

**A night time Vigil**

“The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil takes place at night. It should not begin before nightfall; it should end before daybreak on Sunday.” This rule is to be taken according to its strictest sense.

The Passover Vigil, in which the Hebrews kept watch for the Lord’s passover which was to free them from slavery to Pharaoh, is an annual commemoration. It prefigured the true Pasch of Christ that was to come, the night that is of true liberation, in which “destroying the bonds of death, Christ rose as victor from the depths.”

From the very outset, the Church has celebrated that annual Pasch, which is the solemnity of solemnities, above all by means of a night vigil. For the resurrection of Christ is the foundation of our faith and hope, and through baptism and confirmation, we are inserted into the paschal mystery of Christ, dying, buried, and raised with him, and with him, we shall also reign. The full meaning of Vigil is a waiting for the coming of the Lord.

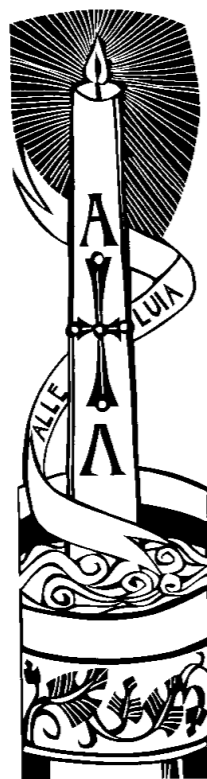
**The various parts of the Vigil**

The order for the Easter Vigil is arranged so that after the service of light and the Easter proclamation (which is the first part of the Vigil), Holy Church meditates on the wonderful works that the Lord God wrought for his people from the earliest times (the second part or liturgy of the word) to the moment when, together with those new members reborn in baptism (third part), she is called to the table prepared by the Lord for his Church, the commemoration of his death and resurrection, until he comes (fourth part).

**i. The Liturgy of Light**

This consists of symbolic acts and gestures which symbolise Christ the light of the world.

- The new fire should genuinely dispel the darkness and light up the night
- The paschal candle is made of wax, never artificial, renewed each year, and is of sufficiently large size so that it may evoke the truth that Christ is the light of the world.
- The procession, by which the people enter the church, should be led by the light of the paschal candle alone. Just as the children of Israel were guided at night by a pillar of fire, so similarly Christians follow the risen Christ.
- The light from the paschal candle should be gradually passed to the candles that all present are holding in their hands; the electric lighting should be switched off.



**ii. The Liturgy of the word**

- Readings from Sacred Scripture constitute the second part of the Vigil. They give the account of the outstanding deeds of the history

**Next Week: Easter Sunday**

Scripture readings: Acts 10:34a, 37-43 / Ps 118/ Col 3:1-4 / Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12 or Lk 24:13-35

of salvation, which the faithful are helped to meditate calmly upon by the singing of the responsorial psalm, by a silent pause, and by the celebrant’s prayer.

- The typological import of the Old Testament texts is rooted in the New and is made plain by the prayer pronounced by the celebrating priest after each reading; but it will also be helpful to introduce the people to the meaning of each reading by means of a brief introduction.

**iii. The Baptismal Liturgy**

In this third part of the Vigil Christ’s passover and ours are celebrated.

- This is given full expression in those churches that have a baptismal font, and more so when the Christian initiation of adults is held. Even if there are no candidates for baptism, the blessing of baptismal water should take place in parish churches.
- Next follows the renewal of baptismal promises, introduced by some words on the part of the celebrating priest. The faithful reply to the questions put to them, standing and holding lighted candles in their hands. They are then sprinkled with water; in this way the gestures and words recall to them the baptism they have received.

**iv. The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

The celebration of the Eucharist forms the fourth part of the Vigil and marks its high point, for it is in the fullest sense the Easter sacrament, that is to say, the commemoration of the sacrifice of the cross and the presence of the risen Christ, the completion of Christian initiation, and the foretaste of the eternal pasch.

**B. Easter Day**

Mass is celebrated on Easter Day with great solemnity. It is appropriate that the penitential rite on this day take the form of a sprinkling with water blessed at the Vigil, during which a song of baptismal character is sung.

The tradition of celebrating baptismal Vespers on Easter Day with the singing of psalms during the procession to the font should be restored.

