

What are we supposed to be doing at Mass?

Last week it was noted how we are called to be a community together, and how even how we choose to take our place at Mass, and how we interact with each other makes a difference. To sit apart from others does not signify communion - which is what is invited of us; to sit away from the central action - by choice - suggests it that we are present more as observers rather than as participants, ready to be part of the action - which again is what is invited of us.

But what does being part of the action include? Well, one thing is singing.

The Church’s *Instruction* on how we are to celebrate and participate in the Mass has a good deal to say about singing and music - especially about how singing helps manifest and form the Communion proper to the Church — so that we do not contradict the meaning of what we profess by the way in which we do it. Orthodoxy is also orthopraxis. We tend to think of orthodoxy in terms of believing, of professing the true faith. Yet the origins of the word are not about belief so much as giving glory (*doxa*) to God, worshipping in the authentic way. So that we do not contradicting our faith by how we enact the Mass, rather by doing as the Church intends we demonstrate our faith, and better receive its fruits.

There are many opportunities for our private prayer, but Mass itself is not one of them. Mass is a public act whose work is entrusted to all who gather. Our prayer at Mass should always be personal, but is never private.

The Christian faithful who come together as one in expectation of the Lord’s coming are instructed by the Apostle Paul to sing together Psalms, hymns, and spiritual canticles (cf. Col 3: 16). Singing is the sign of the heart’s joy (cf. Acts 2: 46). Thus St. Augustine says rightly, ‘Singing is for one who loves’, and there is also an ancient proverb: ‘Whoever sings well prays twice over’.

Of the Entrance Song: *When the people are gathered, and as the Priest enters with the Deacon and ministers, this song begins. Its purpose is to open the celebration, foster the unity of those who have been gathered, introduce their thoughts to the mystery of the liturgical time or festivity, and accompany the procession of the Priest and ministers.*

Parish Jubilee Pilgrimages: April 3rd, St Chad’s Cathedral and Diocesan archives.
More details soon - but make a note in your diary!

Preparation for the Baptism of Children
Parents ready to begin our parish preparation for the baptism of children (under 5s) are invited to enrol for the next period of preparation which begins on Saturday 8th March. **Please see Fr Allen at the end of any Sunday Mass to collect a registration form.**



Do Justice

Meeting in St Nicholas School
Sat March 8 from 11-4.30pm.

An opportunity to prepare for Lent together, and to contribute to the work of the Church.

An opportunity also to prepare for Lent together, and to contribute to the work of the Church. A day to help our parishes and schools work better together, developing the social mission of the Church in Sutton Coldfield.

Please see poster in the porch and make sure your parish and groups are going to be represented at this key meeting! Indeed why not come yourself. **All are welcome!**

Of the Communion Song: *This has its purpose too: to express the spiritual union of the communicants by means of the unity of their voices, to show gladness of heart, and to bring out more clearly the ‘communitarian’ character of the Eucharist.*

To participate in the song is to reveal Church - us united in the praise of Christ and worship of the Father. Some might say I can’t sing or I have a poor voice. And it’s true many feel that - but voice coaches invariably trace those feelings back to us taking too much to heart an inappropriate comment by a teacher or some other that has damaged our confidence and robbed us of feeling we can do this very natural thing. One more reason to sing — as best we can — to retrieve our god-given voices and use them to his praise.

I once heard a music leader say - ‘If you really think you are the exception to prove this rule, sing all the louder to get your revenge on God for the voice you’ve been given!’ I think she was joking. At least about taking revenge on God! but not about singing.

Fr. Allen

Scripture Book of the Month

Club: If you’ve been reading Genesis - our book of the month - then do come along this Sunday evening to meet in the Benedict Room at 5pm. Even if (like Fr Allen!) you’ve not finished the book, come ready to share

- One thing that struck you in your reading - a challenge, or encouragement, but whatever struck you.
- One question you have as a result of what you have read...
- Choose one of the stories from *Genesis* that resonates with you, and come ready to share your response to it.



