

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 this Sunday Gospel, exploring something of the social implications of the Gospel for us in our parish, and here in Boldmere?

John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.'

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

Some reflection questions:

- Jesus offers himself so others might have eternal life. Some tough questions to start with (!) but how do you understand Jesus to offer himself? And what does 'eternal life' mean to you? When does it begin? For whose benefit is it?
- Another tough question. How is the world to be saved?
- How might people know that what we say about Jesus is true – Son of God, and Saviour, etc? What difference do those things make to you in your daily life? How does your belief in Jesus make a difference to how you are with others?
- How does the Church show it has chosen the light? *Does* the Church show it has chosen the light?



You are welcome to email your thoughts to Fr Allen!

Prayer at home *but with the parish*

Full details of our present range of on-opportunities to join with other members of the parish for prayer on-line are given on the homepage of the parish website.

If you know people who are not ready to return to Sunday or weekday Mass, do please help them to make use of the on-line opportunities to remain actively engaged with their parish.

St Chad's Sanctuary

In order to not only survive but to continue to meet the ever growing needs of asylum seekers and refugees, St Chad's Sanctuary is appealing for additional support. This is a time of particular need for the Sanctuary and they would appreciate your prayers and your financial support.

On Ash Wednesday, February 17th 2010, St Chad's Sanctuary welcomed our first sylum seekers and refugees. Building relationships of trust and friendship was soon coupled with the provision of essentials like food, clothing and hygiene products as well as the teaching of English as a second language and welfare support. We have been so blessed by the support especially of the Catholic community: parishes, schools and chaplaincies as well as amazing individuals. Together, we have made the project something that has made a massive difference in the lives of countless individuals and set them on the road to a new life very different from some of the circumstances of desperation that they left behind. Covid-19 presented new challenges which are met with courage, creativity and great generosity by the Sanctuary team and our benefactors.

More information at
www.stchadssanctuary.com/

Churches Together in Boldmere, Banners Gate and Wylde Green: Full Council Meeting to be held on 23rd March 2021 at 7.30 pm by Zoom. If you would like to attend, please email Fr Allen.

Pastoral Letter: The Archbishop's Pastoral Letter is available on our parish blog from noon on 14th March, and will also be available on the Archdiocesan website.

Vacancies:
ST EDMUND CAMPION CATHOLIC SCHOOL is looking to appoint two administrative assistants from April 2021 to provide high quality administrative support. Needed for April 2021; Working Pattern: Term Time only + 10 Days; 8:30 – 16:30. For further information: please go to <https://johnpaulii.co.uk/vacancies/>

HOLY NAME CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, Great Barr are looking for a class teacher (NQT or experienced) with a possible TL-R2a (£2,873 dependent on skills and experience) to start in September 2021 (or earlier). Email headteacher@holyname.sandwell.sch.uk if you are interested.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US
Telephone: 0121 354 1763 **Email:** stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk
Website: www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk
Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding: Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)
Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

Liturgies of Holy Week and Easter Day

- Palm Sunday: Masses, 6pm (27/3); 9 and 11am (28/3)
 - Maundy Thursday (1/4): *Mass of the Lord's Supper*, 7.30pm
 - Good Friday (2/4): *Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion*, 3pm
 - Holy Saturday (3/4), *Easter Vigil*, 8pm
 - Easter Day (4/4), Mass at 9am and 11am
- Given the COVID restrictions that are in place, those who wish to attend these liturgies must book tickets via Eventbrite. The link is provided on the front page of our parish website.

Tickets are still available for most of the Liturgies of Holy Week.

- **If you book tickets and find you cannot use them, please do return them via Eventbrite.**
- **If you find tickets are not available at present, please try again later. At Christmas a number of tickets were returned to Eventbrite even immediately before the Liturgies.**

PLEASE NOTE that to help us observe COVID guidelines each booking should be for a single household/bubble (i.e. those able to sit together as a family group, not keeping social distance). If you wish to book for someone outside of your household, you are very welcome to do so but please book that ticket separately. For example, if you are booking five tickets, four for your household and one for a neighbour, please book twice, once for four tickets, and once for one ticket.

If you are not successful in booking tickets for Easter Sunday, then do please remember that Easter Day has its octave. So you can come to celebrate Easter Day at any of our parish Masses during Easter week (i.e. Mass at 10am on 5, 6, 7 April.)

Also there will be the opportunity to join with others from the parish in live Zoom celebration of parts of the Liturgy of the Hours on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. More details of this next week.

Still shielding but want to come to Mass in Holy Week?

There will be a special celebration on Thursday 1st April at 11am *solely for those who are presently shielding (and one accompanying person from their household/bubble)* and who will not otherwise be able to come to our parish celebration of the Triduum. *Places are strictly limited because of the additional social distancing which will be in place. If you wish to attend this Mass - or if you want to reserve a place for a family member/friend, please email Fr Allen directly giving the name of those for whom places are requested.*

Keeping Safe at 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			
Sa	13	6pm	4th Sunday in Lent
Su	14	9am	
		11am	
M	15	10am	Elizabeth McKay (50 B'day) (Warrallo)
T	16	10am	Fr Patrick Joyce RD (McDermott)
W	17	10am	St Patrick Decsd of the Cleary family (Sterling)
Th	18		
F	19	7pm	ST JOSEPH For the fathers of our parish
Sa	20	6pm	5th Sunday in Lent
		9am	
Su	21	11am	

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 Mike O'Reilly & Kathleen Melody who died recently; & Christopher Coxall, Maria Szampir, Ronald Matthias, Dymphna Murphy, Ellie Manville, Betty Sawbridge, 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.

2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all

the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

Psalm 136(137):1-6

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps.

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.'

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys!

Ephesians 2:4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son: everyone who believes in him has eternal life. *Glory and praise to you, O Christ!*

John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

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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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Bright sadness is the true message and gift of Lent.

Little by little we begin to understand, or rather to feel, that the sadness of Lent is indeed 'bright', that a mysterious transformation is about to take place in us. It is as if we were reaching a place to which the noises and fuss of life, of the street, of all that usually fills our days and even nights, have no access - a place where they have no power.

All that seemed so tremendously important to us as to fill our mind, that state of anxiety which has virtually become our second nature, disappear somewhere and we begin to feel free, light and happy. It is not the noisy and superficial happiness which comes and goes twenty times a day and is so fragile and fugitive; it is a deep happiness which comes not from a single and particular reason but from our soul having, in the words of Dostoevsky, touched 'another world'. And that which it has touched is made up of light and peace and joy, of an inexpressible trust.

Alexander Schmemmann.