in your faith and life. Celebrate the unique gifts of women in the Catholic faith and join us for inspiring events and educational opportunities.

1st meeting: Friday 8th March at 19:30 in Benedict Room, St. Nicholas (access by ramp, behind church to left of church)

The ‘Year of Prayer’

2023-24 has been designated the Year of Prayer by Pope Francis, with a particular emphasis on the *Our Father*. It will help us prepare for the Jubilee Year “Pilgrims of Hope”. It presents our Church with a significant opportunity to revisit the basics of prayer, and for us to become even more a people of prayer.

This year a weekly teaching about prayer related to each Sunday’s readings is posted on our parish blog. This resource has been prepared by Fr Rob Taylerson, Spiritual Director at Oscott College.



Our Lent parish collection for CAFOD takes place this week. If you would like to gift aid your donation, or to make your donation on line, please go to: <https://cafod.org.uk/give>

Easter cards for prisoners

Members of our parish Art Group and children from St Nicholas school are working together to prepare Easter Cards to send to prisoners in chaplaincies in a couple of local prisons. All that is needed to prepare a card yourself is to collect one from Fr Allen, colour the front cover, add your first name and return to Fr Allen before 15th March.

Baptism preparation

Our next Baptism preparation course for parents begins on Saturday 16th March at 12noon meeting in the Benedict Room (directly behind the church, access by ramp.) Parents wishing to take part are asked to see Fr Allen to get an information form to be completed and returned before 16th March.

New CTS booklets- all on sale in the porch, including a variety of booklets with a Lenten theme: *Lenten Devotions* from the Dominicans’ Rosary Shrine; a *Stations of the Cross*, composed in light of the work of the SVP. Also a guide to a *Scriptural Rosary*, a book of *Devotions to the Sacred Heart*, and a reflection on Christian vocation.

Time to sell some of the family silver?

As many will know the first St Nicholas church in Boldmere stood on Boldmere Rod. When we moved from there we retained the leasehold on land that has since been developed by others. That provides the parish with an annual income of c£900. The lease reverts to the parish in 36 years. However we have recently been asked whether we would be intersted in selling the ownership of the lease, perhaps raising up to £100K for the parish. Professional advice already received is that this is a deal well worth our exploring further - and should we agree to seek to make a sale we will of course continue to be guided by professional advisors to ensure we get a good deal.

But before proceeding with any negotiations I invite comments from parishioners whether we should proceed to achieve a sale on the basis outlined above.

Were we to sell the lease then the intention would be to use the proceeds to upgrade some of the facilities provided in the Newman Centre, and to redecorate and upgrade the church. For each of these projects to progress we will need two groups to oversee them. But more details on that when we have concluded whther to seek to sell the leasehold to propoerties on Boldmere Road. I look forward to receiving your comments, and will then see how to take it from there. Fr. Allen



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US

Website: www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk

E-mail: stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk Telephone: 0121 354 1763

Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

Cluster blog: www.catholicsuttoncoldfield.wordpress.com

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris Deacon: Rev John Garvey

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

MARCH 2024: PARISH MASSES

Sa	2	6pm	3rd SUNDAY IN LENT	Thomas & Margaret O’Gorman RIP
Su	3	9am		For the parish
		11am		Sheila Sutton RIP (Evans)
M	4	10am		Josie Darcey RIP (Satchwell)
T	5	10am		Hughie McGrath RIP
W	6			
Th	7	10am		Danny Scally RIP (Ward)
F	8	7pm	Day of Prayer for the Holy Land and its peoples	Joseph & Mary Enright RIP (Ord)
Sa	9	6pm	4th SUNDAY IN LENT Laetare Sunday Mothers’ Day	Thomas Venables RIP (V)
Su	10	9am		For the parish
		11am		Linda Stephenson RIP (Brennan)

Anointing of the Sick: Next celebration is 26th April at 11am

Sacrament of Confession: Friday 18.30-18.55; 19.30 (after Mass), until 20.00; and Sat 5.30-5.45 — and by appointment

NB there are no confessions after Mass on Friday 8th.

RESOURCES FOR PRAYER.

