

Preparing for Liturgy after Summer

- A number of parents have shown interest in helping to offer *Children's Liturgy of the Word* at Sunday Mass for children in Reception through to Year 2. If you would like to be part of a team that makes this possible - please let Fr Allen know so you can be invited to a introductory meeting for leaders (NB Leaders includes those who lead the session, helping the children with their reflection and questions and prayer, or singing - but also those who help with the procession in and out of church. All these play an important and necessary part in providing this service to our youngsters.)
- If you would like to share in singing and making music to lead the congregation in song on Sundays and the other main celebrations of the year, please let Fr Allen or Vincent our organist have your details so you can be invited to a meeting to chat things through and plan for the future.

Booking for CELEBRATIONS of First Confessions and First Communions

Application forms for the children who will be celebrating this sacraments in October and November are available now. Places are limited at each of the celebrations, so please return forms as soon as possible to help yourself get your first choices of dates.

Ordination to the Diaconate

Gary O'Brien will be ordained deacon by Archbishop Bernard at St Chad's Cathedral on Sat 4th Sept. Final details are still to be confirmed, as are the arrangements (for example social distancing rules) which will determine the number of people who will be able to attend and take part in the liturgy. However it will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend.

Fancy joining a parish outing to Aston Hall?

On Thursday August 5th, why not step out and enjoy some time away from home visiting Aston Hall, one of Brum's iconic buildings (and home for the moment of part of the city's Art Collection, during the restoration of the city centre Art Gallery)

Come for part or all of the outing - and just meet there. *However if you wish to make a tour of the Hall you are advised to book your ticket in advance*

www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/aston
There is a café - but plenty of places to sit and eat your own picnic if you prefer.

All are welcome - any age!



11am The café opens - come and have a drink and, perhaps a bite to eat.

12 noon Join a tour of the house (but book in advance)

1.30pm Fancy a bit of art tuition? Meet in the courtyard in front of the house. Geraldine Foster is preparing some simple and fun things for people to have a go at - absolute beginners and those who fancy themselves as the next Van Gogh! Bring a pencil and a notebook.

What Good News

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In recent times some of the material has been given with no audience present, filmed or recorded privately, or live-streamed.

The website is regularly updated, Subscribe to it, to receive notification of forthcoming events.

One such is to help us prepare ourselves for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26), to be held in Glasgow in November, draws nearer, and at a time of unprecedented danger for the world, the 2015 encyclical of Pope Francis, *Laudato Si', on care for our 'common home'*, could not be more relevant.

Fr Ashley Beck, priest of the archdiocese of Southwark and associate professor at St Mary's University, Twickenham specialising in Catholic Social Teaching, will explore its contents and explain its crucial relevance. The event is scheduled for 11.00 to 12.30 BST on Saturday 4th September. No registration is needed.

Those behind all this work hope it will help us understand more about the Christian faith. It may well stimulate further questioning and searching. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would lead us 'to the fullness of truth'.

Enrolment for parish PREPARATION for First Communion and Confirmation.

First details of the parish preparation for families with children beginning in year 3 who will prepare for First Communion and in year 6 who will prepare for Confirmation) have been emailed those who have enrolled. If you are enrolled and have not received those details please email Fr Allen. Your email address may have been misread/mis-transcribed. *If you have NOT enrolled, please collect form from Fr Allen.*



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding: Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)

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

What Good News!

The Christian message is good news. That is essentially what 'gospel' means. Our reaction as believers to the message of Jesus, and that of millions of people throughout the last two thousand years, has been one of gratitude. With the apostle Paul we pray: 'May the word of Christ in all its richness find a home in you.' (Colossians 3:16)

There are many on-line resources that help us deepen our appreciation of what is good about the Gospel, and to find inspiration there for our lives. One of those that a number of people from the parish access is the *What Good News* website. <https://www.whatgoodnews.org/>

The website contains an extensive collection of audio and video recordings of study days and faith talk. Many are from the evangelisation outreach of the Catholic Diocese of Brentwood.

A specific section preserves the series of talks on the Second Vatican Council given when we were celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the council. That landmark event in the life of the Church was held from 1962 to 1965. Its teachings are as vibrant as ever and make enlightening reading when we ask how we should live as Christian disciples in the twenty-first century. Pope Francis continues to put before us the teaching of the Council, and to adapt it for changing and difficult times.

Fr Adrian Graffy, Scripture scholar and parish priest, who directs the website, has provided a series of reflections on the Sunday gospels from the Catholic lectionary in the three year cycle.

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Thank you to all the volunteers - still necessary for us to open for Mass - and a special thank you to our many new volunteers from the 11am Sunday Mass congregation.

