

Gathering in Christ and as Christ

Over these past weeks we have been invited to reflect more on the expectation that as we gather to celebrate Mass, in all of our diversity, we seek and work to become one. We are invited to find unity in our common work of gathering, greeting and being greeted, singing and praying - we are called to assemble as members of the Body of Christ, helping each other to receive him and respond to him, to find the fullness of life again in him. We are called to work to this end, serving the good of our community, not only looking for our own benefit from being 'at Mass'.

Over the past days we may have seen how often in debates and interviews related to the present horrors in the Middle East and taking place on TV and the radio, podcasts and even in our own homes, work places and social gatherings, many people are keen to speak up and look to their own interests but are blind, and deaf to, careless of the needs and circumstances of others.

It is a weakness that is endemic in our society - and maybe it is a fault that in our tradition can be traced back to goings-on in the Garden of Eden!

The Synodal Process put in place by Pope Francis, and that has just come to the end of the present stage with the end of this month's meeting in Rome, seeks to challenge just this what for short-hand we might call selfishness. At the end of the meeting the men and women of that Assembly wrote to us and the whole Church:

As the proceedings of the first session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops draw to a close, we want to thank God with all of you for the beautiful and enriching experience we have lived. We lived this blessed time in profound communion with all of you. We were supported by your prayers, bearing with you your expectations, your questions, as well as your fears. As Pope Francis requested two years ago, a long process of listening and discernment was initiated, open to all the People of God, no one being excluded, to "journey together" under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, missionary disciples engaged in the following of Jesus Christ.

The session in which we have been gathered in Rome since 30 September is an important phase of this process. In many ways it has been an unprecedented experience. For the first time, at Pope Francis' invitation, men and women have been invited, in virtue of their baptism, to sit at the same table to take part, not only in the discussions, but also in the voting process of this Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. Together, in the complementarity of our vocations, our charisms and our ministries, we have listened intensely to the Word of God and the experience of others. Using the conversation in the Spirit method, we have humbly shared the wealth and poverty of our communities from every continent, seeking to discern what the Holy Spirit wants to say to the Church today. We have thus also experienced the importance of fostering mutual exchanges between the Latin tradition and the traditions of Eastern Christianity. The participation of fraternal delegates from other Churches and Ecclesial Communities deeply enriched our discussions.

Our assembly took place in the context of a world in crisis, whose wounds and scandalous inequalities resonated painfully in our hearts, infusing our continued on page 3

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.



Dads Alive

One of the parish COVID 'casualties' was our monthly Dads' group. But it is returning!

A first meeting has been arranged to take place in the Benedict Room (behind the church, opposite the school) at 7.30pm on Monday 6th November. All Dads are welcome - including non-Catholic Dads!

The format is we start with a drink (wine and soft drinks are available!); we follow with a brief talk/conversation on a subject related to the experience and responsibilities of being a father, often led by one of our own members (and the hope is that the talk and conversation are both fun and helpful!); then we have more social time and usually a bite to eat too.

On 6th November the talk/discussion is being led by Stephen Marshall, member of our parish and teacher at Bishop Walsh on the subject of How parents and teachers work together to develop the young Catholic adults of the future.

Sometimes people ask, 'Why no group for Mums?' The simple answer is that to date, no mums have been interested in helping this sort of a group come together. But if there interest is there, it would be a great thing to have a Mums alive! group too.

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



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

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023: PARISH MASSES

Sa	28	6pm	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Teresa Gill RIP (Gill)
Su	29	9am 11am		Bridget Broom RIP (Broom) For the parish
M	30	10am		Kathe and George Eaton
T	31	10am		Patrick M
W	1	10am 7pm	All Saints: A holy day of obligation	Mona Williams RIP
Th	2	1pm	All Souls	
F	3	7pm		Sandra McCormick RIP and Gerry and the family
Sa	4	6pm	31st Sunday in Ordinary Time	Dcsd members of Platt family
Su	5	9am 11am		Aidan Redmond RIP (R) 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 Jenifer Cummings, Chrissie Newstead, Fr Michael Ho, Brenda Davies; Rita Rhodes, Stephen Burke; Lesley Devlin & Jean Lawlor. **Please pray** for Bridget Broom, Edna Murray, William Pearce, Ena Brannigan, Margaret Dines, Robert Pille, Peter Dunn, all deceased members of our parish and diocese, and all others 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.

Parish Fair

Thank you to all who have been involved in the planning for the Parish Fair, which this year is on 18th/19th November, and coincides with the Boldmere Festival in Boldmere Road. We may provide a haven of peace and quiet from that event's busyness, and maybe also draw a few of the attendees of that event into ours.

