



Make the most of the Newman Centre

The parish's Newman Centre is available for hire for a whole range of events, gatherings after baptisms, birthday parties and all sorts of celebrations.

The Newman Centre offers three meeting spaces - one large hall, and a small hall, (both of which have their own separate kitchen facilities) and also a very comfortable first-floor meeting room, more suited for small group meetings. Details of the facilities are available on our website at www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/newman-centre.html Arrangements to view the Centre can be made by ringing 0121 321 2285 or emailing: newmancc.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk

A call out to Grandparents, Godparents, Family, and Friends of younger Catholics...

As schools sessions begin over the coming days your help is requested to help us draw young people of the parish more into the life of the parish.

It is a real sadness that we do not have more youngsters involved in the life of our parish both during their time at primary school and after they move on to Secondary School. We are fortunate to have a very few, very fine, altar servers - and one excellent young reader. But it would be good to have many more, and to have some young singers and musicians involved too. And in coming weeks, with the help of the SVP, it is hoped to be helping youngsters to help the parish with its outreach and support of our neighbours who are in need

- Over the coming weeks there will be fresh encouragement to youngsters to come forward and volunteer. But there are many obstacles.
- Sometimes they need to make a choice between coming to church or some other activity. Guess which usually wins.
- Sometimes they are hesitant about stepping forward - and need a bit of extra encouragement (or even reward!)
- Sometimes they may have difficulty getting to church because parents are providing a taxi service to siblings doing other things - and sometimes parents are not keen on coming to church either!

All that and more is the reason for the call out. If you have youngsters in your family or as neighbours, or in your circle of friends, do please do everything you can to help them know that they are warmly invited to make a contribution to the life of our parish. And if there are further things you can do to help those you know to step up and step forward, please do.

Fr. Allen

Preparing for Holy Communion and for Confirmation

Thank you to all those families who have already signed up to be part of the parish preparation for children to receive first Sacraments in our parish next year.

This parish preparation builds on the preparation the children receive in our Saturday Classes (for children not in Catholic Schools) or in our Catholic schools.

If you have children in year 3 or older who have not been prepared for Holy Communion, or Year 6 or older who have not been prepared for Confirmation, please contact Fr Allen in good time before the parish programmes' first event which is on Sunday Sept 24th.



Journey in Faith: Support for adults who have not been baptised, or wish to be received into the Catholic Church - or make their first communion or be confirmed. Interested? Please speak with Fr Allen.



Preparation for Baptism of Infants

Our next series of Baptism preparation meetings begins with a meeting in the Benedict Room, at 12noon on Saturday 23rd September. To register, please see Fr Allen.

Date for 2023's St Nicholas Fair

The Fair this year will be on November 18th and 19th, after all Sunday Masses. Volunteers for running stalls to support parish charities. Others welcome to apply for 'private' stalls - available for small fee.

Ready to Serve? Meetings for youngsters to introduce them to the ministries.

A few dates for the diary:

- **Meeting for servers-to-be:** After 6pm Mass on Saturday 23rd September OR after 9am Mass on 24th September
- **Meeting for readers-to-be:** After 6pm Mass on Saturday 30th September OR after 9am Mass on 1st October

Meetings will last c.30 minutes



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

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

SEPTEMBER 2023: PARISH MASSES THIS WEEK

Sa	9	6pm	23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Peter and Mark Foster RIP
Su	10	9am		For the parish
		11am		Good health for mum (Solecka)
M	11	10am		Bernie Layden RIP (Mills)
T	12	10am	Most Holy Name of Mary	Ints Joan Askins (Redmond)
W	13	10am	St John Chrysostom	David Cotton RD (Warrallo)
Th	14			
F	15	7pm	Our Lady of Sorrows	Anna Ryan RD (Burke)
Sa	16	6pm	24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Alice Lavinia Makepeace RIP
Su	17	9am		Marcella and Josph Carroll RIP
		11am		For the parish

Anointing of the Sick: Next celebration is 29th September 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

Please pray for those who are sick including Chrissie Newstead, Fr Michael Ho, Brenda Davies; Rita Rhodes, Stephen Burke; Lesley Devlin & Jean Lawlor. **Please pray** for Cornelius Corcoran, Thomas Madigan, John Farrell and all whose anniversaries are at this time.

Please note that envelopes for November Masses for the Dead are available in the porch.

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

WEEKDAY SOCIAL. Tuesday in the Benedict Room after the 10am Mass. All are welcome.

PARISH CAR PARK Free parking for one hour is available for anyone at anytime in our parish carpark. Automatic free parking permits are issued to cover parking on **Saturdays** between 5.30pm and 7.30pm; on **Sundays** between 8am and 2pm; on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays** between 9.30am & 11.30am and **Fridays** between 6.30pm & 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.*

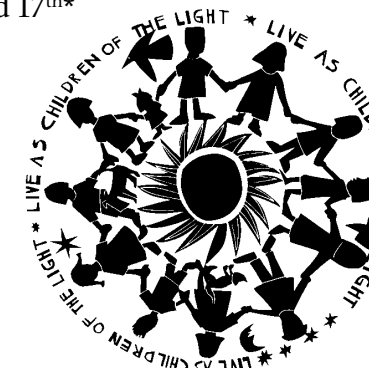
The Diocesan Education Service is recruiting for a Director of Education. Details for this role can be found on both the Diocesan Education Service www.bdes.org.uk/vacancies and the Archdiocese www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk websites. The closing date is Monday 18th September. Please make anybody you feel may be qualified and interested aware of this important position within the Archdiocese.

