

## Resourcing ourselves... *cont'd from page 1*

That word, mystagogy, may be unfamiliar but it is basically being taught by reflection on the Liturgy. The Church has an expectation that we should continue to learn from our personal encounters with Jesus in the signs, symbols and actions of the Liturgy. These things should not obscure him from us, for they are intended to be the very means by which he manifests his presence and meaning so that we may be helped to mature in our faith, and as human persons. The Church has an expectation that those responsible for the ministering of the Liturgy, especially, should have an understanding of this language so that through their work they may minister the Liturgy in ways that best enable it to speak and to do its work on us, so we may continue Christ's work in our daily lives.

This doesn't 'just happen'. It requires a certain commitment and making the most of opportunities that present themselves to deepen the knowledge we may already have, get help to fill in any gaps, and learn how to make the best use of that knowledge and of our skills.

Although I am wanting especially to strengthen and develop our ministry team, these sort of things are good for us all to have greater familiarity with. Firstly to assist our own personal engagement with the Liturgy so as to better find nourishment and help there. Secondly it is especially helpful for parents who want to help their children to a deeper understanding and participation in the Liturgy, but who may not themselves have moved on from what they had the opportunity to learn in primary school.

Here are some three things you might like to consider

- Come and join in a meeting in church on to reflect on how we might best reintroduce song at Mass, and develop music more generally in the parish. If you sing or play an instrument, or want to sing or play, or are just interested... Details of the meeting will be available next week.

Secondly there are some opportunities for refreshing knowledge and learning more - or even helping you get your toes wet if you have not been directly involved in such things before.

The Society of St Gregory (SSG) - the national society for music and liturgy - is offering two opportunities for people to refresh their knowledge and learn something more - or even gently get their toes wet if they have never before been involved in thinking about liturgy things before.

- The SSG Summer School from 4-6 August (Weds to Friday evenings) to look at Scripture, Liturgy and Music and has a range of interesting speakers. A chance to learn alongside other parish ministers from our Archdiocese and around the country.
- The SSG is also providing an on-line course - six modules of 3 or 4 one hour sessions, being held over a year called *Taking Liturgy Seriously*. Set at an introductory level it explores the fundamental of

Liturgy. Each module will provide a basic theological and historical overview of one area of the Liturgy - for example Celebration of Word and Sacrament, The Paschal Mystery, Healing and Forgiveness, Imitation, Commitment, Prayer. Within each theme there will be a look at how we apply general principles of liturgy, how music and space influence the way we celebrate and above all how to help people to pray together. The intention is to give people more confidence to foster and lead liturgy in their own parish and community - but also to participate more fruitfully.

Help with the costs of taking part in this formation is available from the parish - details from Fr Allen.

All this was in hand before the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter was made available, but his letter is a further pointer to the timeliness of what is being promoted. If you are interested, then do come to the meeting on or speak to Fr Allen as soon as possible.

### Men, Mental Health And Covid-19

Even before the pandemic, men's mental health was a cause for concern. There is a grave disparity in the high number of men who die from suicide and the low number of men who seek treatment for depression, anxiety and other mental health challenges. **Men's Health Week 2021** (14-21 June) asks: how do we move forward?

*The CAN DO Challenge:* There are five days of the week and five ways to wellbeing. Everyone is invited to choose a different way to wellbeing to try each day of Men's Health Week. At the weekend, pick your favourites and do them again! Sounds fun. More info at [www.menshealthforum.org.uk/mhw](http://www.menshealthforum.org.uk/mhw)

**Baptism:** The next baptism preparation course will begin on Saturday with a Zoom meeting at 12noon on 12 July. Any parents who are interested in taking part are asked to see Fr Allen after Mass today to get further details.

### Enrolment for Preparation for Communion and Confirmation.

Application forms to be part of the parish preparation for these Sacraments of Initiation will be available for families next week, along with details of a Zoom meeting for parents to introduce the programmes.

