

Preparing 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.

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 want especially to strengthen and develop our ministry team, these sort of things are good for us all to have greater familiarity with. 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. And it can everyone's personal engagement with the Liturgy so as to better find nourishment and help there.

Here are some things you might like to consider

- Come and join in a meeting at church 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. Meeting in Benedict Room after 9am Mass on Sunday 4th July.

Opportunities are available to refresh knowledge and learning - or even help you get your toes wet if you have not been directly involved in such things before.

- The Society of St Gregory (SSG) - the national so-

ciety 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 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 also offers *Taking Liturgy Seriously*, an on-line course - six modules of 3 or 4 1-hour sessions, held over a year. 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 4/7 or speak to Fr Allen as soon as possible.

Baptism: The next baptism preparation course begins with a Zoom meeting at 12noon on Sat, 10 July. Parents interested in taking part are asked to see Fr Allen after Mass today to get further details.

Enrolment for parish preparation for First Communion and Confirmation.

Application forms are available for families this week. i.e. for families with children now in year 2 who will prepare for First Communion and in year 5 who will prepare for Confirmation).

There is a Zoom meeting for ALL participating parents at 7.30pm on Monday 12th July.

A new group for young Catholics - 18-35

- open to all, and focussed around parishes of St Nicholas, Erdington Abbey, Holy Cross and St Francis, and Holy Trinity. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 13th July at 7:00pm, here at St Nicholas - beginning with Mass and followed by pizza and drinks in the nearby section of Sutton Park.

Aston Villa are offering *Toddler Tots football sessions* for children aged 2-3. in Boldmere, if there is enough local interest. Interested? Let them know by filling in form at <https://bit.ly/2Sr60ap> before 5 July.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

Website: www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk **Telephone:** 0121 354 1763

Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** 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

Open Parish meeting: 5th July at 7.30pm

The meeting offers an opportunity to discuss the life of our parish going forward. Particular topics scheduled for the meeting are the Newman Centre; Redecoration of the church; Parish Liturgy and Catechesis; and how we begin to respond to the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter.

Why bother to take part?

There are many reasons.

One, of course, is the Archbishop's invitation to us all to engage in a process of renewal, along with the rest of the Archdiocese.

Another is that we need to gather ourselves together after (hopefully!) the worst of Covid and consider how we move forward.

My guess is that these reasons alone will not get many people to the meeting. So let me share my reason for going. I suppose that - as parish priest - I have to be there. But the deeper reason I will be there, is I believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is life giving and our way to fulfilment in this life and for eternity. When we have received the gift, we will want to offer praise and glory to God and will be servants of this Gospel in our daily lives. This is Church living in communion with God and with each other, and for the world.

And the living symbol of this is - above all our Sunday Assembly. There we meet with God and there we meet with each other in all of our variety, together drawing on all the skills we have to offer our Eucharist as the Church invites us

to do. In our assembly and our worship we are to manifest the Gospel in who and how we are. We become living icon for Christ - showing his love and care; offering support and encouragement to each other in the ways of faithfulness, love, and service.

Our Sunday gatherings are expected to be rich in music and song, in colour: real encounters between us, in all of our variety and us and Christ. Our Sunday gatherings are occasions when we are to reveal Church by being Church. We do not do this just by going to a church and more or less passively receiving what others do.

Still, why bother?

For our sake. So we can truly live by the Gospel.

For our children's sake. For they deserve the chance to experience the living Church,
Continued on p 3.

God of the prophets, in every age you send the word of truth, familiar yet new, a sign of contradiction.

Let us not be counted among those who lack faith, but give us the vision to see Christ in our midst and to welcome your saving word.

Oh for the days when you could rely on England getting knocked out in the early rounds! But because of the happy progress of England in the Euros 2021, (and in hope of a good result on Saturday) ...

1. The meeting for parents of children who will begin the preparation for First Holy Communion and for Confirmation in September. Scheduled for Tues at 7.30pm, is now scheduled for **Monday 12th July at 7.30pm**

2. The parish meeting scheduled for Weds is now scheduled for Mon 5th July at 7.30pm

Both meetings will last for an hour or less, and both meetings are on Zoom.

The Zoom link for each meeting will be posted on the homepage of the parish website from the morning of the meeting.

Fr. Allen

PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

Day	Time	Notes
Sa 3	4pm	For the parish
	6pm	14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Thanksgiving (Leo Barron)
Su 4	9am	Sylvia Kahn RIP (Drozd)
	11am	
M 5	10am	Michael Bates RD (Sawbridge)
T 6	10am	
W 7	10am	
Th 8		
F 9	7pm	
Sa 10	4pm	Sam & Ellie Evans - intentions (Szambir)
	6pm	15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME For the parish
Su 11	9am	
	11am	Frank and Ellen Manley RIP (Egan)

Please pray for sick parishioners including Brenda Davies, Elizabeth Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for Austin McTaff, David Finnegan, Krzysztof Starzewski 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 silence after the readings helps us take the word of God to heart and begin a prayerful response to what we have heard.*

Ezekiel 2:2-5

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

Psalms 122(123)

To you have I lifted up my eyes,
you who dwell in the heavens;
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords.

Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God
till he show us his mercy.

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

We are filled with contempt.
Indeed all too full is our soul
with the scorn of the rich,
with the proud man's disdain.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us: to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. *Alleluia!*

Mark 6:1-6

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country, among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

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 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 send 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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Children starting school? Wondering how to support them in their faith?

A booking system is available for parents whose children are starting school. for brief meetings with Fr Allen and they'd like to just say hello, or because they have some particular questions. All are welcome - but meeting up is especially helpful for parents whose children are not in a Catholic school who may otherwise feel less supported. For the moment appointments are being made using paper diary available from Fr A before or after Sunday Mass.

cont'd from page 1

and know the greater beauty of our faith.

We can talk about to them (and others) about these things - but that is not the authentic Catholic way. Ours is a sacramental church - us and God united in common action making grace real and active and present. As parish and families, we owe our children (and ourselves and others!) a great deal more than we presently offer.

One of the difficulties in thinking about renewal is that often we do not have much of an idea what it might look like. But we can get a taste of it in all sorts of ways - in the gospels, in the inspiration offered by Pope Francis (and others!).

One of the most inspirational descriptions of how the Church hopes that Sunday Mass will be, how we can make it be, was written by the Archbishop of Los Angeles in preparation for a process of renewal in preparation for the celebration of the Millennium.

Have a read of it. It's available on the parish blog - posted there this afternoon (Saturday 3rd July)

It was written for America and 25 years ago! And their situation and culture is not ours. But its vision might well be something for us to adapt and adopt to help us moving forward.

And come, take part in the meeting where we will have the chance to talk about how we might still better become the sort of parish we are invited to be.

The Zoom link for the parish meeting will be on the parish website on Monday morning.

Diocesan Vision: Unfolding God's Plan

Please take a 'Behold I am making all things new' cards home to read and reflect on - and to pray for this work: especially your and our proper part in it.

*Spirit of God, descend on me this day.
Grant me the Spirit of joy, to lift me,
the Spirit of hope to inspire me,
the Spirit of love to surround me and
the Spirit of truth to enlighten my path.*

*Holy Spirit, I pray for a new outpouring of your grace,
so that I may grow in worship of your name
in love of you in my prayer
and in my actions towards others.*

*Come Holy Spirit into my life to guide me.
Strengthen and defend me,
so that I may be drawn ever closer to you.
Help me this day and always
to be a channel of grace in all I say and do
and invite others into relationship with you.
Amen*