

Continued from page 1.

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%. 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 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 <http://bit.ly/2Yp1g4r>

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

ACTA Birmingham

Sunday Feb 28th Ask a Theologian Anything Tom O'Loughlin and David McLoughlin will be among members of the panel.

Zoom. Start: 1.45 for 2.00 pm, finish by 3.30pm. Email actabhm@gmail.com to register interest.

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 housebound.

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.

Fr Patrick Joyce's Funeral Mass

will be at Erdington Abbey on Fri, 12 Feb at 10am.

The Funeral Mass will be celebrated in accordance with the current lockdown guidelines. The number of people who can attend is strictly limited.

The funeral Mass will be livestreamed at www.facebook.com/groups/frjoycefuneral A Facebook account is not needed to view the Mass.

Mass will be celebrated for Fr Joyce at St Nicholas, that evening, at 7pm

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'.*

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.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

Telephone: 0121 354 1763 **Email:** stnicholas.boldmere@rcaob.org.uk

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

Together in Christ?

One of the challenges of this time of Pandemic has been the way ordinary life has been disrupted, how we have regularly been deliberately isolating from each other and others.

For a community like Church that is about communion, this is especially challenging. There have of course been all sorts of initiatives that have helped us keep in some sort of contact with each other and with the Church too – Zoom prayer times and meetings; telephone calls; shared prayer resources; the opportunity to watch on-line Masses... And we have reason to be grateful for the benefits that they bring. And sometimes these have helped those who – at other times – have been more isolated because they are housebound to engage more fully in shared activities with others.

However the Pandemic is just the latest of all sorts of atomising influences and tendencies that have been corrosive of Church life, and of community life more broadly. Over recent years it has been recognised that so many people are alone, without easy access to family and friends that we now have a Government Minister for Loneliness!

The Church is not immune from these tendencies. Many people have said that, after the worst of the Pandemic is over, we can expect fewer people to 'return to Church' because those who come for 'habit' will have broken the habit! This could drive us into decline. But it could also be a time when others recognise that there is a need for the vitality proper to the Church, and the mission of the Church to be made still more evident by those of us who are Church and who want Church to thrive, and serve.

During Lent - beginning Feb 17! - please make the most of the opportunity to consider how we are and might be more fully Church presented by our parish Lent programme *Together in Christ?* More details next week.

Parish Finances

A reminder of last week's notice about parish finances. As for many others, last year was challenging financially. Our Annual Financial Report will be published but essentially although our outgoings remained pretty much the same, our income dropped by c25%.

Looking forward we also need to note:

1. We now have responsibility for the Carpenter's Arms (soon to be renamed as the St John Henry Newman Community Centre). Hopefully this

Continued on page 4.

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	30	6pm	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Joseph and Mary Enright RIP (Ord)
Su	31	9am 11am		
M	1	10am		Brigid Barron RIP (Barron)
T	2	10am	Presentation of the Lord	Phil Fisher RD (Redmond)
W	3	10am		Holy Souls
Th	4			
F	5	7pm	St Agatha	Eugene McWilliams RIP (McWilliams)
Sa	6	6pm	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Luke Gill RIP (Gill family)
Su	7	9am 11am		

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. Please pray for Lea Burke, Thomas Venables and Fr Giles Goward who died recently and for Raymond Jones, Luca Atzori, Linda Bradley 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.

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said to the people: 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have



not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

Psalms 94(95):1-2,6-9

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us:
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.
O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. *Alleluia!*

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his disciples went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came he went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

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.

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

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

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.

Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible © 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. **Text of the Psalms:** Copyright © 1963, The Grail (England). All rights reserved. **Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal** © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

First Sacraments

Baptism Under the current lockdown we are advised that baptism should be celebrated only in danger of death. 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.

Confirmation is currently scheduled for 15 May.

Marriage 6 months notice 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.

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

This week take a look at the art of celebration - how the opening of Mass is arranged to help us to celebrate together, as one, in Christ.