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Gift Aid to the parish, and to CAFOD for example have not changed in the past 5 years! Time for a re-think by me - what about you?

- When people are able to make their offering by Standing Order rather than directly in the Offertory basket, it helps the parish by giving us a more stable income across the year. **If you are able to make your donation monthly or quarterly rather than weekly, this helps us with administration and also helps reduce our bank charges!**
- If people are tax payers and can gift aid their offering (either using Standing Orders or Gift Aid envelopes) the parish can claim back 25p for every £1.00 you donate. **If you are not in a position to increase your donation this year, but can join the Gift Aid scheme then this will be a real help to the parish.**
- The Parish 50/50 club is a valuable source of income for the parish (and for those lucky enough to win in the monthly draws!) If you have not joined why not think about it. **50% of the income comes to the parish and 50% goes out in prize money.**

Forms are available as you leave church for Standing Orders /Gift Aid and 50/50 club. They can also be downloaded from <https://www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/financial-support-of-the-parish.html>

Whether or not you are able to offer any extra help to the parish at this time, thank you for considering it.

And if you can offer extra help, any completed forms can be posted to the parish office, or returned via the offertory basket at the entrance to the church.

Fr. Allen

Opportunities to pray at home with the parish and the Church.

Morning Prayer

A reminder of the opportunity to join the members of the parish each day (Monday to Saturday) for Morning prayer at 0830. This simple form of prayer is based on Scripture – psalms and other poetic songs – and is very easy to join in. All are welcome. *The Zoom link is available on the parish website home page. Just click on the link sometime between 8.25 and 8.30 and wait to be 'admitted'.*

Sixth Form Applications for 2021
Bishop Walsh Catholic School
www.bishopwalsh.net/sixth-form/admissions
Applications due by 29 Jan 2021
St Edmund Campion Catholic School
www.stedcamp.bham.sch.uk/1471/apply-september-2021
Applications due by 31 Jan 2021

What we are doing on Ash Wednesday

The usual Ash Wednesday marking of foreheads with a smudged ash cross is not available to us this year – in order to reduce avoidable transmission of the COVID virus.

Our parish will have its usual Ash Wednesday services – on Wednesday, February 17th, just under a month away now! But instead of the ashes being applied in the 'smudge' they will be instead sprinkled on our heads.

The action of sprinkling ashes in this way is more ancient than the 'smudge' with which most of us are more familiar. It is witnessed to in the scriptures, and it is the form in which ashes were traditionally imposed in the Roman Rite. It remains the most common way of administering ashes in many places.

Lent this year will see the anniversary of the first national Lockdown due to COVID. It is a time for us to take fresh stock about our values; how we live our love for God, and how we care for our neighbours.

Ash Wednesday liturgies at St Nicholas

- 0700** – Liturgy of the Word, with Ashes
- 1000** – Mass, with Ashes
- 1200** – on-line prayer with those who are household.
- 1900** – Mass, with imposition of Ashes

Do mark Ash Wednesday in your diaries, so as to have the best chance of sharing in our parish keeping of this day, and beginning Lent together.

Lent and Easter this year have the potential to be even more important for us than usual as a time of deepening our sense of who, in Christ, we are, and who, in Christ, we are called to be.

Rosary

Each Monday evening at 7pm a number of us come together to pray, in turn, one of the sets of the Mysteries. Tomorrow we pray the Joyful Mysteries. *Again, the Zoom link is available on the parish website home page. Just click on the link sometime between 6.55 and 7pm and wait to be 'admitted'.*

Prefer quiet prayer alone?

Why not make space for a daily reflection on Scripture? This is the Year of Mark – you might begin slowly to read your way through Mark's Gospel – the shortest of the four. Or why not make use of the readings set each week for Sunday Mass, and provided in the newsletter. And each week of the present lockdown, a written reflection will be published here. Often these will be a version of the Sunday homily preached either by Fr Allen or Deacon John, but sometimes they will come from another source.

Mass on-line?

Links to live streamed Masses are on the parish website.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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Website: www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk
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

Parish Finances

Each January parishes submit a Financial Report to the Archdiocese, confirming its income and expenditure for the year. This is to help safeguard the financial health of parish and dioceses, and to plan for the future.

This year's report is in preparation, and as you might imagine it does not look too good. The final details will be published when the Report has been completed but our income from the Sunday Offertory (including Standing Orders) has dropped by 25%. This leaves a large hole in our parish budget for the year- but not too large for us to be able to deal with from our reserves. It is less easy to compare expenditure year on year - not least because of the recent exceptional expenditure on repair/maintenance of roof and meeting rooms. More details will be forthcoming in a month or so, but generally, over 2019, there has been a reduction in our operating costs, but not equal to the loss in regular income.

So, our financial situation I would like us all to give some thought to.

As we look forward we also need to take into account:

1. During this year, as you know, responsibility for the Carpenter's Arms (soon to be renamed as the Saint John Henry Newman Community Centre) has returned to the parish. Hopefully this will not prove a financial drain on the parish -but it will be challenging to make best use of the resource it provides, and careful management to ensure the Centre is properly maintained, and developed.
2. The diocesan tax on parishes from 2021 has been raised from 22% to 26% of all assessable income (basically all income other than legacies, sales, parish centre and our 50/50 club). This money is used to meet the costs of the services provided centrally through the diocese for support of parishes and schools.