The paschal candle has its proper place either by the ambo or by the altar and should be lit at least in all the more solemn liturgical celebrations of the season until Pentecost Sunday, whether at Mass or at Morning and Evening Prayer. After the Easter season, the candle should be kept with honour in the baptistry, so that in the celebration of baptism, the candles of the baptised may be lit from them. In the celebration of funerals the paschal candle should be placed near the coffin to indicate that the death of a Christian is his own passover.

Extracts from

*On Preparing and Celebrating the Paschal Feasts (1988)*

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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**

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**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

The central mystery of the Christian faith, and what principally distinguishes us from our Jewish brothers and sisters, is our belief in Jesus as Son of God, and in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our identity as Christians is found in the fruitfulness of his Death and Resurrection for our salvation.

Once a year the events of the Paschal Mystery occupy the foreground. In the celebration of the three great Days we come as we are to accompany our Lord and Saviour in the events of his Passion, Death and Resurrection, and in those events, in his presence, we receive again the key to living our own lives to the full, to the glory of God.

The notes and commentary help unpack some of the details of the liturgies of these days, especially to those who have not previously taken part in the Triduum. They also identify various elements we might develop in future years!

Do please make every effort to come and take your part in our parish’s celebration of the Three Days.

**Masses Holy Week**

<b>S</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</b> <i>Psalter Week 2 and Lenten Proper</i>	1700 1800	Exposition and Sacrament of Confession Audrey Gregory RIP Anniv
<b>Su</b>	<b>14</b>		0900 1100 1700	Joannie Callaghan RIP (McGonigle) Philip Cassera RIP (Cassera) Exposition and Evening Prayer
<b>M</b>	<b>15</b>		1000* 1030 1500	Tom Hempenstall RD (Rhodes) Reflection on the Last Words (Benedict Rm) Exposition and Rosary for Vocations
<b>T</b>	<b>16</b>			
<b>W</b>	<b>17</b>		1000*	Breda Corbett RIP Anniv (Craig)
<b>Th</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b>	1930	<b>MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER</b> Followed by (optional!) watching at altar of repose, ending with Night Prayer at 1045pm
<b>F</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	0930 1100 1500 1900	Office of Readings and Morning Prayer 11am Stations of the Cross (in church) <b>SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE LORD’S PASSION</b> Quiet prayer at the Cross, and Night Prayer
<b>S</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>	1000 12noon 2000	Morning Prayer and Office of Readings <i>Święconka</i> <b>EASTER VIGIL</b>
<b>Su</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>EASTER DAY</b> <i>Psalter: Easter proper</i>	0900 1100 1630	Thanksgiving For the Parish Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Evening Prayer

**Morning/Evening Prayer** 20 mins before weekday Masses, as indicated above \*

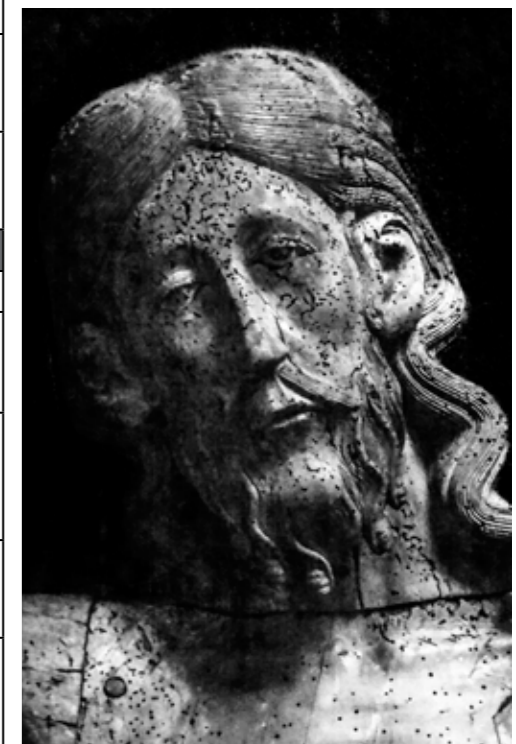
**Exposition: & Vespers** weekly during Lent, 5-6pm; **& Rosary** Mon at 3pm

**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/](http://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 Audrey Gregory, May Kerrins, Patrick Muldoon, Anne Palgrave, Harry Saunders, Betty Lordan 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 isck parishioners please complete the form available in the porch and pass to Fr Allen so we meet the requirements of current Data Protection legislation.



