

Communion with the Church: What/who is our Church community?

Christ is present to the community that comes together in prayer and song, and, indeed, present as the community of the baptised who are the Body of Christ.

When we pray at Mass we pray not only as ourselves, but most importantly we pray ‘in’, ‘with’ and ‘as’ Christ. Our prayer is joined with his prayer, and we give thanks and make offering of ourselves to the Father, with him.

The community is Christ...

Who prays the Mass? First and foremost it is Christ. We pray in and with him, because of our baptismal identity with him. We share in his priesthood, and we participate in his prayer.

Others can attend Mass, of course, but only the baptised can fully participate. This is not because we are so wonderful. Indeed sometimes we are far from wonderful - but because of the grace given us in baptism that makes us members of his Body.

In the early centuries of the Church, because of this profound effect of baptism, those who were not baptised were required to leave the celebration of Mass after the readings and the homily – and before the Prayer of the Faithful. Not being members of the Body of Christ, they lacked the capacity to join themselves with the prayer of Christ, the prayer of the Church that is the Eucharistic Prayer. And that prayer was for participants not spectators.

We do not maintain that discipline today - although in many places enquirers or catchumens (adults preparing for baptism) continue to be dismissed after the homily (for continued refection on the readings in preparation for their being ready to receive Baptism).

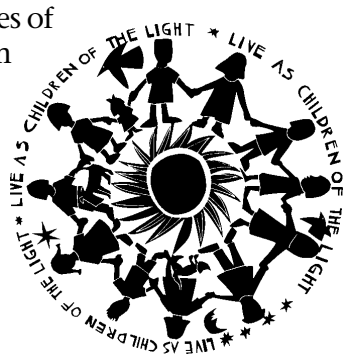
The Prayer of the Faithful which follows is so-called precisely because it is the prayer of the Faithful, i.e. the

St Nicholas Fair planning meeting for all stallholders Benedict Room. 7.30pm on Tues 10 Oct.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

Further dates for these Liturgies of the Word are 9am on this term are Sunday 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.



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.



Project for children preparing to receive Holy Communion or Confirmation

(see pages 7, 8 of Life in Communion booklet)

Either write a short account of what you have learnt about your history, our history.

Or prepare an illustrated map of places associated with the Christian lives of your family.

To be entered into the competition please bring your work to Mass NEXT Sunday.

baptised. It is not ‘any old prayer’ but might be seen as the first instance in the Mass of the faithful praying in, with and as Christ. The Prayer of the Faithful has a dignity and sacramental depth that is often overlooked. Christ prays and the Church prays in him.

And Christ is for the world...

He came that we might have life and have it to the full. We surely know that. It is why we confess him our Lord and Master.

But he comes not just for us. He comes for the whole world. And as he came, so the community that is the Body of Christ is called to be as Christ for the world.

St Theresa of Avilla put it this way

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes with which

he looks compassionately on this world.

Yours are the feet with which

he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands,

with which he blesses all the world.

World Development Group:

Fund raising Quiz night in Newman Centre. Sat 14 Oct at 7.15. Admission £5.00

Preparation for Baptism of Infants

Our next series of Baptism preparation meetings begins with a meeting in the Benedict Room, at 12noon on Saturday 2nd December. To register, please see Fr Allen.

Mini Munchkins Stay and Play group

0-5 years. Starting Monday 6th November Come along to the Newman Community Centre and enjoy an interactive session of fun and educational activities with your mini munchkin. More info: minimunchkinsplay@gmail.com Sessions include arts & crafts, toys, nursery songs Monday Mornings 9.30-11am £4 adult & 1 child; extra child 50p; extra adult £1 minimunchkinsplay@gmail.com



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/OCTOBER 2023: PARISH MASSES THIS WEEK

Sa	30	6pm	26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	John Gordon RD (Kenny)
Su	1	9am		For the parish
		11am		Elizabeth Middleton RD (Brookes)
M	2	10am	Guardian Angels	Ints of Canon Kevin Jordan
T	3	10am		Peter Canavan RD (Green)
W	4	10am	St Francis of Assisi	Robert & Eugene McWilliams RIP
Th	5			
F	6	7pm		
Sa	7	6pm	27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Peter Canavan RD (Maynard)
Su	8	9am		Mary Bullmore RD (Redmond)
		11am		For the parish

Anointing of the Sick: Next celebration is 27th October 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 Terry Morris, Chrissie Newstead, Fr Michael Ho, Brenda Davies; Rita Rhodes, Stephen Burke; Lesley Devlin & Jean Lawlor. Please pray for Audrey Fryer, Edward Madden, Martin Murphy, Olwyn Foster, Val McDonald, Joseph Finnegan, Ursula Hunt, Theresa Sheehan and all whose passing is remembered 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 Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Mary Rose. She can be contacted at: sg.stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

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

Thoughts as we are invited to gather for prayer

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

When we cross ourselves, let it be with a real sign of the cross. Instead of a small cramped gesture that gives no notion of its meaning, let us make a large unhurried sign, from forehead to breast, from shoulder to shoulder, consciously feeling how it includes the whole of us, our thoughts, our attitudes, our body and soul, every part of us at once. how it consecrates and sanctifies us.

