

Communion through the Scriptures AND the '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. It will help us prepare 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!' 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 whether to dissolve the 'old' group so as to help set up new groups to offer the experience and benefits to others too, to help build up and maybe even extend the Church in Boldmere.

During Advent, there will be special Sunday Evening Prayer times. The invitation is to meet in the Benedict Room at 5.30pm where we will use one of the resources being promoted by the Diocese for use in the Year of Prayer groups to explore the themes of Forgiveness, Healing and Mission; and then have half an hour for lectio and personal reflection before the Blessed Sacrament in the church; followed by a coffee and chat and home-made mince-pies back in the Benedict Room. The whole thing should last about an hour...

The experience of prayer, community and such refreshments will help us prepare, and get into good shape for Christmas (if also a little rounder!). And it can help us put in a little work to help our parish - and maybe Catholic Sutton Coldfield - get the very best of the opportunities presented by the Year of Prayer

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: Rectory Rd Cem'y: 26 Nov, 2pm

Concert of great Catholic Music by two of Baroque's most famous composers.

Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* and *Magnificat* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green, B72 1DP, 7.30 p.m. on Sat 25th Nov. Tickets cost £15 and are available in advance from 0121 354 6999, or can be bought at the door on the night.

Catholic Sutton Coldfield

Expect to become very familiar with this 'title' of *Catholic Sutton Coldfield* over coming months. It has been adopted as a tag to describe a variety of projects being undertaken by the clergy of Sutton Coldfield parishes as we work more closely together as urged by the Diocesan process: *Unfolding God's Plan*.

The first such joint project is an Advent Penitential Service for all parishes which takes place here at St Nicholas on Tuesday 19th December - more details on the noticeboards.

But *Catholic Sutton Coldfield* is about more than how priests work together. It is also about how our various parishes work together, supporting each other and each helping the others bear witness together to Jesus Christ and the Gospel.

There are already thoughts on some of the ways we might work together, for example in providing couples support as they prepare for marriage; joint events for the forthcoming Year of Prayer and having joint pilgrimages. There is lots of room for these sorts of things - which will be to the benefit of all our parishes. Other people will surely have other ideas too - and it is important we all get the chance to share thoughts and move things forward. Early in the New Year there will be opportunities for us all to come together to consider what more we might do. The future is looking brighter!

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CATHOLIC FAITH?

Why might you 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 on Mondays at 7pm.

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

St Nicholas School Fair

is being held in the school hall on Saturday 25 November from 2pm-4pm. There will be various stalls, food & activities to enjoy. Parking restrictions in parish car park are lifted from 9am to 5pm to assist those setting up or attending the school fair.



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	18	6pm		D'd of Powell, Foster, Hodgetts family
Su	19	9am	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jessie Mary Redmond RIP *
		11am		For the parish
M	20	10am		Decsd members of Cassera family
T	21	10am	Presentation of BVM	Decsd family Margaret & James Debney
W	22	10am	St Cecilia	Alice Brookes RIP Makepeace
Th	23			
F	24	7pm	St Andrew D'ung Lac	Evelyn Coffey RIP
Sa	25	6pm	Christ the King	Michelle Higgins-Reddington Ints (K)
Su	26	9am		James and Ann McGrath RIP
		11am		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 Craig Brooks, Paul Craig, Chrissie Newstead, Fr Michael Ho, Brenda Davies; Rita Rhodes, Stephen Burke; Lesley Devlin & Jean Lawlor. **Please pray** for Eamon Hayes whose funeral is here at 11am on Nov 22; Sarah Broom whose funeral is here at 10am on Dec 4th; and Jenifer Cummings whose funeral is here at 12noon on Dec 7 and for Brian Hill, Anthony Fallon, Mary Orrock, Mark Foster, Thomas McGinness, Jane Ball, Susan Hutchinson and all others whose anniversary at this time.

RESOURCES FOR PRAYER.

1. Parish prayer on Zoom (links on parish website homepage)
Morning Prayer: Mon to Sat at 8.30am; **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 carpark. Automatic free parking permits are issued to cover all parking on **Saturdays** from 5.30pm to 7.30pm; on **Sundays** from 8am to 2pm; on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays** from 9.30am to 11.30am and **Fridays** from 6.30pm to 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.