**The Liturgies of Holy Week draw us close to the Lord who suffered, died and rose again that we might live.**

**Don’t miss the chance to share in the grace he offers.**

## Parish

**Święconka** 12noon on Holy Saturday. A special service for the blessing of Easter Food. A Polish tradition, but all are welcome. Details on to prepare your food basket are on the parish blog (7th April)

**Family Stations of the Cross: Good Friday, 11am** The planned Stations will be held in the church and not in the school playground. *There is now no rehearsal on Monday.*

**St Nicholas Catholic Primary School** is celebrating 50 years since it opened. If you worked to help open the school, or have worked there since, either in a paid or voluntary capacity, it would be appreciated if you would please pass details to Fr Allen.

**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 on Saturday 18th May from 11am-12 noon in the Benedict Room. Pl see Fr Allen before hand for an application form.

**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 May 5th, and then join the group for a pub lunch.

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

**St Nicholas World Development Group** Members have recently returned from a visit to FML Kabarole school in Uganda. Hear about the progress of the school at our *Thank You event* on 5 May 12-2pm in the Carpenter's Arms. Follow us on Facebook – facebook.com/StNicholasWDC and Twitter - @StNicholasWDC'

## Diocese

**Lenten Penance Service** Tues 16 April, Erdington Abbey, 7pm

**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@kenelmouthtrust.org.uk

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

**OL of Lourdes Catholic Primary School** seek Deputy Head for 1st Sept. <http://www.ourladyoflourdesprimary.com/vacancies-at-olol/>

**Manager needed** for Harvington Hall, Kidderminster. Salary £26-29K. Details at [www.harvingtonhall.com](http://www.harvingtonhall.com)

**Fundraising at Maryvale.** Singing Friar. Fri 10 May. 6.30pm. Tickets £7, available from 0121 360 8118

**Mass of Thanksgiving with Bishop Byrne** at St Chad's Cathedral on Tuesday 18 June 2019 at 12 noon - to celebrate his appointment to Hexham and Newcastle.

**Stories from the Holy Land:** CAFOD meeting for deanery volunteers and supporters Tues 7 May, 7.00pm. Meeting and simple bring-and-share supper. Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Sutton Coldfield. Hear from our *Step into the Gap* volunteer, Caroline Collins, about her visit to the Holy Land, and CAFOD projects, partners and communities supported there. We'll also have a look at our exciting new ambition *No One Beyond Reach* and *Our Common Home Climate Campaign*. All very welcome! To book place, email [rgriffith@cafod.org.uk](mailto:rgriffith@cafod.org.uk) or ring 01922 722944.

**Interested in learning more about our Catholic faith?**

**Maybe considering becoming Catholic?**

Come and meet with Fr Allen on Tuesday 30th April, at 7.30pm, watch a video about Catholic faith in Jesus, and chat about what sort of help or support you might find helpful in exploring where you stand on things, and where you might want to go with them..



## 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)

**Catholic People's Weeks.** For full details of this year's gatherings for community, discussion, study etc, go to [www.catholicpeoplesweeks.org](http://www.catholicpeoplesweeks.org)

**ACTA talk:** Sun Apr 28 *Renewing the Prophetic Imagination.* David Mcloughlin. St Mary's Parish Centre, Vivian Road, Harborne, B17 0DN. 1.30 (tea/coffee) for 2, finish 4.00. Everyone welcome. No charge. Website: [acalltoaction.org.uk](http://acalltoaction.org.uk)

**Rose Curley**, a former teacher at St Nicholas School, died recently. May she rest in peace. Her funeral will be at All Saints, Streetly on Thurs 18 Apr at 1pm.

