

*continued from page 1* continue to be excluded from exercise of power and leadership in the Church herself. The Church has also been implicated in persecution and repression of peoples and faiths and cultures other than 'her own'.

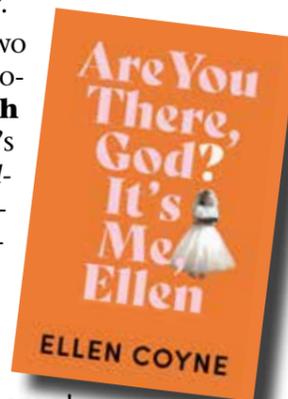
We are familiar with these things, but rarely do we gather as Church to talk about them. A pity for we need to explore the way they impact on us and others, and how we need to work to overcome their evil, and work and pray for grace to repair their harm.

Not talking about these things can make it look like the Church needs to hide the truth - whereas the teaching of Jesus is that we need to do is bring these things to the light so that there can be repentance and the opportunity to learn, be healed, and grow to be more authentically Christlike in ourselves and in the community of the Church which Christ calls us to form together with him.

If you would welcome a chance to explore some of these faults and failings and see what we might learn about being more authentically Church... why not come along to our new Sunday evening Group.

The group meetings - where open discussion is welcomed - will be something like a book club. So people are asked to read something in preparation for the discussion - but this is to focus us, not to constrain us! And there will be something to eat and drink while we talk together.

The themes for the first two meetings are, first, on 17 October, **Women in the Church** (responding to Ellen Coyne's *Are You There God? It's Me Ellen*) and second, on 21 November, **Racism** (responding to David Harewood's book *Maybe I don't belong here*) The books are available through the local library and bookshops, or Amazon!



All are welcome to come and take part - especially the disgruntled and searching. And if that is not you, then maybe you have a disgruntled or searching friend you might encourage to come with you. They might be good for us all.,

### St Nicholas Fair

It is hoped that we will be able to have our usual St Nicholas Advent Fair this year, and for the first time in the Newman Community Centre. This will give us additional space, and also make potentially make the event more easily accessible to the wider community. The Centre is booked for 4/5 December.

If you are interested in helping with the event (AND ESPECIALLY if you are interested in running a stall) please contact Fr Allen as soon as possible so a planning meeting can be arranged.

### Bishop's Open Letter on Assisted Dying Bill

Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has written an open letter inviting Catholics to pray for the defeat of the Assisted Dying Bill to be debated in the House of Lords in October.

It encourages us to write to peers at the House of Lords stating the reasons why we oppose this legislation and particularly explain from personal experience the reasons why this change in the law should be opposed. <https://bit.ly/3C7rsm7>

### Newman Community Centre

The NCC? Maybe you know it by its old name of the *Carpenter's Arms*.

The *Newman Community Centre* is now open for a variety of groups in line with current COVID regulations. It will open for other groups as and when the regulations are relaxed.

If you are planning events and would like to hold them at the NCC please ring the Hall Manager, Kay O'Keeffe, on 0121 321 2285 or email [newmancc.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:newmancc.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk)



### Catenians Mon 13 Sept, Moor Hall Hotel, 7.30pm.

Prof Amanda Burls, an expert on evidence-based medicine will talk to "Kill as few people as possible". More details <https://bit.ly/3zW9EcQ>

### Deanery Young Adults Gp. Mass at 7:30pm on Mon 13 Sept at Erdington Abbey, preceded by 30mins Adoration and Confessions, and followed by social .

### People with special needs and learning disabilities

can be invisible to the Church. Sometimes this is because our parishes are not very good at offering welcome, even to the Church, where all should be sure of finding welcome, care and respect.



To try and see how we might do better our parish offers a meeting planned for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm. It is for people with special needs, of any age, especially those who live in our parish and surrounding area. Their families are welcome too - should they wish to come.

It is a chance to meet and listen and learn from people with special needs (and their families). Some parishioners are already part of the process, if others would like to learn more and maybe take part, please speak with Fr Allen.



## St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

**Website:** [www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk](http://www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk)

**E-mail:** [stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk) **Telephone:** 0121 354 1763

**Parish Blog:** [www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com](http://www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com)

**Parish Priest:** Fr Allen Morris **Deacons:** Revv John Garvey and Gary O'Brien

**Parish Safeguarding:** Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)

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

### Learning from our Experience

Regularly a Synod of the Church is held in Rome to focus on an aspect of her life and mission, on our life and mission. Themes in the past have included Young People, the Eucharist, the Word of God, the Family and Evangelization.



The next Synod looks to how we are Church.