It does so because it is the Sign of the universe and the sign of our redemption. On the cross Christ redeemed mankind. By the cross he sanctifies man to the last shred and fibre of his being.

We make the sign of the cross before we pray to collect and compose ourselves and to fix our minds and hearts and wills upon God. We make it when we finish praying in order that we may hold fast the gift we have received from God. In temptations we sign ourselves to be strengthened; in dangers, to be protected. The cross is signed upon us in blessings in order that the fullness of God’s life may flow into the soul and fructify and sanctify us wholly.

Think of these things when you make the sign of the cross. It is the holiest of all signs. Make a large cross, taking time, thinking what you do. Let it take in your whole being —body, soul, mind, will, thoughts, feelings, your doing and not-doing — and by signing it with the cross strengthen and consecrate the whole in the strength of Christ, in the name of the triune God. Romano Guardini

At the beginning and end of this Mass; at the beginning and end of our lives; at the beginning and ending of all we do stands the sign of the Cross, saying: this place, this space of time, this life, this child, this people, this corpse, belongs to the Lord and will not be snatched from Him who bears indelibly in his body the marks of that same Cross. Mark Searle

The Introductory Rites

Opening Song

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
*all are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God’s children dare to seek
to dream God’s reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God’s grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they’ve known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God’s face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

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 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows:
‘You object, “What the Lord does is unjust.” Listen,
you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what
you do that is unjust? When the upright man re-
nounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because
of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has
committed. When the sinner renounces sin to be-
come law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He

has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall
certainly live; he shall not die.’

Psalm 24(25):4-9



Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor.

Philippians 2:1-5

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can
persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common,
or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in
your convictions and united in your love, with a com-
mon purpose and a common mind. That is the one
thing which would make me completely happy. There
must be no competition among you, no conceit; but
everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the
other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody
thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks
of other people’s interests instead. In your minds you
must be the same as Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my
word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come
to him. *Alleluia!*

Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people,
‘What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went
and said to the first, “My boy, you go and work in the
vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not go,” but af-
terwards thought better of it and went. The man then
went and said the same thing to the second who an-
swered, “Certainly, sir,” but did not go. Which of the
two did the father’s will?’ ‘The first’ they said. Jesus said
to them, ‘I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prosti-
tutes are making their way into the kingdom of God be-
fore you. For John came to you, a pattern of true right-
eousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax
collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that,
you refused to think better of it and believe in him.’

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 Sundays October 21st and November5th

*Take our bread, we ask you,
Take our hearts, we love you,
Take our lives, oh Father, we are yours, we are yours.*

Yours as we stand at the table you set,
Yours as we eat the bread our hearts can’t forget.
We are the signs of your life with us yet;
We are yours, we are yours.

Your holy people stand washed in your blood,
Spirit-filled, yet hungry, we await your food.
Poor though we are, we have brought ourselves to you:
We are yours, we are yours.



The mystery of faith

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we
proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

The Communion Rite

Communion thanksgiving

*A new commandment I give unto you
That you love one another as I have loved you,
That you love one another as I have loved you.*

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By this shall all men know
that you are my disciples:
If you have love one for another.

You are my friends
if you do what I command you.
Without my help you can do nothing.

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

“Bringing children to church”

To get a couple of things out of the way first - children
of all ages are welcome at all of our parish masses, and
inevitably children will raise the ‘noise’ level at Mass,
even quite considerably. Let’s take all that for granted.

However ‘just’ bringing children to Mass is not what
parents and grandparents and god-parents are asked
to do for their children, the children of our parish.
They are asked to help the children slowly, gradually,
learn how to take part in the Mass, and find meaning
there, ultimately to be able to have fruitful encoun-
ter with Jesus there.

A few things seem especially important here -

- Bringing them to church in good time before Mass
begins, so they can spend a time in prayer, perhaps
offering their own prayers with you before the fig-
ures of Our Lady and the Sacred Heart, praying es-
pecially for the particular things that are happen-
ing in their lives and the lives of their families.
- Helping them to get into the habit of thinking
what they want to pray about during the Mass -
something to say thank you for, sorry for and help
with, for example. Your doing the same and talk-
ing with them about your choices offers great en-
couragement to them.
- During the Mass **regularly** encouraging them to
join in responses and songs. It is lovely when this
happens but too many parents sit beside children
not seemingly responding themselves, and doing
nothing to offer encouragement to their children.
- And of course, regularly being part of our parish
celebration of Sunday Mass has its place. Parish-
ioners regularly comment on how children are
brought to Mass for ‘special’ things but very few
are seen the Sunday after. Without regular practice
children cannot learn how to pray the Mass, and
acquire the Christian spirit.

The Church warns that unless we help children to
take their proper active part, understanding and
engaging with what we do, those bringing them to
church can be pointless and even harmful. That’s the
last thing, surely, that anyone would want. But en-
suring that this does not happen takes care and com-
mitment from parents.