



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

The Dedication of England to Our Lady,

Today – at midday – England will be re-dedicated to Mary in Cathedrals, parishes and Catholic institutions throughout the country.

WHY IS ENGLAND CALLED THE DOWRY OF MARY?

On the Feast of Corpus Christi 1381, King Richard II dedicated England to Mary in a ceremony at Westminster Abbey in thanksgiving for his kingdom being saved at the time of the Peasants' Revolt.

England received the title 'Mary's Dowry'; meaning that England was 'set aside' as a gift, a dowry, for Our Lady under her guidance and protection.

HOW WE CAN TAKE PART?

On the day of Re-dedication we can respond in two ways; by making a personal promise and a communal entrustment.

PERSONAL PROMISE

Our personal promise brings us closer to Mary, the first disciple of Christ. In this we unite in her joy by following her openness to God's call. The **ANGELUS PROMISE** is a prayer of personal commitment in which we can each one of us proclaim our own "Yes" in union with Mary through the words of the Annunciation. *The prayer can be downloaded from the parish blog. It will be said at the end of the Mass here at St Nicholas this Sunday at 9am. You might like to pray the Angelus in this form at that same time.*

COMMUNAL ENTRUSTMENT

Our communal entrustment unites us together as the people of our country in prayer, by renewing the vows of dedication made to Mary by our ancestors. **THE ACT OF ENTRUSTMENT OF ENGLAND TO THE VIRGIN MARY** is a prayer of profoundly historic and spiritual nature. Bringing together the prayers of surrender and dedication that have echoed through our history. This prayer will be used by the clergy formally making the Act of Entrustment of England. It will be prayed at 12noon this Sunday. *You might like to join yourself with the action, for example to read the prayer yourself, especially if you are with family*

MASSES 5th Week of Lent

Sa	28	5th Sunday in Lent	Mass intention: Remo Mastoianni RD (M)
Su	29	<i>Psalter Week 1</i>	Mass intention: Bridget Broom RIP (M. Lawlor)
M	30		Mass intention: Ints Anita Bayliss & Martin Ashley
T	31		Mass intention: Bridget Broom RIP (Green)
W	1		A private intention
Th	2		Mass intention: Jenifer Cummings Ints (Lawlor)
F	3		Mass intention: Ints Raymond Gillespie. (Perks)
Sa	4	Palm Sunday	Mass intention: Joan & James Shipley RIP (Ord)
Su	5	<i>Psalter Week 2</i>	Mass intention: Pauline Venables RIP (O'Gorman)

Scripture readings for Mass next Sunday
Mt 21:1-11 / Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 / Is 50:4-7 / Phil 2:6-11 / Mt 26:14-27:66

Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick by arrangement.

Baptism, Matrimony, suspended until further notice

Nourishing prayer at home: *Living Eucharist:* <https://livingeucharist.wordpress.com/> Also universalis.com or <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

Please pray for sick parishioners including Jenifer Cummings, Betty Barker, Gerry Coyle; Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke, Peggy Gallagher, Hazel Kem, and for all who are self-isolating at this time. **Please pray for those in the health and care services. Please pray also** for Bernard Poller, Richard Mooney, Marie Fulford, Maria Phan Thi Minh, Domenico Macerola, June Furley, Attilio Bisso and all whose anniversaries of death are at this time: **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**



Make a Spiritual Communion.

During the present crisis, Mass is celebrated in the parish church each morning at 0830am.

Sadly, because of the need to avoid public gatherings at this time, it is celebrated privately by Fr Allen - but it is celebrated for the parish still.

A number of people join with the celebration at home by reading the readings of the day, and offering some of the prayers - these are most easily available in weekday missals, or at universalis.com

Mass is also live streamed on a number of websites at present. You will find links at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

The prayer that follow was offered this week by Cardinal Nichols to help us make a spiritual communion, ie to share in the communion of the Mass even when we are not able to be physically present at Mass to receive Communion as food and drink.

Dear Guardian Angel, go for me to the church, there kneel down at Mass for me.

At the Offertory, take me to God, and offer Him my service: What I am, what I have, offer as my gift.

At the Consecration, with your seraphic strength, adore my Saviour truly present, praying for those who have loved me, for those who have offended me, and for those now deceased, that the blood of Jesus may purify them all.

During Holy Communion, bring to me the Body and Blood of Jesus, uniting Him with me in spirit, so that my heart may become His dwelling place.

