

## 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 meets in the Benedict Room each Wednesday afternoon from 1-3pm beginning on 8th March. All are welcome. For more information please speak with Geraldine Foster or Fr Allen.

## Exploring Vatican II



We ranged far and wide in our Monday discussions this week. A good deal of attention was paid to two things in particular.

The first was the importance of our being a community and not only people who happen to come together for Mass in our three different groupings once a week, or so.

We talked about the good things that can and do happen value of simply caring to say 'Hello' when someone comes to share our bench at Mass.

And we talked about the value of being part of a small group getting to know one another and exploring our faith (and the challenges of life!).

A number of groups got going just before COVID, and some have kept going. The plan is to revive that initiative again after the summer - and maybe some of those who have already experienced the benefit of being part of such a group will be ready to put their experience to the service of the parish and help new groups start to form around them.

The other main topic of conversation was around Holy Communion being ministered under both kinds. As yet few responses have been received from ministers and the wider parish so it is too soon to make firm plans. However it was noted how easy it can be to take Holy Communion for granted and just go through the motions, and what a difference it makes when we remain mindful and engage with the extraordinary gift of the Eucharist; of what or, better, 'who' we receive, and why it is that Holy Communion is gifted to us.

As always, there is value in renewing our appreciation of the Eucharist and our participation in it. The plan is to spend time beginning to draw some things together to refresh our understanding of our shared communion with Jesus, the Church and the World — **THE** focus of Vatican II too, of course, as well as the synodal process fostered by Pope Francis.

The 'Monday Group' has been working hard over past weeks. It's now taking a rest and will start up again in the Easter season.

## A day of prayer, reflection and fellowship

Saturday 25th March at St Mary the Mount Parish Centre, Walsall, WS1 3NF from 10.30am-2.30pm (lunch provided!). The day is run by members of Cursillo from both the Liverpool and Birmingham Archdioceses.



To book — or for more information — please contact Paul Northam at paul.northam@rcaob.org.uk

*We are all living in a very agitated world. With work and family commitments filling up our days, we very often find ourselves with few moments to reflect and pray. If this is your experience, this Encounter Day is for you! You are warmly invited to a day where you'll experience what Cursillo calls the three encounters: with God, with yourself and with others. Come and join us!*

## Lent and Easter Parish Penitential services

Open for all and the recommended occasion for Children's 2nd and subsequent confessions. 7pm on Tues March 28th at St Nicholas or 7pm on Mon April 3rd at Holy Cross.

### Times of principal Triduum services

- **Holy Thursday:** Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm;
- **Good Friday:** Stations at 10am and Solemn Liturgy at 3pm;
- **Easter Vigil,** 8pm and Easter Day 9 and 11am

**Jobs at JPPII Multi Academy - inc.** Headship, School Inclusion Lead, Admin Assisant and many others. For more details please go to <http://johnpaulii.co.uk/vacancies/>

## Young Families Group

The Young Families group meets in the Benedict Room for refreshments, for chat and getting to know one another after the 9am Mass on the last Sunday of each month.

This timing will also allow people who attend the 11am Mass to join before they go to Mass.

**Next meetings are on 26th March and 30 April.**

In addition, the group is 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

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

**Website:** [www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk](http://www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk)

**E-mail:** [stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk) **Telephone:** 0121 354 1763

**Parish Blog:** [www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com](http://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*

## MARCH 2023 PARISH MASSES THIS WEEK

Day	Time	Notes
Sa 18	6pm	Thomas Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
Su 19	9am	4th Sunday of Lent For the parish
	11am	
M 20	10am	ST JOSEPH Roddy Devlin RIP
T 21	NB 9.45am	John and Patricia Hughes RIP (H)
W 22	10am	Philip Cassera RIP) Cassera
Th 23		
F 24	7pm	(Confirmation Mass - space only for those being confirmed and their sponsors/families.)
Sa 25	6pm	5th Sunday of Lent For the parish
Su 26	9am	Intentions of the Buckley family (Walsh)
	11am	

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

## Parish Car Park

There is free parking at all times for one hour. And also automatic free parking permits are 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
- On **Mondays to Wednesdays** for those arriving after 9.30am and leaving before 11.30am and on **Fridays** for those arriving after 6.30pm and leaving before 8.30pm
- Permits are automatically issued in this way for **Masses at other times** too - e.g. funerals and Holy Week services. These other 'Free times' will be confirmed in advance.

Permits for 'privileged times' are automatically issued when a vehicle enters the car park during those times. You need do nothing more. At other times, if on site for parish meetings and the like, please scan the QR poster in the church or Benedict Room to extend your 'free' parking time.

## What is right and why?

So many moral issues surface in the public life of our nation, and the wider communities of which we are a part - freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom to protest, the right to life, care for the poor and needy. So many issues.

The Christian key to them all is, simply, Jesus - the Way, the Truth and the Light.

That said, things do not necessarily become easy to deal with. At the least we need to discern how Jesus helps us to address the competing priorities - but to be Christian we need to try to see how these priorities stand up in the light of the Gospel.

Sometimes people belittle the Christian perspective, but it is rare for Catholic Christians, at least to say 'x' is right simply because Jesus said it. Catholic Christian morality is founded on reason also. Things are right less because Jesus said so, rather Jesus said so because they are right - and we owe it to ourselves and to others (and to Jesus!) to strive to understand what is right and why.

This week a document came from the Bishops' Conference on the situation of migrants here and elsewhere. Called *Love the Stranger*, it urges us to do and stand up for what is good, right and true. It is available at [www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger)

## Confession Times

People rarely 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 come to parish house for brief chat over coffee with Fr Allen on Tues 21st March at 7pm.

## The Introductory Rites

*The light of Christ has come into the world,  
the light of Christ has come into the world.*

We must all be born again to see the kingdom of God; the water and the Spirit bring new life in God's love.

God gave up his only Son out of love for the world so that ev'ryone who believes in him will live for ever.

The light of God has come to us so that we might have salvation; from the darkness of our sins we walk into glory with Christ Jesus.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

### Psalm 22(23)



The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures / where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path; / he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness / no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.

## Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: 'Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

## Gospel Acclamation

*Glory and praise to you, O Christ!* I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. *Glory and praise to you, O Christ!*

## John 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?'

His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see," your guilt remains.'

## Prayer of the Faithful

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 19th March and April 2nd*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;  
where there is injury your pardon, Lord;  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness only light;  
and where there's sadness ever joy.

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
In giving to our neighbour we receive;  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

## The Eucharistic Prayer

**Sanctus**, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt caeli et terra, Hosanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

## Memorial Acclamation

Morem tuam annuntiamus, Domine  
et tuam resurrectionem confitemur, donec venias

## The Communion Rite

### The Lord's Prayer

### Communion thanksgiving

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

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## 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 increasingly 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.