

Developing the vision: A reminder

Archbishop Bernard has called the Church in Birmingham to grow and develop in mission and life. He has singled out the following areas for attention.

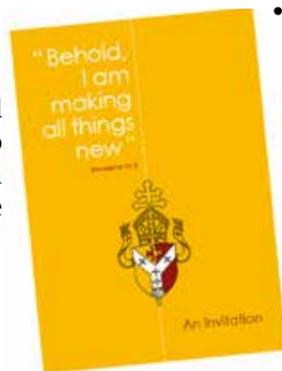
Evangelisation
Formation
Social Outreach
Liturgy & Worship

A new page has been opened on our parish website indicating various documents that can help us to deepen our awareness of what this renewal might help us to. Do take a look.

If there is a particular area you are interested in, please let Fr Allen know so you can be part of our parish reading and reflections groups - a key first stage in our parish's working for our future life as community and Church.

And please do not forget that your thoughts are invited on the renewal of the interior of the parish church. For example:

- Is this the time to renew our heating system, and what are the opportunities to put in a 'greener' system?
- At present we are constrained in how we can use the church for Mass because the nave is filled with benches. This makes it difficult to provide the best space for celebrating Mass let alone other forms of liturgy and prayer. It is also not easy to respectfully accommodate those who come to church in wheel chairs or using other mobility aids.



• It has been suggested that we ought to look at alternative placement of the organ and musicians so we can be better served for them.

• Although the statue of our Lady was moved to its present place to provide better and safer access during the pandemic, some people have said they think it is now in a better place (although the temporary arrangement can obviously improved on!) In addition the other statues in the church are not necessarily in the best place for their proper use.

There are surely other things to consider and improvements that might be made.

If you have comments or thoughts that you would like to be taken into account as this project develops, please write them down and put them into the comments box in left hand side aisle.

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.*

Catholic Care Home Situated in rural Warwickshire, St Joseph's Care Home offers a range of personalised services including residential care, specialised dementia care and short-term respite care in a friendly welcoming environment.

If you want more information or wish to book a virtual tour then please quote SJ1 and ring 01675 434559, email shelleyperryman@fatherhudsons.org.uk or visit www.stjosephscarehome.co.uk

Catenians Mon 13 Sept, Moor Hall Hotel, 7.30pm. Prof Amanda Burls, an expert on evidence-based medicine will talk to "Kill as few people as possible". More details <https://suttoncoldfieldcatenianscircle232.com>

Children in Year 3 and Year 6

The children's sign-up Sundays are coming up. If you have not already chosen to enroll your child and family in the preparation, please speak to Fr Allen as soon as possible.



People with special needs and learning disabilities can be invisible to the Church. Sometimes this is because our parishes are not very good at offering welcome, even to the Church, where all should be sure of finding welcome, care and respect.

To try and see how we might do better our parish offers a meeting planned for Saturday 16th October at 3pm. It is for people with special needs, of any age, especially those who live in our parish and surrounding area. Their families are welcome too - should they wish to come.

It is a chance to meet and listen and learn from people with special needs (and their families). Some parishioners are already part of the process, if others would like to learn more and maybe take part, please speak with Fr Allen.



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 **Deacons:** Revv John Garvey and Gary O'Brien

Parish Safeguarding: Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)

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

Moving Forward

We continue to move away from the strictures that were imposed on us during the early stages of this pandemic.

We are required still to use the Track and Trace system, to use hand sanitiser and wear masks when we are at Mass.

However we move forward cautiously. For there is still a high level of infection in our region, and because many of our fellow parishioners are older and more vulnerable and some of us particularly so..

So although we do not need to maintain social distance some of the benches in the church, (on the organ side and towards the back of the church) are still reserved for those maintaining the 1m-rule. Please do not sit there unless you want to keep that social distance, so that they are available as a safer place for those who do need to use them.

The one other thing that is slowly being re-introduced to our celebration of Mass is

Congratulations to Gary O'Brien whose ordination to the Permanent Diaconate has hopefully taken place by the time you read this newsletter. Please do keep Gary in your prayers. And if you missed seeing the liturgy live-streamed from St Chad's Cathedral, a recording is available to view at <https://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/>

On Sept 19, after the 11am Mass and in the Newman Community Centre, we have a parish celebration to celebrate with Deacons Gary and John. And also to give thanks to all those who generously help with stewarding and cleaning of the church during these months of the pandemic.

