

**Joshua 5:9-12**

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Please see the separate Lenten Leaflet.*

**2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Glory and praise to you, O Christ. I will leave this place and go to my father and say: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.' Glory and praise to you, O Christ.*

**Luke 15:1-3,11-32**

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he

**Next Week: Fifth Sunday of Lent**

*Scripture readings: Is 43:16-21 / Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 / Phil 3:8-14 / Jn 8:1-11*

**Exposition and Benediction at St Nicholas**

**Sunday** *Weekly during Lent*

**1700—1900**

**Monday** **Exposition and Rosary**

**1500—1600**

*Praying for vocations*

**Friday** **Exposition**

**1930—2000**

*and prayer for the Church*

**Saturday** **Exposition and**

**1700—1740**

**Sacrament of Confession**



would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"

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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*

**Preparing for Confession?**

When we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbours and other creatures – and ourselves as well – since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand: we start to live a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself. We yield to those untrammelled desires that the Book of Wisdom sees as typical of the ungodly, those who act without thought for God or hope for the

future (cf. 2:1-11). Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans "I want it all and I want it now!" and "Too much is never enough", gains the upper hand.

The root of all evil, as we know, is sin, which from its first appearance has disrupted our communion with God, with others and with creation itself, to which we are linked in a particular way by our body. This rupture of communion with God likewise undermines our harmonious relationship with the environment in which we are called to live, so that the gar-

den has become a wilderness (cf. Gen 3:17-18). Sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests, to the detriment of other creatures.

Once God's law, the law of love, is forsaken, then the law of the strong over the weak takes over. The sin that lurks in the human heart (cf. Mk 7:20-23) takes the shape of greed and unbridled pursuit of comfort, lack of concern for the good of others and even of oneself. It leads to the exploitation of creation, both persons and the environment, due to that insatiable covetousness which sees every desire as a right and sooner or later destroys all those in its grip.

*Pope Francis*

**Masses Week of the Fourth Sunday of Lent**

| S  | 30 | Fourth Sunday of Lent                   | 1700  | <b>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</b>  |
|----|----|---|-------|--|
|    |    |   | 1800  | Gerard McGrath RD (Craig)  |
| Su | 31 | <i>Psalter Week 4 and Lenten Proper</i> | 0900  | For the parish   |
|    |    |   | 1100  | For Syria  |
|    |    |   | 1700  | <i>Prayerful reading of 1 Peter, followed by brief Exposition and Evening Prayer</i> |
| M  | 1  |   | 1000* | Mary Jones RIP (Shiel)   |
|    |    |   | 1030  | <b>Reflection on the Last Words (Benedict Rm)</b>                                    |
|    |    |   | 1500  | <b>Exposition and Rosary for Vocations</b>   |
| T  | 2  |   | 1000* | Tom Hempenstall (Perks)  |
| W  | 3  |   | 1000* | Joe Kennedy RIP (Rhodes)   |
| Th | 4  |   |       |  |
| F  | 5  |   | 1000  | Mass w St Nicholas Schl: Jane Taylor Ints (Leese)                                    |
|    |    |   | 1900* | T's Intentions (Drozdz)  |
|    |    |   |       | <b>followed by 30 mins exposition</b>  |
| S  | 6  | <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>             | 1700  | <b>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</b>  |
|    |    |   | 1800  | Anne and Brian McDonnell RIP (Burke)   |
| Su | 7  | <i>Psalter Week 1 and Lenten Proper</i> | 0900  | Michael O'Hara RD (Redmond)  |
|    |    |   | 1100  | For the parish   |
|    |    |   | 1700  | <i>Prayerful reading of 1 Peter, followed by brief Exposition and Evening Prayer</i> |

**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 Bernard Poller, Paddy Lynn, Richard Mooney, Marie Fulford, Maria Phan Thi Minh, Domenico Macerola, June Furley, 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 sick parishioners please complete the form available in the porch and pass to Fr Allen so we meet the requirements of current Data Protection legislation.

**Prayer in Holy Week**

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

## 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, in what I have done 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.**

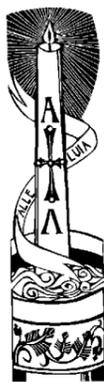
• Of all the multi purpose prayers that are good to commit to memory, to hold in our hearts, one of the most important is the Jesus Prayer. This prayer is prayed constantly by some, and very regularly by others, it comes to their lips whenever they are reminded of their need for the mercy and love of God:

**Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

## Youngsters and the Triduum

Thank you to those youngsters and families who have indicated how they wish to take an active role in our parish celebrations. Fr Allen will be in touch shortly to confirm practicalities.