As the diocese and parish faces financial challenges so do many families. And some families face more grave and urgent situations than our parish and diocese.

However if we are in a position to consider whether we can offer further or more regular financial support to the parish, I ask that we do.

- Often we get into a habit of giving 'x' amount, and that amount remains the same, year in year out. ***I find myself in that situation - the amounts I***

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Keeping Safe at for Mass

Face coverings: Regulations require members of the congregation, aged 5 and over, to wear face-coverings over their nose and mouth throughout the time we are in church. *If you have an exemption certificate please confirm in advance with Fr Allen, so appropriate seating can be arranged for you (and to safeguard others.)*

Social distancing: Please keep a social distance of 1m from anyone not of your household. *If someone is already in the bench you choose, please sit in the middle space, and leave any remaining space on the aisle for the next to arrive. Do not make people climb over you to get into the bench.*

Thank you for your cooperation.

MASS DURING THE HEALTH CRISIS

On days when there is no public Mass (because no volunteers for stewarding/cleaning) Fr Allen celebrates Mass 'privately' in the church usually at 0830.

Sa 23	6pm	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Sunday of the Word of God	For the parish
Su 24	9am 11am		John and Kathryn Carr Ints (Warrallo) Danny Scally RIP (Ward)
M 25	10am	Conversion of St Paul	Paul Gallagher RIP (Twort)
T 26	10am	Ss Timothy and Titus	Thanksgiving: L Barron
W 27	10am		Holy Souls
Th 28		St Thomas Aquinas	
F 29	7pm		Joan and James Shipley (Ord)
Sa 30	6pm	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time.	Joseph and Mary Enright RIP (Ord)
Su 31	9am 11am		For the parish Decsd members of the Barron Family (Barron)

Confessions COVID restrictions prevent confessions being heard in the church, or indoors. However, if you wish to celebrate Reconciliation please contact Fr Allen who will be happy to arrange a time and place (outdoors) to celebrate this sacrament of mercy with you.

Please pray for sick parishioners including Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke. Please pray for Fr Patrick Joyce who died recently and for Mary O'Hara, Gerard McGrath, Kizah JohnsonBridget Kelly, Rosemary Robinson, Raymond Jones and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

The Introductory Rites

The Introductory Rites help the faithful to come together as one, establish communion and prepare themselves properly to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.

The Penitential Act

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

Hearing the word proclaimed in worship, the faithful again enter into the unending dialogue between God and the people of the covenant shared in Christ, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. The proclamation of the word is essential to the Mass

A brief time of quiet after the readings allows those present to take the word of God to heart and begin to prepare a prayerful response to what we have heard.

Jonah 3:1-5,10

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour, and God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

Psalms 24(25):4-6,7b-9

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The kingdom of God is close at hand: repent, and believe the Good News. *Alleluia!*

Mark 1:14-20

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.' As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful (omitted at the Bishop's request)

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 Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does, because at its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing and making available his saving work among us.

The Offertory

There is no offertory collection at this time. Instead, you are invited to place 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.

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

THE COMMUNION RITE

Eating and drinking together of the Lord's Body and Blood in a Paschal meal is the culmination of the Eucharist. The themes underlying these rites are mutual love and reconciliation. These are the condition and the fruit of worthy communion and the unity of the many in the One.

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Please wait in your pew until it is time to move forward to the minister for Holy Communion, always aware of the regulations on social distancing in the orderly queue.

As you approach the minister, please do so with arms at "full stretch" to keep a good distance between you.

Communion will be given silently, and in the hand only.

(Your hands - palms upwards, one of top of the other - should be extended as flatly as possible.)

Prayer after Communion

The Concluding Rites

The brief Concluding Rite sends the people forth to put into effect in their daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ which they have celebrated. Their mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

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First Sacraments

Baptism Under the current lockdown we are advised that baptism should be celebrated only in danger of death. However parents who wish to complete preparation during lockdown, so baptism can be quickly arranged once it is again permitted, are invited to contact Fr Allen *before 1st February* so a group Zoom meeting can be arranged.

First Communion Preparation is now underway. Because of the restricted opportunities for children to attend Mass at this time the *celebration* of first Confessions and Communion will, like last year, take place after the Summer. Dates will be confirmed nearer the time. More details have been sent to those enrolled

Confirmation is currently scheduled for 15 May. More details have been sent to those enrolled.

Marriage At present, Church weddings are permitted only *in extremis*. 6 months notice of intention to marry is intended from all those wishing to marry in church - to allow time for the couple to complete and benefit from a marriage preparation course, and to gather the necessary paperwork.

Preparing for Mass

Reflections on readings and prayers from next Sunday's Mass are posted daily on the parish Blog (Weds to Sun). *Spending time with the readings and prayers before Mass is a good way of helping our time at Mass to be more fruitful.*

Families with children in primary school are strongly urged to make use of the Wednesday Word to help the family to draw the greater benefit from the Scripture readings. wednesdayword.org/parish/resources.htm

New on Parish Blog for 2021

Weekly mini-essays exploring the Eucharist. Origins and influences on the Mass; exploring particular prayers; and looking at how we celebrate - and how we might celebrate more fruitfully....

www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com