Travelling Solo group - the monthly lunch group for those who are single/widowed / divorced / separated. The first meeting for many months is today, Sunday 1st August, in the Benedict Room (behind the church). Bring food to share - drinks will be provided! 'Old' and new members welcome!

Mass times

Please note that the Saturday 4pm Mass has now been discontinued.

PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

Day	Time	Notes
Sa 31	4pm	For the parish
	6pm	
Su 1	9am	18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	11am	
M 2	10am	Fr Stan Swarmy SJ RD (McDermott)
T 3	10am	
W 4	10am	St Jean Vianney
Th 5		
F 6	7pm	Transfiguration
Sa 7	6pm	
Su 8	9am	19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	11am	
		James and Marcella McGrath (McG)
		For the parish

Please pray for sick parishioners including Brenda Davies, Elizabeth Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for Margaret O'Brien whose funeral is at 1045 on August 25 and Brian Boyle, Michael McInerney, Frances Bryan and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

God our Father and provider, whose Son has given his flesh for the life of the world, sustain your pilgrim Church on its journey with the word of life and the bread of heaven.

Draw us nearer to him in whose name we gather, that following his way of sacrificial love, we may come to the banquet of life.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Developing the vision

Archbishop Bernard has called the Church in Birmingham to grow and develop in mission and life. He has singled out the following areas for attention.

Evangelisation **Formation**
Social Outreach **Liturgy & Worship**

A new page has been opened on our parish website indicating various documents that can help us to deepen our awareness of what this renewal might help us to. Do take a look.

If there is a particular area you are interested in, please let Fr Allen know so you can be part of our parish reading and reflections groups - a key first stage in our parish's working for our future life as community and Church.

The Introductory Rites *help us come together as one, establish communion and prepare ourselves to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.*

The Penitential Act

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word: *The word of God invites us into the unending dialogue between God and his people, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. A brief silence after the readings helps us take the word of God to heart and begin a prayerful response to what we have heard.*

Exodus 16:2-4,12-15

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, 'Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our heart's content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them in this way to see whether they will follow my law or not.

'I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, "Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your heart's content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God."

And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, 'What is that?' not knowing what it was. 'That' said Moses to them 'is the bread the Lord gives you to eat.'

Psalm 77(78):3-4,23-25,54

The things we have heard and understood,
the things our fathers have told us,
these we will not hide from their children
but will tell them to the next generation:

the glories of the Lord and his might
and the marvellous deeds he has done,
Yet he commanded the clouds above
and opened the gates of heaven.
He rained down manna for their food,
and gave them bread from heaven.

Mere men ate the bread of angels.
He sent them abundance of food;
So he brought them to his holy land,
to the mountain which his right hand had won.

Ephesians 4:17,20-24

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; No one can come to the Father except through me. *Alleluia!*

John 6:24-35

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?'

Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.'

Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?'

Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.'

Jesus answered: 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*At the words that follow,
up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all bow.*

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 Prayer of the Faithful

The Liturgy of the Eucharist *is the re-presentation of the Sacrifice of Christ to the Father, and his gift of life renewed to the Church, for the service of his mission.*

The Offertory: *There is no collection during Mass. Instead, please put your offerings in the basket at the entrance to the church as you arrive, or as you leave.*

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer is a memorial proclamation of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation, a proclamation in which the Body and Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and the people are joined to Christ in offering his Sacrifice to the Father

The Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE: *The Lord offers reconciliation in and with the invitation to share in the food and drink that is his Body and Blood. Love and mercy are the condition and the fruit of communion in the Lord.*

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Please observe the regulations on social distancing when processing to receive Holy Communion.

Prayer after Communion

The Concluding Rites *send us out live in our daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ we have celebrated. Our mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.*

Blessing and Dismissal

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Thoughts on the renewal of the interior of the parish church.

As we can all see it is time to clean and redecorate the interior of our parish church.

However as we prepare for that it is also opportune for us to consider all sorts of other things.

For example:

- Is this the time to renew our heating system, and what are the opportunities to put in a 'greener' system?
- At present we are constrained in how we can use the church for Mass because the nave is filled with benches. This makes it difficult to provide proper space for other forms of liturgy and prayer. It is also not easy to respectfully accommodate those who come to church in wheel chairs or using other mobility aids.
- It has been suggested by higher-ups in the Archdiocese that we ought to look at alternative placement of the organ and musicians so that they can be better placed for their ministry and we can be better served for them.
- Although the statue of our Lady was moved to its present place to provide better and safer access during the pandemic, some people have said they think it is now in a better place (although the temporary arrangement can obviously be improved on!) In addition the other statues in the church are not necessarily in the best place for their proper use.

There are surely other things to consider and improvements that might be made.

If you have comments or thoughts that you would like to be taken into account as this project develops, please write them down and put them into the comments box on the side of the left hand side aisle of the church.