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

Cluster blog: www.catholicsuttoncoldfield.wordpress.com

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **Deacon:** Rev John Garvey

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

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2025: PARISH MASSES THIS WEEK

Sa	22	6pm	SUNDAY OF 7TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME	For the parish
Su	23	9am		Anna Syposz RIP (Foulds)
		11am		Joseph & Mary Enright RIP (Ord)
M	24	10am		Kris Starzewski RIP (S)
T	25	10am		Sheila Howard RIP (O’Gorman)
W	26	10am		Sue Gill RIP (May)
Th	27			
F	28	7pm		Michael Mulheen RIP (Green)
S	1	6pm	SUNDAY OF 8TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME	Pat Mitford RIP (Foster)
Su	2	9am		Private Intention (Redmond)
		11am		For the parish

Anointing of the Sick: Next Liturgy at 11am on 28th February

Sacrament of Confession: Friday 18.30-18.50; 19.30 (after Mass) until 20.00; and Saturday 5.30-5.45 — and by appointment

Please pray for those who are sick including Stephen Gateley, Rita Rhodes, Mary Daniels, Lucy Szambir, Brenda Davies; Stephen Burke; Lesley Devlin & Jean Lawlor. **Please pray** for Ray Simmonds, Alan King, Margaret Healy, John Banks, Christopher Coxall, Margaret Farrell and all whose anniversary occurs at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

RESOURCES FOR PRAYER.

1. **Parish Morning Prayer:** Mon to Fri, at 8.30am (Zoom link on website)
2. **Readings of the day** and much more at Universalis.com
3. **The Sunday Scriptures** are a richer resource for spiritual growth when we read and pray with them before the Sunday (and again after the Sunday). Next Sunday’s readings are 1 Samuel 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–23 • Psalm 103:1–4, 8, 10, 12–13 • 1 Cor 15:45–49 • Luke 6:27–38

WEEKDAY SOCIAL. Usually Tuesdays after 10am Mass.

PARISH CAR PARK Free parking for 1 hour is available for anyone at anytime in our carpark. Automatic free parking permits are issued to cover all parking on **Sat** from 5.30 to 7.30pm; on **Sunday** from 8am to 2pm; on **Mon, Tues, Weds** from 9.30 to 11.30am; and **Fri** from 6.30 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 Archdiocesan policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Mary Rose. She can be contacted at: sg.stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk

The Catholic Sutton Coldfield Cluster of Parishes,
St Nicholas, Boldmere; Holy Cross & St Francis, Walmley; Sacred Heart, Four Oaks; and Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield.
Catholicsuttoncoldfield.wordpress.com

Do please collect a copy of the
What’s Going On?
sheet for news about the Sutton Coldfield Cluster

Some Resources for Lent

TO FOCUS ON THE GLORY OF GOD

1. **Quietly read the Gospel of the day**, ponder it, and at the end ask what one thing does it reveal - to you - of the who and how of God.
2. **Take a walk** — in fields or woods or the town — and try to keep your mind free of all but the Creator God and the love of God for all that is, including that which is broken and damaged.
3. **Light a candle; or place yourself before an icon; or hold a small crucifix.** Ask God to reveal himself in the light, through the image or by the cross you hold.
4. **Great Sacred Music**, Themed programmes of music — brief weekly introductions, and then listen to the music in your own time on Spotify, YouTube etc..

TO KNOW YOURSELF BEFORE GOD

1. **Make God of Surprises (by Gerry Hughes) your Lenten reading.** An exploration of how we often make God in our image, rather than letting God reveal us to ourselves.
2. **Make of reflection exercises** to explore your experience of life and yourself. Use the resource to be posted on the website before Lent begins.
3. **Simply review your daily life**, before God. This *Examen* was held by St Ignatius of Loyola as the single most effective form of prayer for helping us know ourselves and take responsibility for how we live.