CELEBRATE Trust produce activity packs based on the liturgical seasons of the Church to help you, your children and your teenagers play, pray, and engage with faith. <https://www.celebratetrust.org/onlinefamilyactivitypacks>

Children's Liturgy of the Word

starts up again this Sunday at the 9am Mass and is scheduled then for that Mass on the following Sundays: September 24th*; October 8th and 22nd*; November 5th; December 3rd and 17th*

On the Sundays marked * the 9am Mass is followed by a social gathering in the Benedict Room for young parents and children.



Sunday Friends Next meeting: 17th September 2-4pm in the Newman Community Centre. All are welcome to join us especially people with learning disabilities, autistic people and their families.

Just a bit of personal news...

It has been 8 years now since I came to live and work here at St Nicholas Boldmere. This arrangement was with the kind agreement of both Cardinal Vincent Nichols, my own bishop, and Archbishop Bernard.

After 8 years it seemed right to make a decision as to whether to remain a priest of Westminster Diocese or to ask to be incardinated as a priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

It might sit easier with the Wufrunian blood flowing in my veins, if this were the Archdiocese of Wolverhampton, but you can't have everything!

Both Archbishop Bernard and Cardinal Vincent gave my request their approval and blessing, And the formalities were completed yesterday, 8th September - happily the Birthday of Our Lady, patron of my last parish in Westminster. So that seems a good omen for my years ahead, beginning as a priest of Birmingham, and - at least for the foreseeable future continuing as Parish Priest in St Nicholas parish!

Fr. Allen

The Introductory Rites

Opening Song

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to him, do not be afraid,
in him rejoicing: the Lord is near;
in him rejoicing: the Lord is near.

Gloria



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.
Glory to God...

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.

Glory to God...

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.

Glory to God... Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

Ezekiel 33:7-9

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows:
‘Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the
House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth,
warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wick-
ed wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn
the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die
for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death.
If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his
ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall
die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.’

Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9



Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.
Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us:
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

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O that today you would listen to his voice!
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.’

Romans 13:8-10

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual
love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out
your obligations. All the commandments: You shall
not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not
steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in
this single command: You must love your neighbour
as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt
your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every
one of the commandments.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord: conse-
crate us in the truth. *Alleluia!*

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘If your brother does some-
thing wrong, go and have it out with him alone, be-
tween your two selves. If he listens to you, you have
won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one
or two others along with you: the evidence of two or
three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But
if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the commu-
nity; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat
him like a pagan or a tax collector.

‘I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall
be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose
on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

‘I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth
agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by
my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in
my name, I shall be there with them.’

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,
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 September 17th and October 1st.*

Take my hands and make them as your own,
and use them for your kingdom here on earth,
consecrate them to your care,
anoint them for your service where,
you may need your Gospel to be sown.

Take my hands they speak now for my heart,
and by their actions they will show their love,
guard them on their daily course,
be their strength and guiding force,
to ever serve the Trinity above.

Take my hands I give them to you Lord,
prepare them for the service of your name,
open them to human need,
and by their love they'll sow your seed,
so all may know the love and hope you give.



The mystery of faith



The Communion Rite

Communion thanksgiving

Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ for you.
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on the journey,
We are travellers on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will bear the Christ-light for you,
in the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping.
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joys and sorrows,
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we will find such harmony,
born of all we've shared together
of Christ's love and agony.

The first verse is repeated.

Prayer after Communion

The Church is for everyone? Really?

Cardinal Vincent this week commented on Pope Fran-
cis' assertion at World Youth Day that the Church is for
everyone. “Not surprisingly, this was challenged by a
journalist, pointing out to the Pope that some are not
permitted to receive Holy Communion and others feel
obstructed by the Church in other ways.

Pope Francis' reply was forthright: ‘You ask me a ques-
tion that concerns two different points of view: the
Church is open to everyone, then there is legislation
that regulates life inside the Church. He who is inside
follows the legislation. What you say is a simplification:
“They cannot participate in the sacraments.”

‘This does not mean that the Church is closed. Everyone
meets God on their own way inside the Church, and the
Church is the mother and guides everyone on their own
path ... Everyone, everyone in prayer, in inner dialogue,
in pastoral dialogue, looks for the way forward ... There
is a kind of gaze that doesn't understand this insertion
of the Church as mother and thinks of it as a kind of
“corporation” that you have to do this, or do it in this
way and not another way, in order to get in ... I don't
like reduction. This is not ecclesial; it is gnostic. It is like
a Gnostic heresy that is somewhat fashionable today.
A certain Gnosticism that reduces ecclesial reality, and
that doesn't help. The Church is “mother” receiving
everyone, and everyone makes their own way within the
Church, without publicity, and this is very important.’

The Cardinal noted: ‘In many ways, this approach is
nothing new. There are many aspects of our traditions in
which more ‘space’ was available in the regular practic-
es of the Church for those who are ‘on their own path’:
less emphasis on the reception of Holy Communion as
a mark of belonging; more ‘styles’ of prayer and liturgy
which are prayerful and devotional. I think this was seen
and experienced in Lisbon: the dramatic Stations of the
Cross; the recitation of the Rosary; the time of silent
prayer before the Blessed Sacrament of which one young
man said that for him it was a time of intensely intimate
prayer yet in the company of 1.5 million young people.
He learned that his prayer is both deeply personal and
yet never alone, always in the company of the Church.’

*There may be a challenge for St Nicholas parish in that. What
might we offer as spiritual space for those for whom Mass does
not, at present, offer the most helpful nourishment.*