

## Communion through the Scriptures

### What is the Bible?

The Bible is a library of books. Though it may be helpful to think of it as two libraries. The first, the ancient Jewish Library that we generally call the Old Testament. The second, the collection of Christian writings that the Church combined with the more ancient writings, that we call the New Testament.

The library that is the Bible contains all sorts of different sorts of writings. It contains

- works of fiction such as the books of Job and Jonah;
- mythical and legendary stories such as the stories of Creation and the Flood in Genesis.
- letters – many of them written by St Paul.
- poems and songs – such as the Psalms, including the famous Psalm 23 ‘The Lord is my shepherd...’
- prophecies such as the Book of Isaiah that offers challenge and encouragement to Israel and to us.
- And the Gospels that tells us of the saving life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

All of these different sorts of writing are inspired by God so that in their different ways, they invite us to live as faithful children of the Father. God speaks through the Scriptures, calling us to know, trust in and receive his goodness, love and care.

The Scriptures invite us to learn from our history how to live our relationship with God today, how to receive and enter into the fullness of communion with God in Jesus Christ.

Through his Word God tells us what he is and what he wants. He says it definitively and says it for each individual day. When we hold our Gospel book in our hands, we should reflect that in it dwells the Word that wants to take flesh in us, desires to take hold of us so that we might begin his life anew, in a new place, in a new time, in a new human setting. *Madeliene Delbr l*

### Mini Munchkins Stay & Play group

Come along to the Newman 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

Sacred Scripture is not something of the past. The Lord does not speak in the past tense but the present: he speaks to us today, he enlightens us, he shows us the way through life. He gives us communion and thus he prepares us and opens us to peace. *Pope Benedict XVI*

### WANT TO LEARN MORE

#### ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

Why might I want to do that? Perhaps because you are Catholic and wonder why? Or a Christian of another tradition and wondering what more Catholic faith has to offer? Or maybe you have little in the way of Christian background but you have children preparing for first sacraments and would like to know better how to support and encourage them in the way of faith? Or 101 other reasons.

But in these sessions designed for the returning or enquiring Catholic and anyone who is questioning or searching, hopefully there is something for everyone. Interested? You are warmly invited to come and join in the 1 hour meetings in the parish house which begin this coming Monday, 13th November.

We will be looking at the first of the gospels, the Gospel of Mark, and a part of each meeting will be reserved for asking and exploring those questions you may have always wanted to ask, but been afraid to ask....

The Bible is God’s love letter to us.

*S ren Kierkegaard*

### A ‘Year of Prayer?’ What? Why?

2023-24 has been designated the Year of Prayer by Pope Francis, with a particular emphasis on the Our Father. This is In preparation for the Jubilee Year “Pilgrims of Hope”. It presents our Church with a significant opportunity to revisit the basics of prayer, and for us to become even more a people of prayer.

Someone once said that ‘prayer doesn’t help our relationship with God, prayer IS our relationship with God!’ and so when we become more devoted to prayer, we are building up that Divine friendship. Being Pilgrims of Hope means that we should always be growing in our love of prayer on our journey of Faith. But the Year of Prayer also asks us to consider how we might help others to pray, so that they too can experience a personal encounter with the risen Jesus.

*The ‘Year’ offers an opportunity to revive the House Groups project that began just before COVID. I’d be grateful if those who were hosts of a group would contact their previous members. They might meet in the next week or so to consider reviving their group. Or maybe better yet, consider dissolving the ‘old’ group so that those who have already had a taste of the benefits of a house group can establish new groups and help build up and maybe even extend the Church in Boldmere.*

More details of the ‘Year’ next week!

*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 **Deacon:** Rev John Garvey

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

### NOVEMBER 2023: PARISH MASSES

Sa	11		32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	For the parish
Su	12			Decsd bros and sisters of Mr Gannon Elizabeth Sawbridge RIP
M	13	10am		Decsd family of Annemarie Cotton
T	14	10am		Bridget Broom RIP (Broom)
W	15	10am		Decsd of Cleary and Sterling families
Th	16			
F	17	7pm		Decsd of Fitzpatrick & O’Gorman fam’s
Sa	18		33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	D’d of Powell, Foster, Hodgetts family
Su	19			Jessie Mary Redmond RIP * For the parish

**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 Paul Craig, Chrissie Newstead, Fr Michael Ho, Brenda Davies; Rita Rhodes, Stephen Burke; Lesley Devlin & Jean Lawlor. **Please pray** for Jenifer Cummings and, Sarah Broom who have died recently; for Eamon Hayes whose funeral is here at 11am on Nov 22nd; and for John Delaney, Gerald Walker, Leslie, Cecil, Evelyn Coffey, Brian Hill, Anthony Fallon, Mary Orrock 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.** Tuesdays after 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](mailto:sg.stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

**Preparation for Baptism of Infants** Our next series of Baptism preparation meetings begins, at 12noon on Saturday 2nd December. To register, please see Fr Allen.

