

Holy Week and Easter and families

The central days and liturgies of the Church's Year take place during Holy Week - and especially the three days of the Triduum, beginning on Maundy Thursday evening and ending on Easter Day.

These liturgies are unique in the way they engage us with the days of the Passion and the Resurrection of Jesus.

With the procession of palms, the washing of feet and the lighting of Eater Fire and Baptism candles they provide much to draw children into their celebration.

Children are welcome at all the Liturgies listed on page 1 of the Newsletter - but particularly to the Masses of Palm Sunday - when they will get their palm crosses; the Mass of the Lord's Supper - where they are invited to come and have their feet washed, as the disciples had their feet washed by Jesus; to the Vigil where the Easter fire is lit and we process into the darkened church with our newly lit candles and are sprinkled with Easter water; and the Masses of Eater Day where we are once more blessed with water.

These days teach us about Jesus and faith. They create memories which make and keep people Catholic. And most important of all they help children know that Easter is about much more than just Easter Eggs.

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!

Thank you for the generous response received last weekend to the need for more volunteers for the church cleaning group.

In the meantime there are others areas 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 it would be helpful to have a team doing a deep-clean in readiness for Easter - cleaning candle stands, etc.
- The third is to build up a team of ministers taking Holy Communion to the housebound, and those in care homes. We have very few ministers and very many wishing to receive Holy Communion. If you can help in any of these ways please contact Fr Allen as soon as possible.

Please pray for the peoples of Nigeria and Ireland, and especially for members of our parish who have family links with those countries.

It is the feast day of their patron saint, St Patrick today, Sunday 17th 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.

Thank you to all those who have shared their views. Instructions have been given to see just what price might be offered for the lease. Once a firm offer has been received it will be considered by the Parish Finance Committee, and then the views of the rest of the parish will be asked for.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

Address: 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US

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Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

Cluster blog: www.catholicsuttoncoldfield.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	16	6pm	5th SUNDAY IN LENT	James & Joan Shipley (Ord)
Su	17	9am 11am		Frank and Ellen Manley RIP (Egan) Bridget and Thomas Watchorn RIP
M	18	10am		Lucy Byrne Health (P&C)
T	19	10am	St JOSEPH	John & Patricia Hughes (Brookes)
W	20			Alexei Navalny RIP
Th	21			
F	22	7pm		John Dolan RD (Burke)
Sa	23	6pm	PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION	Thomas Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
Su	24	9am 11am		For the parish Tony Lawlor RIP (L)

Anointing of the Sick: Next celebration is 26th April at 11am

Sacrament of Confession: 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 Betty Sawbridge, Edward Murphy, Bronia Schmid, Keith Devenney, Sarah Finnegan 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 Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or 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.

Holy Week and Triduum

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Masses as usual: Saturday 6pm; Sunday 9am and 11am

Monday & Tuesday of Holy Week

Mass as usual at 10am

Wednesday of Holy Week

The Chrism Mass is celebrated at St Chad's Cathedral at 11am

Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm

Good Friday:

Stations of the Cross, 10am

Solemn Liturgy at 3pm

Easter Vigil (Saturday 30th March)

The Vigil begins with the lighting of the Easter Fire at 8pm, and is followed by the first Mass of Easter.

Easter Day

Mass at 9 and 11am

CATHOLIC SUTTON COLDFIELD

Lent 2024 Penitential Service

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

7pm
Monday
March 18th

The Introductory Rites
Opening Song

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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Psalm 50(51):3-4,12-15

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

Hebrews 5:7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having

been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

John 12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’

Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus.

Jesus replied to them: ‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. ‘If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!’

A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’

Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.’ By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

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,

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.

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 today and April 7th.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dóminus Deus Sába- oth. Pleni sunt cæ-li et terra gló-ri- a tu- a. Hosánna in excélsis. Benedíctus qui ve-nit in nómi-ne Dómini. Hō-sánna in excélsis.

The mystery of faith

R. Mortem tu- am annunti- ámus, Dómi-ne, et tu- am re-surrecti- ónem confi-témur, do-nec vé-ni- as.

The Communion Rite
Communion thanksgiving

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

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Using the Sunday Scriptures



to prepare for Sunday Mass, and to bring to prayer in the days after is one of the most best ways of ensuring that our faith is nourished by the Mass. The readings for next Sunday are Mark 11:1 – 10 • Isaiah 50:4–7 • Ps 22:8–9, 17–18, 19–20, 23–24 • Philippians 2:6 – 11 • Mark 14:1 — 15:47

Parish Repository: Cards and gifts for Easter; for celebrations of First Holy Communion and Confirmation - and St Patrick’s Day.

Open before or after all Saturday/Sunday Masses

Thank you to all those who have provided posters or texts to help us mark the languages and cultures that are part of our families of origin. Do take a look at the posters on the North Wall of the Church. Still room for more - just email text to Fr Allen - along with details of country’s patron saint.

Date for the Diary

Parish celebration on Corpus Christi June 2nd

Join with children who made their first communion this year, and those confirmed this year for our parish celebration at 11am Sunday Mass - and then at our parish Summer BBQ in the Newman Centre organised by St Nicholas branch of Sutton Coldfield Adventure Unit- St Nicholas. .