Parish Fair - after all Masses this weekend.

Come and enjoy social time in the Newman Community Centre. Look for bargains and try your luck on the bottle stall and raffles - and much more!!

Parking restrictions in carpark are lifted until 9pm this Saturday and from 2 to 7pm on Sunday.

Begin your day with prayer from the comfort of your home and join others of the parish in Morning Prayer.

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

A group of parishioners has prayed this Prayer on Zoom since the early days of COVID. It is very easy to take part (easiest with a PC or Tablet, but easy enough with a smart phone too). The group meets at 8.30am. All are welcome to join us at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/98184766915> (or use the link on home page of the parish website).

Take a look at the parish blog for the text of Monday's Morning Prayer. The pattern for each day is pretty much as you see there, but the particular readings and prayers change from day to day.

When we offer this prayer by Zoom just two voices are heard (otherwise Zoom 'breaks down') Each day Fr Allen leads the prayer, saying the black and another parishioner says the red.

A few other notes, that might be helpful also to those who pray the prayer by themselves. perhaps making use of the link at Universalis.com

- We don't just read the prayer. It is prayer, addressed to God, allowing the ancient of prayers of Israel to be re-voiced by us. So we take our time as we read mindful of who we speak to, and to allow what is read to become reverent prayer.

- The psalms are poetry. Hebrew poetry didn't rhyme, but relies (mostly) on parallelisms, pairs of lines which repeat or explore similar thoughts in different words. So we pause briefly at the end of each line to 'hear' the poetic effect, and take that additional richness to heart so it might find expression in prayer.

The Introductory Rites
Opening Song


Blest are the pure in heart,
For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs,
Their heart is Christ’s abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens,
Our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men,
Their pattern and their King.

Still to the lowly soul
He does himself impart,
And for his dwelling and his throne
Chooses the pure in heart.

Lord, we thy presence seek;
May ours this blessing be;
Give us a pure and lowly heart,
A temple meet for 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

Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31


A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband’s heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life.

She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman

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who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Psalm 127(128):1-5



O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about ‘times and seasons’, since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, ‘How quiet and peaceful it is’ that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life. *Alleluia!*

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

‘The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

‘Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. “Sir,” he said “you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made.”

‘His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.”

‘Next the man with the two talents came forward. “Sir,” he said “you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.”

‘Last came forward the man who had the one talent. “Sir,” said he “I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back.” But his master answered him, “You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.”

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

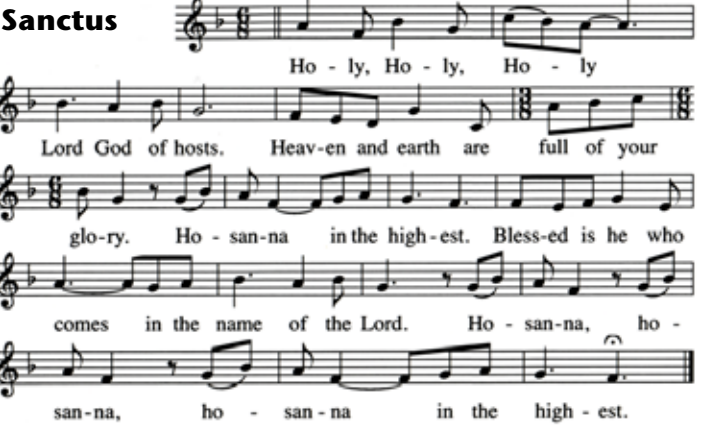
The Offertory NB Our next collections for the Bethany Food Bank are 19th November and 3rd December.

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.

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

*I will be with you wherever you go.
Go now throughout the world!
I will be with you in all that you say.
Go now and spread my word!*

Come walk with me on stormy waters.
Why fear? Reach out, and I’ll be there.

Your life will be transformed with power
by living truly in my name.

And if you say: “Yes, Lord, I love you,”
then feed my lambs and feed my sheep.

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>

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.*