1. Parish prayer on Zoom (links on parish website homepage)
Morning Prayer: Mon to Sat at 8.30am
2. Readings of the day and much more at Universalis.com
3. Resources for the Year of Prayer: <https://bit.ly/47kMBYS>

Please pray for those who are sick including June Morris, Mary Daniels, Lucy Szambir, Betty O’Connor; Theresa Monteiro; Craig Brooks, Brenda Davies; Stephen Burke; Lesley Devlin & Jean Lawlor. Please pray for Ray Simmonds, Margaret Healy, John Banks, Margaret Farrell, Christopher Coxall and all others whose anniversaries occur at this time.

WEEKDAY SOCIAL. Tuesdays after 10am Mass. All are welcome.

PARISH CAR PARK Free parking for 1 hour is available for anyone at anytime in our carpark. Automatic free parking permits are issued to cover all parking on **Sat** from 5.30pm to 7.30pm; on **Sunday** from 8am to 2pm; on **Mon, Tues, Weds** from 9.30am to 11.30am and **Fri** from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. At other times, if on site for parish meetings and the like - to park for more than 1 hour, please scan the QR poster in the church or Benedict Room to extend your ‘free’ parking time.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory **Safeguarding** Guidance and the National and Archdiocesan policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Mary Rose. She can be contacted at: sg.stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk



LENT is a special time to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)**

Do take and make use of one of the preparation sheets specially prepared for this Year of Prayer.



Moving forward in Boldmere

Thank you to parishioners who on Monday came to a follow-up meeting to the CSC meeting at Four Oaks. We reflected on what we heard at the meeting, and the need to provide space to let others engage with the challenges we face and be listened to.

Two things were agreed at the meeting. The first is the need to do some succession planning - ensuring that all of those who have leadership roles in parish - eg safeguarding, finance, ordering for the repository etc - work together with a nominated ‘shadow’ so that at least two people have easy access to records etc, should someone be incapacitated because of ill health. There are also many tasks that it is agreed should not be being done by the parish priest, so look out for a list of vacancies for volunteers - some of which need filling urgently.

The second is that during Eastertide we should have a social meeting after each of the Sunday Masses - one meeting per Mass - to give everyone a chance to meet and talk, away from church benches and better understand the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. More details on this soon - but when dates are confirmed please make a note of them and make every attempt to attend.

Support Boldmere Library

The survival of local libraries is in doubt - including the future of Boldmere library. Yet such resources are of invaluable benefit to many members of our community. A new plan is being developed to help Boldmere library to be open more days a week, and be available for wider community use.

To become a **Friend of Boldmere Library** please email rob.pocock@birmingham.gov.uk putting ‘Library Friends’ in the subject line for more information.

The Introductory Rites
Opening Song

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 our 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.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

Exodus 20:1-17

God spoke all these words. He said, ‘I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no gods except me. ‘You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father’s fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

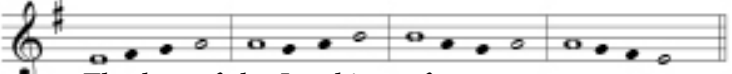
‘You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

‘Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

‘Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

‘You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. ‘You shall not steal. ‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. ‘You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.’

Psalm 18(19):8-11



The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.
The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb.

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die.Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

John 2:13-25

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money-changers’ coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, ‘Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father’s house into a market.’ Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, ‘What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?’ Jesus answered, ‘Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews replied, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead,

his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in 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

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 today and 17th March.

The Eucharistic Prayer



The mystery of faith



The Communion Rite

Communion thanksgiving

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

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Envelopes for Gift Aid & Planned Giving

Thank you - of course - to all parishioners who make donations to support the work of the parish.

Our Finance Committee invites all who can, to make their parish donations (Gift Aid or not) by Standing Order. When people do this it assists the parish in a variety of ways. It helps us with budgeting. It also reduces the amount of cash we need to count and take to the bank. NatWest - like many other banks - makes it more and more difficult to pay in coins and notes. Consequently many parishes are making a shift away from coin/note collections and where people do not wish to donate via a Standing Order, ask people to make their donation via contactless card readers. Presently the Finance Committee is loathe to make that change, because some of those presently making coin/note donation are less than keen on ‘new technology’. These might therefore like to think again about donating by standing Orders - and of course debits can be made weekly or monthly, according to your preference.

New Envelopes are now available for collection by all who wish to continue to use them. As are Standing Order/Gift Aid forms.