To that end Pope Francis has called all local Churches, i.e. dioceses, to first consult widely on the experience of her members. So over the coming weeks bishops all over the world will be putting in place the ways that they are going to be doing this. Indeed the Synod itself, after an opening ceremony in Rome in October, begins its work in local Churches, before concluding in the assembly of bishops in the Vatican in 2023 to reflect on the experience and on what is being learnt.

Details of how this is to be done in Birmingham will be forthcoming shortly.

In the meantime if you wish to read the documents that guide the overall process you will find links to them on the parish blog for 8th Sept.

### Financial Support of the Parish

Gift aiding of offertory donations to the parish is a great help in ensuring we can balance our parish finances.

To Gift Aid your donations you need to make your offerings either by Standing Order or by Gift Aid envelopes, which ever is most convenient for you..

Forms for Gift Aid/Standing Orders and envelopes are available from Fr Allen

### Getting it right? On the way to!

Back in 2000 Pope John Paul II invited the Church to Day of Prayer for Forgiveness. A day for forgiveness of the sins committed by members of the Church, and particularly sins committed in the name of the Church, effectively by the Church. These included sins against peace and the rights of people and cultures; against women and the unity of the human race. The words of the liturgy can be found on our parish website. They repay being read again over 20 years later.

That was a one-off event that made sense in the context of the celebration of the Millennium. We were celebrating the works of salvation and redemption that are to the fore in the life of the Church. But there is this shadow-side too.

St John Paul's initiative was criticised at the time by some who noted, accurately, that the Church is the Body of Christ and Christ is without sin. But the Holy Father reminded that the Church is also us, sinners, united with the sinless Christ. And that brings problems.

We are familiar with such problems. The way that the abuse of all sorts has brought hurt to many people, and the way in which - too often - officials of the Church have sought to deal with it by 'covering it up'. The Church has long spoken out about the way that women are discriminated against in 'the world', but many point to the way that women *Continued on p 3.*

### PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

Day	Time	Special Occasion	Officiant
Sa 11	6pm		John Farrell RD (Gill)
Su 12	9am	24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	For the parish
	11am		Eugene McWilliams RIP (McWilliams)
M 13	10am	St John Chrysostom	
T 14	10am	Exaltation of Holy Cross	
W 15	10am	Our Lady of Sorrows	
Th 16			
F 17	7pm		John Farrell RD (Drozdz)
Sa 18	6pm		Trevor Hall RIP (Szambir)
Su 19	9am	25h SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	For the parish
	11am		Marcella and Joe Carrol RIP

**Please pray for sick parishioners** including Brenda Davies, Elizabeth Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for Victoria Wolfindale who died recently, and John Farrell, whose funeral is at 11am on 17th Sept at Erdington Abbey and for Thomas Madigan and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

**M**ake us one, O God, in acknowledging Jesus the Christ.

As we proclaim him by our words, let us follow him in our works; give us strength to take up the cross and courage to lose our lives for his sake.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

**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.*

#### Isaiah 50:5-9

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who will dare to condemn me?

#### Psalms 114(116):1-6,8-9

I love the Lord for he has heard  
the cry of my appeal;  
for he turned his ear to me  
in the day when I called him.

They surrounded me, the snares of death,  
with the anguish of the tomb;  
they caught me, sorrow and distress.

I called on the Lord's name.

O Lord, my God, deliver me!

How gracious is the Lord, and just;  
our God has compassion.

The Lord protects the simple hearts;  
I was helpless so he saved me.

He has kept my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears  
and my feet from stumbling.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

#### James 2:14-18

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty', without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

#### 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!*

#### Mark 8:27-35

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake

of the gospel, will save it.'

#### 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

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are  
full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he  
who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

#### The mystery of faith.

We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Res-ur-rec-tion  
un-til you come a-gain.

**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.*

#### Song of Thanksgiving

Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast;  
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,  
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,  
wash me with water flowing from thy side.  
Strength and protection may thy passion be;  
O Blessed Jesus, hear and answer me;  
deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me;  
so shall I never, ever part from thee.

Guard and defend me from the foe malign;  
in death's dread moment make me only thine;  
call me, and bid me come to thee on high,  
when I may praise thee with thy saints for aye.

#### 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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## One in Christ: Training and Formation for those called to the service of the Church at prayer

*Booking forms are available from Fr Allen.  
Parish ministers (and others) should reserve their  
places as soon as possible.*

They have been designed for those preparing to begin their service of the Church, and to help people already serving to reflect and build on their experience.

They will help ministers

- understand what is asked of them
- prepare well for what they do
- minister confidently and fruitfully.

Sat Oct 9: For all parish Readers  
Sat Nov 6: For all parish Ministers  
of Holy Communion  
Sat Dec 4: For Leaders of Prayer