

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 THIS SUNDAY 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.



Christian Leadership Formation programme for Year 12 / Lower VI students

This is a unique opportunity. The programme offers:

- a holistic formation in the Catholic philosophy and theology underpinning key themes related to the common good (e.g. human dignity, human rights, civil law, subsidiarity, vision for a human ecology, distribution of public goods and finances, etc)
- a strong, liturgical framework of Mass, divine office, Eucharistic adoration, rosary, and a 12-hour silent retreat
- Workshops in public speaking, culture, statesmanship
- Team-building activities and socials

The previous cohort were all deeply impacted by the programme, regardless of what preconceptions, views and opinions they came with. Amongst their feedback, they said it was the best thing they'd done all year; they noted how it had opened their eyes to the world of theology; how they had transformed their ideas of a synonymity between their professional and spiritual lives; etc.

Bursaries available. Programme offered by Christian Heritage Retrace, St Mary's University, Twickenham, the Catholic Union of Great Britain, and Alliance Defending Freedom UK. **More details on Parish blog**

Parish Lunch

Come and join in a parish lunch after the 11am Mass and Corpus Christi procession with children from this year's Communion Programme on Corpus Christi (Sunday 11th June.) More details to follow.

Pastoral Letter follow-up Remember what the Archbishop asked last Sunday? Check his letter out on the parish blog or www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk Share with Fr Allen your thoughts about how we proceed...

Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage

An invitation is extended to married couples, those celebrating a milestone anniversary and those preparing to marry this year, to the annual Mass for Marriage at St Chad's Cathedral on Saturday 29th April at 12 Noon, followed by light refreshments. Please visit www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass to confirm your attendance.

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 (access from behind the church). All are welcome. For more information please speak with Geraldine Foster or 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

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/APRIL 2023 PARISH MASSES THIS WEEK

Day	Time	Notes
Sa 25	6pm	For the parish
Su 26	9am	5th SUNDAY OF LENT Intentions of the Buckley family (Walsh) Tony Lawlor RIP (Lawlor)
	11am	
M 27	10am	Maura Shortall, Anne Hyland & Teresa Woolgar RIP
T 28	10am	John Faralley RIP (O'Gorman)
W 29	10am	Joan and Larry Cullinan RIP (Lawlor)
Th 30		
F 31	7pm	Ints of Rita Rhodes (Leese)
Sa 1	6pm	PALM SUNDAY Peter and Olwyn Foster RIP (Makepeace) Angela Purcell RIP (Byrne)
	9am	
Su 2	11am	For the parish

Sacrament of Confession: Friday 18.30-18.55; 19.30 (after Mass), until 20.00; and Sat 5.30-5.45. - and by appointment
Anointing of the Sick: 11am, last Friday of month

Please pray for those who are sick including Brenda Davies; Gino Mastroianni, David Cotton, Rita Rhodes, Stephen Burke; Lesley Devlin; Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Jean Lawlor; Joanne McShane & Teresa Monteiro. **Please pray** for Betty Perks who died recently, & Kath Devenney, Philip Cassera, Sheila Hindle, Paul Garvey, Sarah Finnegan, Tony Lawlor, Margaret Gilnagh, Eileen Headley, Cara Gough, Margaret Lane, Kathleen Passey, Bernard Poller, Margaret O'Gorman, Kathleen O'Reilly and all whose anniversaries are at this time.

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.

HOLY WEEK? Have you considered how you will keep Holy Week holy this year?

The liturgies — beginning with Palm Sunday and then the Sacred Three Days (Triduum) of Holy Thursday evening, Good Friday afternoon and Holy Saturday evening — are some of the most beautiful and precious moments of prayer in the whole year.

The times of these liturgies here at St Nicholas are listed on the back page of the newsletter. Those receiving first sacraments this year — Holy Communion and Confirmation — are especially encouraged to attend, especially if you have not been to them before. Why? Because the Paschal Mystery is at the heart of our faith and without it the sacraments are drained of their meaning — and it is in Holy Week that we are most directly engaged by that Mystery.

Mass of Chrism in St Chad's Cathedral: Weds of Holy Week at 11.30am. Each Holy Week priests and bishops of the Archdiocese gather with Archbishop Bernard to renew their priestly promises and for the blessing of the Holy Oils used in the Sacraments of the Church across the Archdiocese over the coming year. All are welcome.