If others in Years 3, 5 and 6 wish to take part, please see Fr Allen this weekend.



## Parish

**Thank you** for your donations to the Bishop Walsh Lourdes collection which raised £568.75 The St Patrick's Race Night organised by the school raised £865.10

**GIFT Aid** The new boxes of envelopes are available at the back of the church. 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. **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.

**Preparation for Baptism of Infants.** The next preparation programme starts

## For the sick and those who care for them

A simple and brief monthly service of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayer for the sick and for carers, and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Followed by light lunch.

**11am on First Fridays (usually). Next service is April 12th**

## A Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse

In February 2016, Pope Francis asked each Bishops' Conference to establish a Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse. The Bishops of England and Wales have decided that this Day of Prayer will be held on the Friday of the 5th Week of Lent, this year Friday 12 April.

In our parish each Friday, following the evening Mass we pray for those who have been abused, but on the 12 April all members of the Church are invited to pause and pray for this intention.

*Any suggestions as to how we might keep the day in our parish?*

Day by day, the pain of those who have suffered abuse, and its lasting corrosive impact, are brought more fully into the light. The pain of that betrayal of trust is all the more profound when the abuse took place within the community of the Catholic Church. We also see so clearly

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!)

**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.

the failures in leadership in the Church that have exacerbated the sufferings of those who have been abused. We have plenty of reasons to pray:

- For those who bear this pain, for their strength and perseverance.
- For those who have been caught up in the circles of mistrust, silence and complicity which emanate from this abuse.
- For repentance and renewal for all who have failed in their duty to protect and respond to the victims of these crimes.
- For a renewal in the life of our Church that has become a lodging place for this evil.

We pray in confidence that the Lord does not abandon His Church but constantly calls us to purify our ways of life. And we pray with Mary, our holy Mother, and finest expression of our Holy Mother, the Church.

## Confirmation 2019

All candidates are asked to write a brief note to Fr Allen this week, to confirm the details of your Lent/Summer service-project.

Please confirm what you have chosen to do in service of the parish community or other local community, the time commitment each week, and why you chose your particular project.



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

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

## 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.

**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 - and if you know someone who is isolated do please consider inviting them to come with you...*

## 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.



**Training for Children in yr 3 and above as ALTAR SERVERS** continues from 4.30 - 5.15 on Mondays April 1 and April 8. (Servers are asked to commit themselves to regularly serve at a particular Sunday Mass)



**Training for Children in year 4 and above as READERS FOR MASS** continues from 4.30 - 5.15 on Tuesdays 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.)



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

**St Joseph's Home, Coleshill,** offers Catholic residential care to older people and those living with dementia. Ring 01675 434500 for details.

## 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@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk](mailto:beccy.roseman@kenelmyouthtrust.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)

## Other

**A Lifeline for Marriages** Is your marriage stressed, unloving, cold? Do you want to improve your communication? Have you separated, divorced, or are you thinking of doing so? Do you want to try again? The Retrouvaille programme may be just what you need! Info from 0788 729 6983 or [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

## 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



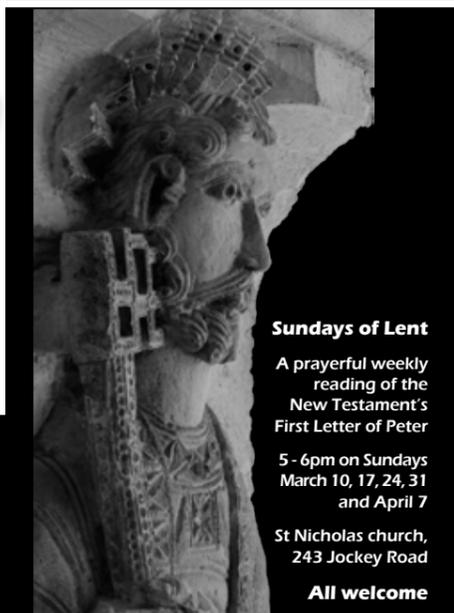
## Parish Lent cards

**It's far from being too late...**

Take a handful and spread them around. Leave them on buses and in cafes, in offices - anywhere and everywhere. Share the good news.



**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.



### 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

## 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.

Each week focuses on one of Jesus' 'Words from the Cross'.



- The 'Word' for the week forms the focus for the Sunday Service on Radio 4 (Sundays 8.10am)
- 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...