## 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.



## Pray with Pope Francis

**The Pope's prayer intention for April is for doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war-torn areas, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.**

To find the Pope's other current prayer intentions please visit <http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org/>

**The great calamity of today's wars! Where the price is paid by the weak, the poor, children, and those who have no resources to carry on. Let us consider that the Lord is pained in His heart, and let us draw near to the Lord and speak to Him, saying: 'Lord, observe these things; I understand you.' Let us console the Lord: 'I understand you, and I am with you. I accompany you in prayer and intercede for all of these calamities which are the fruit of the devil who wants to destroy the work of God.'**  
*Pope Francis*



- **Pray for Christian brothers and sisters who meet with persecution, and who live in fear of violence.**
- **Pray for courage and generosity on the part of doctors, and other aid workers - and for generosity on those who give financial support to their work.**
- **Pray for peace and for healing of all hurts.**

*Continued from page 1*

## The Easter Triduum in General

The greatest mysteries of the redemption are celebrated yearly by the Church beginning with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and ending with Vespers of Easter Sunday. This time is called "the Triduum of the crucified, buried and risen"; it is also called the "Easter Triduum" because during it is celebrated the paschal mystery, that is, the passing of the Lord from this world to his Father. The Church, by the celebration of this mystery through liturgical signs and sacramentals, is united to Christ, her spouse, in intimate communion.

The Easter fast is sacred on the first two days of the Triduum, in which, according to ancient tradition, the Church fasts "because the Spouse has been taken away." Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence; it is also recommended that Holy Saturday be so observed, so that the Church, with uplifted and welcoming heart, be ready to celebrate the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection.

### I. Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

With the celebration of Mass on the evening of Holy Thursday, "the Church begins the Easter Triduum and recalls the Last Supper in which the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, showing his love for those who were his own in the world, he gave his body and blood under the species of bread and wine offering to his Father and giving them to the Apostles so that they might partake of them, and he commanded them and their successors in the priesthood to perpetuate this offering."

- The mysteries commemorated in this Mass include the institution of the Eucharist, the institution of the priesthood, and Christ's command of brotherly love.
- The tabernacle is completely empty before the celebration. Hosts for the communion of the faithful are always consecrated during that celebration, with a sufficient amount of bread consecrated to provide also for communion the following day.
- The washing of the feet of chosen people performed on this day represents the service and charity of Christ, who came "not to be served, but to serve."
- Gifts for the poor, especially those collected during Lent as the fruit of penance, are presented in the offertory procession.
- After the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the faithful are encouraged to spend



## 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April: Birmingham Passion Play 2019

Birmingham has never seen anything like this before! Involving a diverse team of a hundred community actors, musicians and stewards alongside Saltmine Theatre Company, The Birmingham Passion Play 2019 is by the city, for the city.

This contemporary retelling of the extraordinary Easter story will be performed live, processing from Birmingham Bullring (nr Waterstones), from 1230 moving up along New Street to Victoria Square, and finishing at St Philip's Cathedral around 2pm.



a suitable period of time during the night in the church in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament that has been solemnly reserved. This prolonged Eucharistic adoration may be accompanied by the reading of some part of the gospel of Saint John (ch. 13-17).

### II. Good Friday

On this day, when "Christ our passover was sacrificed," the Church mediates on the passion of her Lord and Spouse, adores the cross, commemorates her origin from the side of Christ asleep on the cross, and intercedes for the salvation of the whole world.

On this day, in accordance with ancient tradition, the Church does not celebrate the Eucharist: Holy Communion is distributed to the faithful during the celebration of the Lord's passion alone.

Good Friday is a day of penance to be observed as an obligation in the whole Church, and indeed, through abstinence and fasting. All celebration of the sacraments on this day is strictly prohibited, except for the sacraments of penance and anointing of the sick.

It is recommended that on this day the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer, be celebrated with the participation of the people in the churches.

### III. Holy Saturday

On Holy Saturday, the Church is, as it were, at the Lord's tomb, meditating on his passion and death and on his descent into hell, awaiting his resurrection with prayer and fasting. It is highly recommended that on this day, the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer be celebrated with the participation of the people.

On this day, the Church abstains strictly from celebration of the sacrifice of the Mass. Holy Communion may only be given in the form of Viaticum. The celebration of marriages is forbidden, as is also the celebration of other sacraments, except those of penance and the anointing of the sick.

### IV. Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection

#### A. The Easter Vigil

According to a most ancient tradition, this night is "one of vigil for the Lord," and the Vigil celebrated during it, to commemorate that holy night when the Lord rose from the dead, is regarded as the "mother of all holy vigils" For in that night, the Church keeps vigil, waiting for the resurrection of the Lord, and celebrates the sacraments of Christian initiation.