All are welcome to the celebration but - FINAL REMINDER - do please sign up on the list at the back of the church so we can be sure to cater for the numbers coming.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to set up, and to serve drink during the event. The Centre will be open at 10am for those who are setting up (access from the church carpark).

God of power and compassion, in Christ you reveal your will to heal and save.

Open our ears to your redeeming word and move our hearts by the strength of your love, so our every word and work may proclaim as Messiah, Jesus the Lord.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

song. Our musical resources at most Masses are rather thin on the ground so we will start slowly. We'll begin to sing the Holy and Memorial Acclamation and Great Amen using the Missal tone for a few weeks, but hopefully moving on to one of our other slight more challenging but previously familiar contemporary settings in time for parish celebrations of First Communion and Confirmation.

These songs have priority in the Church's singing at Mass for in them we sing the Mass, rather than singing 'at' Mass. Our song (on a good day!) enriches the central actions of the Mass. Even when we are not as tuneful as we might like our efforts to sing with one voice gives expression to our desire to be at one with and in the Lord, and so it serves its principal purpose.

Like many parishes we need to continue to take care to foster devotion to the Lord's real presence to us in Holy Communion. The Church encourages us to sing a song of thanksgiving together after the distribution of Communion. It gives us an opportunity to recollect what we have done, who we have received in Communion and how we are helped to live more faithfully by this spiritual food. So over the coming weeks we will re-acquaint ourselves with some familiar songs that can help us do this.

PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

Day	Time	Notes
Sa 4	6pm	George Crouch RIP (Foster)
Su 5	9am	23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME For the parish
	11am	
M 6	10am	Sr Coleen Marie RIP (Jan)
T 7	10am	John Farrell RD (O'Gorman)
W 8	10am	Nativity of BV Mary
Th 9		
F 10	7pm	Margaret O'Brien RIP (Wilkinson)
Sa 11	6pm	24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME For the parish
	9am	
Su 12	9am	Eugene McWilliams RIP (McWilliams)
	11am	

Please pray for sick parishioners including Brenda Davies, Elizabeth Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for John Farrell who died recently, and for Michael Lawlor, Ken Barker and Patrick Cawley 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.*

Isaiah 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts, ‘Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

Psalms 145(146):7-10

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger.

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion’s God, from age to age.

James 2:1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of dis-

tinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, ‘Come this way to the best seats’; then you tell the poor man, ‘Stand over there’ or ‘You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.’ Can’t you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. *Alleluia!*

Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man’s ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, ‘Ephphatha’, that is, ‘Be opened.’ And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. ‘He has done all things well,’ they said ‘he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.’

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.

Song of Thanksgiving

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my armour, and be thou my might;
thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower:
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, when battle is done,
grant heaven’s joy to me, O bright Heaven’s Sun!
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

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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One in Christ: Training and Formation for those called to the service of the Church at prayer

We have not been able to have our regular (but infrequent) refresher days for parish readers and ministers of Holy Communion during the pandemic. We are also in great need of additional people coming forward ready to help serve our parish in its celebration of Mass.

Three workshops have been arranged - at which we will be joined by ministers old and new from other local parishes, and schools. The workshops are hands-on and practical, and numbers are strictly limited.

**Booking forms
are available from Fr Allen.**

**Parish ministers (and others) should
reserve their places as soon as possible.**

They have been designed for those preparing to begin their service of the Church, and to help people already serving to reflect and build on their experience.

They will help ministers

- understand what is asked of them
- prepare well for what they do
- minister confidently and fruitfully.

Sat Oct 9: For Readers

Sat Nov 6: For Ministers of Holy Communion

Sat Dec 4: For Leaders of Prayer

Leaders of Prayer??? This is a category of ‘Leaders of Prayer’ is a category of service that we are giving new attention to - people assisting in this way will range from those who have responsibility for prayer as part of the life of a parish group; a teacher leading prayer in school through to ministers leading services of word and communion in the absence of a priest. The same basic principles apply in all these cases and are easy to learn and apply. And they help ministers assist in this way with confidence and fruitfulness.