Do put the date in your diary!

There is as usual a wide array of stalls and activities. Stall-holders are eager to receive your donations for the book /bottle / toy and cake stalls and donations for the raffles. They would also welcome help with setting up at 2pm on Saturday 18th November, and packing up on the Sunday.

Sadly for the third year running St Nicholas School is not helping with teas and coffees - so we are looking for volunteers to make sure those can still be in place. If you can help, please see Don O'Gorman or Fr Allen.

The profits from the Fair this year go to the Sunday Friends group which is responding to an important need. The Sutton Coldfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme has recently recognised the value of what this group does in the name of our parish, and offered its own support too.

SUNDAY FRIENDS

Our parish 'Sunday Friends' group welcomes all to join in activities to celebrate the feast of Christ the King on Sunday 26th November. At the heart of the group are people with learning disabilities and autistic people of all ages, faiths or none and their families/carers - but all are welcome. And it's free!

The usual structure of our meetings is we listen to a short story from the Bible, sing and use percussion instruments, choose from various art/craft activities, share refreshments and make new friendships. We want everyone to know how much God loves every single one of us.

The Introductory Rites

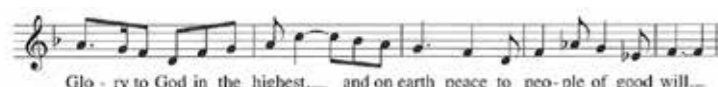
Opening Song

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my armour, and be thou my might;
thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower:
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

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

Exodus 22:20-26

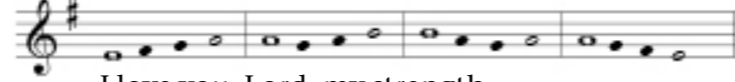
“You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”

Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible © 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. *Text of the Psalms:* Copyright © 1963, The Grail (England). All rights reserved. *Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Psalm 17(18):2-4,47,51



I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.

The Lord is worthy of all praise,
when I call I am saved from my foes.
Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me,

He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed.
I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?’ Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.’

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 5th and 19th November.

Gifts of bread and wine, gifts we’ve offered,
fruits of labour, fruits of love:
taken, offered, sanctified,
blessed and broken; words of one who died:
Take my body, take my saving blood.’
Gifts of bread and wine: Christ our Lord.

Christ our Saviour, living presence here,
as He promised while on earth:
‘I am with you for all time,
I am with you in this bread and wine.’
Through the Father, with the Spirit,
one in union with the Son,
for God’s people, joined in prayer,
faith is strengthened by the food we share.

Sanctus



The mystery of faith



The Communion Rite

Communion thanksgiving

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:

thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, when battle is done,
grant heaven’s joy to me, O bright Heaven’s Sun!
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

continued from page 4. work with a particular gravity, especially since some of us come from countries where war rages. We prayed for the victims of deadly violence, without forgetting all those who have been forced by misery and corruption to take the dangerous road of migration. We assured our solidarity and commitment alongside the women and men all over the world who are working to build justice and peace.

At the invitation of the Holy Father, we made significant room for silence to foster mutual listening and a desire for communion in the Spirit among us. During the opening ecumenical vigil, we experienced how the thirst for unity increases in the silent contemplation of the crucified Christ. In fact, the cross is the only cathedra of the One who, having given himself for the salvation of the world, entrusted His disciples to His Father, so that “they may all be one” (John 17:21). Firmly united in the hope brought by His Resurrection, we entrusted to Him our common home where the cries of the earth and the poor are becoming increasingly urgent: “Laudate Deum!” (“Praise God!”), as Pope Francis reminded us at the beginning of our work.

Day by day, we felt the pressing call to pastoral and missionary conversion. For the Church’s vocation is to proclaim the Gospel not by focusing on itself, but by placing itself at the service of the infinite love with which God loved the world (cf. John 3:16). When homeless people near St. Peter’s Square were asked about their expectations regarding the Church on the occasion of this synod, they replied: “Love!”. This love must always remain the ardent heart of the Church, a Trinitarian and Eucharistic love, as the Pope recalled on October 15, midway through our assembly, invoking the message of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus. It is “trust” that gives us the audacity and inner freedom that we experienced, not hesitating to freely and humbly express our convergences, differences, desires and questions.

Between now and the Synod’s concluding meeting in October its members have the challenge not to just speak fine words and enjoy the experience of their meeting, but to live that work of listening and caring in their ‘regular’ lives.

Being Church is no easy matter. It is something we are called to in our every Mass; and the spiritual exercise that is every Mass, so that might draw maximum benefit from it for our own lives, yes, but also to support our faithful response to the call for us to be as Christ for others.

Fr. Allen