

A message from the St Chad's Way Runners



At 9.00 last Saturday we were waved off from St Chad's Cathedral, the Diocesan Mother Church, by Monsignor Timothy Menezes, cathedral dean, following a blessing, and all of us succeeded in reaching our goal of arriving at Lichfield Cathedral, home to the new major shrine to St Chad around 12.45.

Although it was very muddy and cold, the challenge to run the St Chad Way has been very rewarding and we surpassed our initial fundraising target of £500, having so far raised almost £1,500 (which doesn't include Gift Aid) for the St Nicholas World Development Group. We want to thank all parishioners. Thanks each of you for your support, generosity and prayers. Together we have contributed to enhancing the lives of those in need.

**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.

Help Needed

Recent *Catholic Sutton Coldfield* meetings have reminded of the need to share more broadly responsibilities for sustaining the life of our parish - and the upkeep of the parish church. Thank you on behalf of us all to each of those who already take an active part in this - volunteering time and energy and care for how we are and what we do.

We need to give more thought to what it means for us to free priests up to focus on what they are ordained for, and to see how best to deal with the rest. And we can probably most helpfully do this together with people from our sister parishes too. There are all sorts of things to give consideration to! In the meantime there are some more immediately practical things where help is urgently needed.

- The first is we are need to two or three people to help with counting the Sunday collection. This work is done by teams on a rota - each team helping maybe once a month, and a time convenient to them.
- The second is we are need of more people to join the teams of church cleaners - again assisting once a month or so.
- The third is it would be helpful to have a team doing a deep-clean in readiness for Easter - cleaning candle stands, etc.

If you can help in any of these ways please contact Fr Allen as soon as possible.

**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.

**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 interested 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.

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.

First responses to the parish consultation are on the noticeboard and most are approving. To add your thoughts please email Fr A asap so we can decide on the next steps.



**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)  
**Cluster blog:** [www.catholicssuttoncoldfield.wordpress.com](http://www.catholicssuttoncoldfield.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	9	6pm	4th SUNDAY IN LENT <i>Laetare Sunday</i> <i>Mothers' Day</i>	Thomas Venables RIP (V)	
Su	10	9am		For the parish	
		11am		Linda Stephenson RIP (Brennan)	
M	11	10am		Eleanor Gannon RIP (Satchwell)	
T	12	10am		Paul Craig RIP (Sterling)	
W	13				
Th	14				
F	15	7pm		Malcolm Caston RIP (Careiro)	
Sa	16	6pm	5th SUNDAY IN LENT	James & Joan Shipley (Ord)	
Su	17	9am		Frank and Ellen Manley RIP (Egan)	
		11am		Bridget and Thomas Watchorn RIP	
<b>Anointing of the Sick:</b> Next celebration is 26th April at 11am					
<b>Sacrament of Confession:</b> Friday 18.30-18.55; 19.30 (after Mass), until 20.00; and Sat 5.30-5.45 — and by appointment					

**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 Rachel Upham, Dymphna Murphy, Betty Sawbridge, Edward Murphy, Bronia Schmid 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](mailto:sg.stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk) Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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

Two things were agreed at the last parish 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. Dates are being arranged: when confirmed please do to make every attempt to attend.

**CATHOLIC SUTTON COLDFIELD**

**Lent 2024 Penitential Service**

Holy Cross & St Francis church, Walmley, B76 2RS

7pm  
Monday  
March 18<sup>th</sup>



The Introductory Rites

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

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.

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.’

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 17th March and April 7th.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Communion thanksgiving

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

Because of copyright restrictions it is not possible in the version of the newsletter that is published on-line to include the texts of hymns/songs that will be sung at our Sunday celebrations of Mass.

The mystery of faith

The Communion Rite

St Patrick’s Day Social

In the Benedict Room  
immediately after the  
6pm Mass on Saturday  
16<sup>th</sup> March.

All are welcome!

Happy  
Mother’s Day  
to all parish  
Mothers.

Parish Repository

Cards and gifts for Easter;  
for celebrations of First Holy  
Communion and Confirma-  
tion - and St Patrick’s Day.

Shop open before or after all  
Saturday/Sunday Masses

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