**BLESSING OF GRAVES:** New Hall Cemetery: 12 November, 2pm; and Rectory Road Cemetery: 26 November, 2pm

### Begin your day with prayer and join others of the parish in Morning Prayer - FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME.

The Morning Prayer of the Church is a simple form of prayer using psalms and other scripture passages. It lasts just over 10 minutes.

A group of parishioners has been praying this way using Zoom since the early days of COVID. It is very easy to take part, easiest with a PC or Ipad, but easy enough when using a smart phone too. The group meets at 8.30am .

For more information speak with Fr Allen. Or just join us using this link (available by email too, for your convenience.) <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/98184766915>

To read Sacred Scripture means to turn to Christ for advice. *St Francis of Assisi*

### 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 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. Stallholders would welcome help with setting up at 2pm on Saturday 18th November, and with packing up on the Sunday.

**Dads Alive group** met as planned on Monday and agreed to meet each half term. Next meeting coming up after Christmas. *More details coming up soon*

Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ!

*St Jerome*



The Introductory Rites

Opening Song


Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest to both great and small;  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish but nought changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render: O help us to see  
‘Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

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

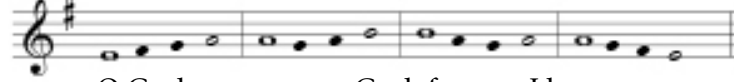
Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates.

Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

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Psalm 62(63):2-8



O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.  
My body pines for you  
like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you.  
On you I muse through the night  
for you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, where-as the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep.

But at midnight there was a cry, “The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.” At this, all those brides-maids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the fool-ish ones said to the sensible ones, “Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out.” But they replied, “There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves.”

They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The oth-er bridesmaids arrived later. “Lord, Lord,” they said “open the door for us.” But he replied, “I tell you sol-emnly, I do not know you.” So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.’

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

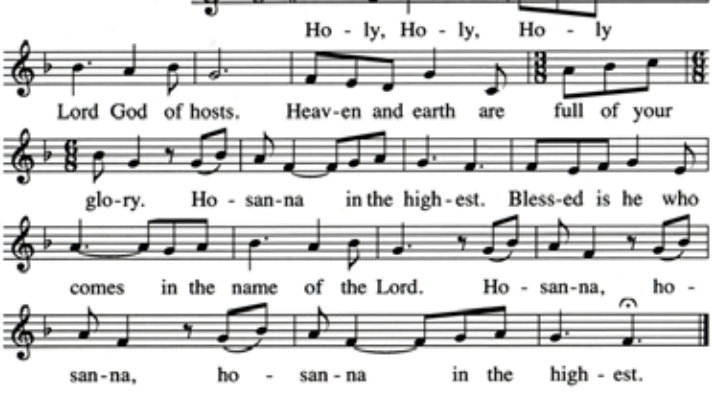
**The Offertory** NB Our next collections for the Bethany Food Bank are 19th November and 3rd December.

Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the king of creation!  
O my soul, praise him,  
for he is your health and salvation!  
Come, all who hear; now to his altar draw near,  
praise him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, let us offer our gifts at his altar;  
let not our sins and transgressions  
now cause us to falter.  
Christ the High Priest,  
bids us all join in his feast.  
Gathered with him at the altar.

Praise to the Lord - O let all that is in us adore him!  
All that has life and breath,  
come now with praises before him!  
Let the “Amen!” sound from his people again;  
gladly with praise we adore him!

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.

**SUNDAY FRIENDS** Our parish ‘Sunday Friends’ group welcomes all to join in activities to celebrate the feast of Christ the King on Sun 26 Nov. 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. *At our meetings 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 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

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,  
Christ be in all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
in ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

**Justice and Peace Online Forum**

Meeting on Zoom at 7pm Tues 21st Nov

Discussion of Pope Francis’ new publication Laudate Deum - led by Sylvester of CAFOD and Barbara of the Justice and Peace Commission

Book now: <https://bit.ly/NovemberForum2023>

The word of God is in no way less than the Body of Christ; nor should it be received less worthily.

I ask you, brothers or sisters, tell me: which to you seems the greater, the word of God, or the Body of Christ? If you wish to say what is true you will have to answer that the word of God is not less than the Body of Christ.

Therefore just as when the Body of Christ is adminis-tered to us, what care do we not use so that nothing of it falls from our hands to the ground, so should we with equal care see that the word of God which is be-ing imparted to us shall not be lost to our soul, while we speak or think of something else. For he who lis-tens carelessly to the word of God is not less guilty than he who through his own inattention suffers the Body of Christ to fall to the ground.

*St Caesarius of Arles (469-541) Sermo 300*