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adaptable it is for the various sorts of services we have. There are many things to consider. A fuller account of this project will be in next week's newsletter.

But if you have comments or thoughts that you would like to be taken into account, please write them down and put them into the comments box that can now be found on the left hand side of the church, near the statue of Our Lady.

There was brief discussion of the need to develop Liturgy and Catechesis in the parish. It was noted that there are some younger parishioners ready to help re-introduce Children's Liturgy of the Word once COVID restrictions permit.

And the meeting closed with notice that

- a parish census would be carried out in the winter to up date our records and help with communication across the parish;
- there had been some, but as yet little, response to the report on the need for help to improve our service of the sick and housebound.
- leaders/coordinators of parish groups (eg finance committee; SVP; readers, ministers of communion; health and safety; Newman Centre, World Development Group, Catechesis; Environment group) would in future be asked to attend maybe quarterly meetings to share with each other and Fr Allen details of their current work – things that are going well, things that are proving challenging; and how they might be helped in what they do. This information will also be shared with the rest of the parish so the parish as a whole can better know what is being done in its name, and help make best use of our available resources of time, money, energy.

The meeting ended with prayer.

We used a prayer that we might well adopt for regular use during this coming time of renewal.

O God, the giver of every perfect gift, by the grace of baptism you adopt us as your own and call us to your service.

Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to live the gospel we have embraced. Deliver us from self-seeking and cause us to work for the common good. Keep us loyal to Christ in all we set out to accomplish, that the praise and the glory may be yours alone.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Mary, mother of the Church: *pray for us.*

St Nicholas, patron of our parish: *pray for us.*

Fr. Allen

Requests for dates for celebrations of First Confessions and First Communions

Application forms for the children who will be celebrating this sacraments in October and November are available now. Places are limited at each of the celebrations, so please return forms as soon as possible to help yourself get your first choices of dates.

Preparing for Liturgy after Summer

A number of parents have shown interest in helping to offer *Children's Liturgy of the Word* at Sunday Mass for children in Reception through to Year 2. If you would like to be part of a team that makes this possible - please let Fr Allen know so you can be invited to a introductory meeting for leaders (NB Leaders includes those who lead the session, helping the children with their reflection and questions and prayer, or singing - but also those who help with the procession in and out of church). All play an important and necessary part.)

- If you would like to share in singing and making music to lead the congregation in song on Sundays and the other main celebrations of the year, please let Fr Allen or Vincent our organist have your details so you can be invited to a meeting to chat things through and plan for the future.

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 Allen before or after Sunday Mass.*

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 parents whose children are shortly to begin their preparation 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.



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

Report from Parish Meeting

We began our meeting with a brief time of quiet prayer, remembering that image that St Luke gives of the Church in Acts of the Apostles.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people.

And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts of the Apostles 2.42-47

We then remembered the vision that Archbishop Bernard offered in his recent pastoral vision.

Our vision is to be a Catholic diocese which is faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, full of missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour.

Something for us to aim at – it was agreed.

In his letter the Archbishop noted four key areas to focus on as we work to realise that vision in our parish and diocese: Evangelisation; Formation; Liturgy and Worship; Social Outreach.

Those present were invited to share a one-word response to the letter, and the area that most 'grabbed' them.

These were the responses shared by some of those present

- Hope: Social Outreach
- Hope: Social Outreach
- Hope: Evangelisation
- Hope/Ambitious: Formation

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God of justice, God of salvation from every land you call a people to yourself. yours is the work we do, yours the message we carry.

Keep your Church single-minded and faithful to you. Let failure not discourage us nor success beguile our hearts as you send us to proclaim the Gospel.

There is a Retiring Collection today for Stella Maris

(formerly Apostleship of the Sea) whose chaplains and trained volunteer help not only the seafarers and fishers in port or in centres, but also those in hospital, in prison, or in court. Their ministry has them stand alongside seafarers in times of trouble, wherever that takes them. All this good work is done on behalf of the Catholic church, through the kind and compassionate support of parishioners. They thank you for helping to make this possible, and thank you, in advance, for any financial and prayer support that you can kindly give this year.



PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

Day	Time	Notes
Sa 10	4pm	15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Sam & Ellie Evans - intentions (Szambir) For the parish
	6pm	
Su 11	9am	Frank and Ellen Manley RIP (Egan)
	11am	
M 12	10am	Thanksgiving (Leo Barron)
T 13	10am	Michael Lawlor RIP (Lawlor)
	7pm	Mass for Young Catholics
W 14	10am	
Th 15		St Boanevanture
F 16	7pm	
Sa 17	4pm	16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME For the parish Guerino Mastroianni RIP (M)
	6pm	
Su 18	9am	Noel Mulhern RIP (Green)
	11am	

Please pray for sick parishioners including Brenda Davies, Elizabeth Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for Teresa Astley, Jean Lucas 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.*

Amos 7:12-15

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go away, seer;' get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.'

'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets,' Amos replied to Amaziah 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."'

Psalms 84(85):9-14(Sun 15)

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ.

Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved, in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. Such is the richness of the grace which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight.

He has let us know the mystery of his purpose, the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning to act upon when the times had run their course to the end: that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life; you have the message of eternal life. *Alleluia!*

Mark 6:7-13

Jesus made a tour round the villages, teaching. Then he summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals but, he added, 'Do not take a spare tunic.' And he said to them, 'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.' So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

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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- Daunting: Liturgy and Worship
- Exciting: Social Outreach
- Challenging: Liturgy and Worship
- Broken: Liturgy and Worship
- Commitment: Evangelisation
- Community: Social Outreach
- Hope: Social Outreach
- Challenging: Evangelisation
- Vital: Social Outreach

This is but a small sample of over-all parish responses, of course. And may not be representative. But it was good to see and hear 'hope' so much to the fore, and 'social outreach' too.

To progress things, it will be helpful to spend some time reflecting on the more detailed vision for Church in each of those areas. A vision document has already been shared for Liturgy – the 'Sunday Mass vision' from Los Angeles. Others need to be found for the other areas.

Do you have any suggestions? They can have a Catholic pedigree, but it is conceivable that, for example, Muslim writings on the whys and wherefores of social outreach could prove an interesting starting point for our reflection.

The idea is then to get together a group who are 'grabbed' by each topic to begin to talk and think it through together.

We all have different preconceptions and opinions, and it will be helpful to explore these so they can be respected as we begin to tease out what might be the best ways to actively progress things here at St Nicholas, in Boldmere. It was noted that these are not just things for us to do for others, there needs to be a process of self-formation and renewal too – for us as individuals and as parish.

Would you like to be part of such a group? If so, please give your details – in writing! – to Fr Allen who, just for the time being, will look after getting these groups up and running.

These groups are not to do the work in the different areas for the parish – it is their job just to begin to think things through, and share the fruits of their work with every one else so we can then decide together how we move forward.

The meeting then moved on to consider the parish celebration on September 19th – to offer congratulations to our new parish deacons, and to offer thanks to the teams of volunteers who have kept our church safe and open during the past months of COVID.

We discussed the work to be done inside the church – loosely described as 're-decoration', and certainly including that but also the project gives us the chance to look at how we heat and light the church; how easy it is to maintain; how

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