### Putting *Laudato Si* into Practice

A Zoom talk by Dr Sam Ewell, author and *Laudato Si* activist, parishioner of St Patrick's, Dudley Road. Mon June 14, 7-8.30pm. Come, and reflect on how our following of Christ engages us with the climate change crisis both as individuals and Church. Email [actabhm@gmail.com](mailto:actabhm@gmail.com) to register your interest.



## St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

**Address:** 243 Jockey Rd., Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5US

**Website:** [www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk](http://www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk) **Telephone:** 0121 354 1763

**Parish Blog:** [www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com](http://www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com)

**Parish Priest:** Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** [stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk)

**Parish Safeguarding:** Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)

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

**G**od ever faithful, you have made a covenant with your people in the gift of your Son, who offered his body for us and poured out his blood for the many.

As we celebrate this Eucharistic sacrifice, build up your Church by deepening within us the life of your covenant and by opening our hearts to those in need.

### Diocesan Vision: Unfolding God's Plan

This weekend we will hear a Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard's, introducing the Archdiocese's Vision: Unfolding God's Plan. Please do take and use one of the prayer cards in church, and feel free to take ones too for those unable to come to Mass. (*At time of printing these have not arrived, but we live in hope!*)

For details of how to access on line please see page 3

### Resourcing ourselves for the future

Looking forward we can never be too sure what the future will hold. However, hopefully soon we can return to having song at all our Masses, as the Church expects. And the time after the worst of the pandemic also gives us an opportunity to look again at how we celebrate the Church's Liturgy - both the regular celebration of Mass and the other Sacraments and liturgies.

Recently a good deal of work has been done in the Archdiocese on helping people to see the essential connection between what and how we pray and celebrate and the faith we seek to live and to share. The *Directory for Catechesis* that has recently been published in Rome places renewed emphasis on this, exploring what is meant by mystagogy.

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### Open Parish meeting...

An Open parish meeting is planned for Weds 23 June at 7.30pm to discuss the life of the parish over the coming months - including better support for the Housebound and the use of the Newman Community Centre.

Further details will be confirmed next week.

### Support for the housebound and those in care homes

Lockdown has taught us again just how isolated and vulnerable some people are because of the disabilities and constraints that commonly come with old age and infirmity.

The time is ripe for us to take stock of how as a parish we respond to the needs of people who are not in a position to regularly come to Church.

#### Ministers of Holy Communion

A number ministers of Holy Communion have been generous with their time and energy in visiting the sick and housebound - when circumstances *cont'd on page 3*

### Keeping Safe at Mass

**Face coverings:** Regulations require members of the congregation, aged 5 and over, to wear face-coverings over their nose and mouth when in church. **Social distancing:** Please keep a social distance of 1m from anyone not of your household.

*Please do not stay in benches for conversation after Mass has ended. Instead leave the church promptly and keep 'safe distance'.*

**Thank you for your cooperation.**

### PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

Day	Time	Location	Notes
Sa 12	4pm	11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	For the parish
	6pm		Jan and Maria Szambir RIP (Szambir)
Su 13	9am	12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Special Intention - health (Redmond)
	11am		Peter and Mary Marron
M 14	10am		
T 15	10am		Jim O'Riordan RIP (O'Riordan)
W 16	10am		
Th 17			
F 18	7pm	Ded'n Cathedral	
Sa 19	4pm	12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	For the parish
	6pm		Ints Margaret Marsland & family (W)
Su 20	9am	12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Fr Joyce (Byrne)
	11am		Chris Hickey RIP (Hickey)

**Please pray for sick parishioners** including Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for Herbert Roberts, Anne Masterson, Mary Belinger and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

**The Introductory Rites** help us come together as one, establish communion and prepare ourselves to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.

### The Penitential Act

#### The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people 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.

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.

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. Amen.

### The Collect

**The Liturgy of the Word:** *The word of God invites us into the unending dialogue between God and his people, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. A brief quiet after the readings helps us to take the word of God to heart and begin a prayerful response to what we have heard.*

#### Ezekiel 17:22-24

The Lord says this:

‘From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a shoot and plant it myself on a very high mountain. I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel.

