

Communion through the Scriptures

For Christians the Word of God is Jesus Christ.

One of the places where we can have personal encounter with the living Word is in the words of Scripture.

Most especially the Word of God speaks us with through those words when the Scriptures are proclaimed. The words themselves are not God, no more than what is visible of God's faithful people gathered in worship, or what is visible of the consecrated Bread and Wine are God. But God speaks to us through them.

More than that, we believe that the words themselves are inspired. Their authors wrote what they wrote – histories, letters, poems, stories – under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. They wrote as human authors – and with the regular limitations of human authors. But what they wrote to describe God's relationship with humankind is now used by God for God's purposes – to draw us into fresh relationship with him, to write salvation history now with our lives.

Recently Pope Francis wrote the following Preface to an edition of Scripture for Young People:

My dear young friends, If you could see my Bible, you would not be particularly impressed. What—that's the Pope's Bible? Such an old, worn-out book! You could buy me a new one for \$1,000, but I would not want it. I love my old Bible, which has accompanied me half my life. It has been with me in my times of joy and times of tears. It is my most precious treasure. I live out of it, and I wouldn't give anything in the world for it.

I really like this new Youth Bible. It's so colourful, so rich in testimonies: testimonies of the saints, testimonies of young people. It is so inviting that when you start to read at the beginning, you can't stop until the last page. And then ...? And then it disappears on a shelf, collecting dust. Your children

find it one day and bring it to the flea market. It must not come to that.

I'll tell you something: There are more persecuted Christians in the world today than in the early days of the Church. And why are they persecuted? They are persecuted because they wear a cross and bear witness to Jesus. They are convicted because they own a Bible. The Bible is therefore a highly dangerous book—so dangerous that you are treated in some countries as if you were hiding hand grenades in your closet. It was a non-Christian, Mahatma Gandhi, who once said: "You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilization to pieces, turn the world upside down, and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature."

So what do you have in your hands? A piece of literature? Some nice old stories? Then you would have to say to the many Christians who go to prison or are tortured because they own a Bible: "How foolish you are; it's just a piece of literature!" No. By the word of God has Light come into the world, and it will never go out. We do not blindly seek God, or wait for him to speak to us first, for 'God has already spoken, and there is nothing further that we need to know, which has not been revealed to us.' Let us receive the sublime treasure of the revealed word.

So you have something divine in your hands: a book like fire! A book through which God speaks. So notice: The Bi-

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.

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.*

Mini Munchkins Stay & Play group

Come along to the Newnham Community Centre and enjoy an interactive session of fun and educational activities with your mini munchkin (0-5 years).

Monday Mornings 9.30-11am

£4 adult & 1 child; extra child 50p; extra adult £1

2nd Collection for Retired Clergy today. Want to give on-line? www.johnsonassociation.org/about.html



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

NOVEMBER 2023: PARISH MASSES

Sa	4	6pm	31st Sunday in Ordinary Time	Dcsd members of Platt family
Su	5	9am		Aidan Redmond RIP (R)
		11am		For the parish
M	6	10am		Desd mbrs of Gahan family
T	7	10am		Dcsd mbrs of Redmond family
W	8	10am		Fr George Grynowski RIP
Th	9	1pm		
F	10	7pm	St Leo the Great	Dcsd mbrs of the Ladies Guild
Sa	11		32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	For the parish
				Dcsd bros and sisters of Mr Gannon
Su	12			Elizabeth Sawbridge RIP

Anointing of the Sick: Next celebration is 24th November 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 Srah Broom who died during the week, for Eamon Hayes whose funeral is here at 11am on Nov 22nd, and for Robert Pilley, Peter Dunn, Philip Hindle, Stephen Yates, Bridie McGinness, Elizabeth Barker, John Delaney, all deceased members of our parish and diocese, and all others whose passing is remembered at this time.

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 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

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.

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 busy-ness, and maybe also draw a few of the attenders 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.

Stallholders meeting
Tuesday 7th at 7.30 in Benedict Room

Blessing of Graves

in local cemeteries

2023

Erdington Abbey: 5 November, 1pm
New Hall Cemetery: 12 November, 2pm
Oscott Cemetery: 4 November, 3pm
Rectory Road Cem'y: 26 November, 2pm
Witton Cemetery: 5 November, 3pm

The Introductory Rites
Opening Song

*Oh the word of my Lord, deep within my being.
Oh the word of my Lord, you have filled my mind.*

Before I formed you in the womb,
I knew you through and through.
I chose you to be mine.
Before you left your mother’s side,
I called to you, my child, to be my sign.