Anointing of the Sick & Exposition Friday 31st March at 11am

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.)*

Lenten Penitential services

Open to all — and the recommended occasion for Children's 2nd and subsequent confessions. 7pm on Tuesday March 28th at St Nicholas or 7pm on Monday April 3rd at Holy Cross and St Francis church, Walmley.

LITURGY, PRAYER AND PARKING DURING THE TRIDUUM

Zoom Morning Prayer 8.30am on Fri and Sat.
Link available on parish website homepage

Maundy Thursday 6th April

Parking restrictions lifted on Maundy Thursday for those arriving **after 6pm** and leaving **before 11pm**.

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm

Watching at the altar of repose follows the Mass, ending with Night Prayer beginning at 9.15pm

Good Friday 7th April

Parking restrictions lifted on Good Friday for those arriving from **one hour before** and leaving within **one hour after** the end of each service.

Stations of the Cross 10am

Solemn Liturgy 3pm

Quiet prayer before the Cross in solidarity with all who suffer.
8pm: *Litany of Divine Mercy / Night Prayer* From 7pm

Easter Vigil 8th April

Parking restrictions lifted on Holy Saturday for **arrivals from 7pm** and **leaving before midnight**.

Vigil and 1st Mass of Easter at 8pm

Easter Sunday 9th April

No parking restrictions on Easter Sunday for those **arriving from 8am** and **leaving by 2pm**

Sunday Mass at 9 & 11am

The Introductory Rites

*Walk with me, oh my Lord,
through the darkest night and brightest day
Be by my side, oh Lord,
hold my hand and guide me on my way.*

Sometimes the road seems long, my energy is spent.
Then Lord I think of you and I am given strength.

Stones often bar my path and there are times I fall,
but you are always there to help me when I call.

Just as you calmed the wind and walked upon the sea,
conquer, my living Lord, the storms that threaten me.

Help me to pierce the mists that cloud my heart and mind
so that I shall not fear the steepest mountain-side.

As once you healed the lame and gave sight to the blind,
help me when I'm downcast to hold my head up high.

The Liturgy of the Word

Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves;
I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and
lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know
that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise
you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my
spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you
on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord,
have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Psalm 129(130)



Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord.
/ I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
/ and Israel on the Lord.)

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things
can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however,
are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the
Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless
you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong
to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of

sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself
because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him
who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then
he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your
own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

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 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the vil-
lage of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Mar-
tha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of
the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with
ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters
sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is
ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness
will end not in death but in God's glory, and through
it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet
when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he
was for two more days before saying to the disciples,
'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not
long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going
back again?' Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours
in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without
stumbling because he has the light of this world to see
by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there
is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is rest-
ing, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him,
'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The
phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but
they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put
it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad
I was not there because now you will believe. But let us
go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said
to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the
tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two
miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to
Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their
brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she
went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the
house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my
brother would not have died, but I know that, even
now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.'
'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Mar-
tha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection
on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and
the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies
he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will
never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the
Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister
Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and
wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly
and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the vil-
lage; he was still at the place where Martha had met
him. When the Jews who were in the house sympa-
thising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go
out, they followed her, thinking that she was going
to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she
threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been
here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of
her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Je-
sus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight
from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said,
'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said,
'See how much he loved him!' But there were some
who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man,
could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still
sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a
stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone
away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will
smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not
told you that if you believe you will see the glory of
God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted
up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing
my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round
me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'La-
zarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his
feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth
round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let
him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and
had seen what he did believed in him.

Homily

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 April 2nd and April 16th*

O King of might and splendour, creator most adored,
this sacrifice we render to thee as sovereign Lord.
May these our gifts be pleasing unto thy majesty,
from sin, O Lord, release us, who have offended thee.

Thy body thou hast given, thy blood thou hast outpoured,
that sin might be forgiven, O Jesus, living Lord.

As now with love most tender, thy death we celebrate,
our lives in self-surrender to thee we consecrate.

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

*Lay your hands gently upon us,
let their touch render your peace;
let them bring your forgiveness and healing:
lay your hands, gently lay your hands*

You were sent to free the broken hearted.
You were sent to give sight to the blind.
You desire to heal all our illness:
lay your hands gently lay your hands.

Lord, we come to you through one another.
Lord, we come to you in all our need.
Lord, we come to you seeking wholeness:
lay your hands, gently lay your hands

Concluding Rites

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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 increasing-
ly 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.