It will sprout branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar.

Every kind of bird will live beneath it, every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches.

And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow, who withers green trees and makes the withered green.

I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.’

#### Psalms 91(92):2-3,13-16

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your truth in the watches of the night.

The just will flourish like the palm tree  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord  
they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit when they are old,  
still full of sap, still green,

to proclaim that the Lord is just.  
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

#### 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

#### Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowds: ‘This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.’

He also said, ‘What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.’

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

#### The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*At the words that follow,  
up to and including ‘the Virgin Mary’, all bow.*

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.

### The Prayer of the Faithful

**The Liturgy of the Eucharist** is the re-presentation of the Sacrifice of Christ to the Father, and his gift of life renewed to the Church, for the service of his mission.

**The Offertory:** *There is no collection during Mass. Instead, please put your offerings in the basket at the entrance to the church as you arrive, or as you leave.*

#### The Eucharistic Prayer

*The Eucharistic Prayer, the centre and summit of the entire celebration is a memorial proclamation of praise and thanksgiving for God’s work of salvation, a proclamation in which the Body and Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and the people are joined to Christ in offering his Sacrifice to the Father*

#### The Preface Dialogue

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

#### Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

#### The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.

**THE COMMUNION RITE:** *The Lord offers reconciliation in and with the invitation to share in the food and drink that is his Body and Blood. Love and mercy are the condition and the fruit of communion in the Lord.*

#### The Lord’s Prayer

##### Invitation to Communion

*Please observe the regulations on social distancing when processing to receive Holy Communion.*

#### Prayer after Communion

**The Concluding Rites** sends us out live in our daily lives the Mystery of Christ’s Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ we have celebrated. Our mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

#### Blessing and Dismissal

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### Offering Spiritual support... cont’d from page 1

permit. But – even leaving COVID aside – this is not quite the easy matter that it maybe used to be.

To strengthen the safeguarding of the vulnerable, in future ministers of Holy Communion should visit people in their homes in twos. This has been the practice of the Society of St Vincent de Paul for a while. It safeguards those being visited who sadly sometimes are taken advantage of, even by ministers of the Church. This has not been a problem for us, thank God, but we need to do all we can to ensure the worst cannot happen.

Visiting in twos safeguards ministers too. Those visited can become confused and misplace something or forget what has happened to something and can - not meaning to do harm - accuse all sorts of people of having taken it. Having two people present helps avoid putting our volunteer ministers in risk of that difficult and painful thing happening to them.

So we need to do some serious recruiting of people to serve as ministers or to accompany other ministers. The commitment is likely to be to be part of a team maybe visiting one or two people once or twice a month at times suitable to them and the ministers.

#### Masses in Care Homes

We hope to have monthly Masses in Care Homes and the like where this permitted and where there are two or more Catholic residents. It will be a great help to have one or two parishioners linked to each such home who can help with the practical arrangements (Nothing complicated, just confirming dates and times; attending the Mass; and that sort of thing). They can also help us keep records up to date as to those resident there who would welcome pastoral care from the parish. Having a contact person in place can make a great deal of difference to many people and be a real enrichment of our parish’s witness and ministry.

#### Help with Safeguarding paperwork

Helping the parish keep on top of Safeguarding administration is a further area help is needed with. Mary Rose currently deals with things very well, but as we need to embark on a renewal of DBSs and the challenges of changing regulation she would welcome some help! If anyone could offer a couple of hours as needed things would be a lot easier to manage. If you think you might be able to help please speak with Mary Rose or Fr Allen. **Thank you.**

**The Archbishop’s Pastoral Letter  
and more details of *Unfolding God’s Plan*  
are available at  
[https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/  
pages/category/diocesan-vision-  
unfolding-gods-plan](https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/pages/category/diocesan-vision-unfolding-gods-plan)**