The Introductory Rites

Opening Song

Fight the good fight with all thy might!
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God’s good grace,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek His face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on thy Guide;
His boundless mercy will provide;
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near,
He changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.

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

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

In those days: Saul arose and went down to the wilder-
ness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel
to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.

David and Abishai went to the army by night. And
there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment,
with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and
Abner and the army lay round him. Then Abishai
said to David, ‘God has given your enemy into your
hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the
earth with one stroke of the spear, and I will not
strike him twice.’ But David said to Abishai, ‘Do not
destroy him, for who can put out his hand against
the LORD’s anointed and be guiltless?’ So David took
the spear and the jar of water from Saul’s head, and

they went away. No man saw it or knew it, nor did
any awake, for they were all asleep, because a deep
sleep from the LORD had fallen upon them.

Then David went over to the other side and stood far off
on the top of the hill, with a great space between them.
David said, ‘Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the
young men come over and take it. The LORD rewards
every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for
the LORD gave you into my hand today, and I would
not put out my hand against the LORD’s anointed.’

Ps 103(102):1-2. 3-4. 8, 10. 12-13.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our faults.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far from us does he remove our transgressions.
As a father has compassion on his children,
the LORD’S compassion is on those who fear him.

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Brothers and Sisters: ‘The first man Adam became a
living being’; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.
But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and
then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a
man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was
the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust,
and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of
heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of
dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Gospel Acclamation

Sung & said by all

Alleluia, alleluia. A new commandment I give to you,
says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have
loved you. Alleluia.

Luke 6:27-38

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I say to you who
hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.
To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also;
and from one who takes away your cloak do not with-
hold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from
you; and from one who takes away your goods, do not
demand them back. And as you wish that others would
do to you, do so to them.‘If you love those who love you,
what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those
who love them. And if you do good to those who do
good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sin-
ners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom

you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even
sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.
But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expect-
ing nothing in return, and your reward will be great,
and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to
the ungrateful and the evil.

‘Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge
not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and
you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will
be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you; good
measure, pressed down, shaken together, running
over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure
you use it will be measured back to you.’

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

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Offertory

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est
(Where there is charity and love, there is God.)

The Eucharistic Prayer

The mystery of faith

The Communion Rite

Communion thanksgiving

Concluding Rites

Preparing for Funerals

FIRST, a reminder that help in preparing funer-
als is available on our website (under the ‘Pasto-
ral ‘ tab. There is a simple form to help you leave
guidance for family and friends for your own
funeral. And a helpful guide to preparing any
Catholic funeral. Paper copies are available on
request.

SECOND, please be mindful that although most
Funeral Directors will always want to respond to
your needs, on occasion some will try to press
you to buy more of their services than you want
or need. It is not common, but it happens.

THIRD - and this will be a great help in avoiding
any ‘hard-sell’ — do please contact Fr Allen as
soon as possible after a death so that you can speak
with him about the arrangements for the funeral.
Dates cannot be fixed until you receive the death
certificate. But the basic shape and form of the fu-
neral can be agreed long before then. Doing this
before DATES can be fixed will make things much
easier and quicker once the death certificate has
been received. Please do make a note of this, and
pass on the advice to friends and family who may
be arranging a funeral.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS **Scripture readings:** *The English Stand-
ard Version of the Bible, Catholic Edition, copyright 2017 by
Crossway. The Psalms: Abbey Psalms and Canticles © 2018 USC-
CB. Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Mis-
sal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy.*
Gloria; Sanctus & Memorial Acclamation (Storrington Mass.
Marty Haugen Music © 2007, 2009. **Songs: Fight the good fight**
*John Monsell (1811-1875); Ubi caritas © 1978 Ateliers et Presses
de Taizé. Gifts of Bread and Wine Christine McCann Text: ©
1978, Kevin Mayhew. Texts of copyrighted songs are reprinted with
permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-A-742254. All rights
reserved.*