I know that you are very young,
but I will make you strong -
I will fill you with my word,
and you will travel through the land
fulfilling my command, which you have learned.

And everywhere you are to go,
my hand will follow you, you will not be alone,
in all the danger that you fear
you’ll find me very near, your words my own.

With all my strength you will be filled
you will destroy and build, for that is my design.
You will create and overthrow,
reap harvests I will sow - your word is mine.

Gloria

Glo - ry to God in the highest... and on earth peace to peo - ple 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.

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
Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10

I am a great king, says the Lord of Hosts, and my name
is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests,
this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do
not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the

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Lord of Hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse
your very blessing. But you, you have strayed from the
way; you have caused many to stumble by your teach-
ing. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the
Lord of Hosts. And so I in my turn have made you con-
temptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in
repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths
but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create
us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another,
profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

Psalm 130(131)

O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me.

Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother’s breast,
even so is my soul.

Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.
O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and forever.
Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13
Like a mother feeding and looking after her own chil-
dren, we felt so devoted and protective towards you,
and had come to love you so much, that we were eager
to hand over to you not only the Good News but our
whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how
hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not
to be a burden on any one of you while we were pro-
claiming God’s Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is
that as soon as you heard the message that we brought
you as God’s message, you accepted it for what it really
is, God’s message and not some human thinking; and
it is still a living power among you who believe it.

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life. *Alleluia!*

Matthew 23:1-12
Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, ‘The
scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You
must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what
they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since
they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy
burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders, but will they
lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they
do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader
phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the
place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the

synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market
squares and having people call them Rabbi.

You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called
Rabbi, since you have only one master, and you are
all brothers. You must call no one on earth your fa-
ther, since you have only one Father, and he is in
heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called
teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ.
The greatest among you must be your servant. Any-
one who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone
who humbles himself will be exalted.’

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.*

In bread we bring you, Lord, our bodies’ labour.
In wine we offer you our spirit’s grief.
We do not ask you, Lord, who is my neighbour?
But stand united now, one in belief.
Oh we have gladly heard your word, your holy word,
and now in answer, Lord, our gifts we bring.
Our selfish hearts make true, our failing faith renew,
our lives belong to you, our Lord and King.

*continued from page 4. ble is not meant to be placed on
a shelf, but to be in your hands,
to read often—every day, both on your own and together
with others. You do sports together or go shopping togeth-
er. Why not read the Bible together as well—two, three,
or four of you? In nature, in the woods, on the beach, at
night in the glow of a few candles ... you will have a great
experience! Or are you afraid of making a fool of yourself
in front of others?*

*Read with attention! Do not stay on the surface as if reading
a comic book! Never just skim the Word of God! Ask yourself:
“What does this say to my heart? Does God speak through
these words to me? Has he touched me in the depths of my
longing? What should I do?” Only in this way can the force*

The bread we offer you is blessed and broken,
and it becomes for us our spirit’s food.
Over the cup we bring your word is spoken,
make it your gift to us, your healing blood.
Take all that daily toil plants in our heart’s poor soil,
take all we start and spoil, each hopeful dream,
the chances we have missed, the graces we resist,
Lord, in thy Eucharist, take and redeem.

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, ho -
san-na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

The mystery of faith

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-
claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a -
gain, un - til you come a - gain.

The Communion Rite
Communion thanksgiving
Word made flesh, Son of God.
Come, Lord Jesus, come again. (2)

Lord and Saviour, Son of God
Prince of Peace, Son of God.
Light from light, Son of God.
Jesus Christ, Son of God.

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

*of the Word of God unfold. Only in this way can it change
our lives, making them great and beautiful.*
*I want to tell you how I read my old Bible. Often I read a
little and then put it away and contemplate the Lord. Not
that I see the Lord, but he looks at me. He’s there. I let my-
self look at him. And I feel—this is not sentimentality—I
feel deeply the things that the Lord tells me. Sometimes he
does not speak. I then feel nothing, only emptiness, emp-
tiness, emptiness.... But I remain patiently, and so I wait,
reading and praying. I pray sitting, because it hurts me
to kneel. Sometimes I even fall asleep while praying. But
it does not matter. I’m like a son with the Father, and that is
what’s important. Would you like to make me happy? Read
the Bible!*
Pope Francis