Plead with Him, that through His sacrifice all people throughout the world may be saved.

When the Mass ends, bring home to me and to every home, the Lord's blessing. **Amen.**

In April, Pope Francis' will pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied. He invites you to join him in this prayer

Care for our brothers and sisters

If you know of anyone who is in need of help because of isolation or infirmity please let Fr Allen know (giving name and telephone number, please). There is a small group of parishioners who have kindly offered to give support by keeping in touch, shopping, etc.

Parish

Praying for the Sick Data Protection legislation means we may not, without their explicit permission, publish in the newsletter the names of those who are sick. Details of how to provide this are on our website.

Parish Group meetings (Scripture Group; Book Club; Art Club, Ladies Guild, Travelling Solo) are suspended until further notice.

World Development Group The news from Uganda is not good.... All Ugandan schools have closed, and teachers have left. Dorcus now has 50 children to feed and care for every day, with just 2 adults & 3 young teenagers to help! Food prices have rocketed. All our fundraising events are badly affected. We appreciate these are difficult times for many of you, but if you are able to make a donation or increase your existing regular giving, it would be greatly appreciated. Donate via <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1002341> or online using Acc no: 00086644 Sort code: 30-98-37

Diocese

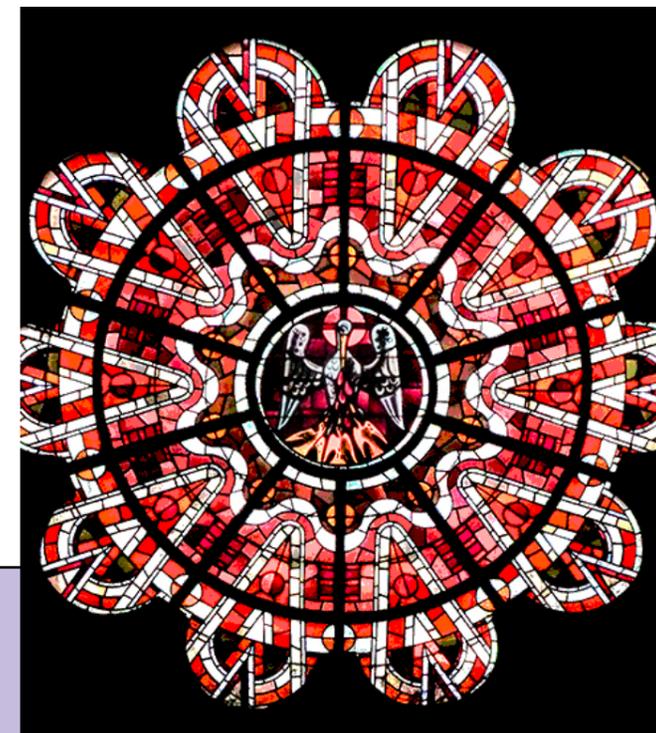
Diaconate Ordination We await confirmation that John Garvey will be ordained deacon this summer. Until then, you might like to have a note in your diary of the date of those ordinations - 3pm, 12 July at St Chad's Cathedral

St Joseph's, Coleshill, offers residential care to older people and those with dementia in a Catholic setting, (Mass said daily by resident priests). Respite bedrooms are available for those who could benefit from a short stay. Call 01675 434500 for a chat or to visit.

Other

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 what you need! Info from 0788 729 6983 or www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Employment opportunities in local school (JPII MAC) full details at <http://johnpaulii.co.uk/vacancies/>



Mass of the 5th Sunday of Lent

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.

Psalms 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.

John 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, 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 resting, 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.' Martha 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 village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising 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



del Piombo. Raising of Lazarus. National Gallery

her, Jesus 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, 'Lazarus, 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.

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And the people stayed home.
And read books, and listened, and rested,
and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned
new ways of being, and were still.

And listened more deeply.

Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their
shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed.

And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous,
mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together
again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and
dreamed new images.

And created new ways to live.

And heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

Whole Community Catechesis: 5th Week in Lent

1. Listen to the word:

What in today's readings that encourages or challenges you?

2. Look into Your Life

- **Q4Children:** The gospel tells us an exceptional story. But people do die. How do you understand Jesus's words 'even though he dies he shall live'?
- **Q4Youth** Why - if we have faith - do we mourn the death of those we love? Does it mean we have no faith?
- **Q4Adults:** How do you understand the words of Ezekiel. What are the graves that the Lord will open, and raise us?