

Thank you to those who have completed and returned their responses to the questionnaire. If you have not done the same, do please complete the form below and leave it in the basket on the table at the entrance to the nave.

Why the Questionnaire?

As we continue to try to move forward, dealing with some of the consequences of COVID, it will be helpful to set priorities for what needs looking at. There may be some cross-parish priorities, but also some that particular 'Mass-communities' may be ready to take responsibility for.

'Mass-community' might require a word of explanation. It is a term that acknowledges that the community that forms around each Mass time has its own identity. Of course the members vary from week to week, but there are some for example who only ever attend the 6pm Saturday Mass, and others only ever attend the 9am Sunday Mass.

Mass-communities can be seen as 'a parish within the parish'. Sometimes this is a strength, and sometimes not. Examples of strengths can be when a Mass-community works to provide music for its Mass, or Liturgy of the Word for its children, or — after Mass — refreshments. Other things are usually better organised across mass-communities, as parish, - for example - social action, catechesis, bible-study groups

Anyway, as we continue to try to move forward it seems helpful to consult on what matters we would like to give priority to. There are some suggestions below. But space for you to add your own. Please indicate the Mass you usually attend and, if you wish, your name and contact details, and return form next Sunday.

What to be getting on with....	Priority: 1 low, 10 high	Sunday mass I usually attend
1. Music ministry at Mass		
2. Children's Liturgy		
3. Refreshments in Newman Centre after Mass		Name (optional)
4. Welcoming team at Mass		
5. Advisory group for use and development of the Newman Centre		
6. Tending parish gardens/car park		Email (optional)
7. Developing team to visit and take communion to housebound people		
8. Develop house/area groups in parish to help deepen/develop faith and parish life		Telephone (optional)
?		

The feedback from completed forms is being collated and will be shared in next week's newsletter. In the meantime, a first reflection from me. We need to remember that few if any of these priorities will just happen. They will require people supporting the initiatives with their time and energy. It will be interesting to see whether people (we/us) will come forward to support things because **others** think they are important for our life as parish. Our service often does bring advantage to us - broadening our perspectives, engaging us more closely with the Gospel, the satisfaction of a job well done, etc. But it is worth asking ourselves, what is our first motive? Our answers shouldn't stop us doing good (!) but are sometimes something to bring to prayer? *Fr. Allen*

Liturgy of the Word for children Thank you to four young parents who are preparing to introduce *Liturgy of the Word for children* (children in Reception through to the end of Year 2) at the 9am Mass, beginning from 6th February. The group will be leading liturgies fortnightly. It will be possible to offer this service at other masses should additional volunteers come forward.

Parish provision for older youngsters. A meeting is taking place this week with the *Sutton Coldfield Adventure Unit* to discuss their holding some of their activities in the Newman Community Centre. For more details of SCAU please go to www.scau.co.uk/home



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Parish Safeguarding: Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)

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

Where we are with COVID

The Government has relaxed regulations regarding COVID. However it recognises that there is still a risk associated with gathering for sustained periods in enclosed spaces and therefore there needs to be continued caution by all against infection. For this reason - for the time being - it is still required that those attending Mass at St Nicholas are to wear face masks and use hand sanitiser on entering the church. Those with smart-phones are also encouraged to continue to use the track and trace system by scanning the QR codes in the porch. And two rows of seat are reserved at the back of the church on the right for those who wish to socially distance - so please DO NOT sit there if you are not socially distancing.

These practices are retained for the general welfare of the congregation, but especially to make it safer for those who are still more vulnerable to attend Mass.

However some things are changing. Holy Water is back in the Holy Water stoups (and it will be changed regularly for your safety); Holy Communion will once more be distributed from the centre aisle only.

As previously those who are not able to attend Mass because of COVID are invited to contact Fr Allen so that arrangements can be put in place for them to receive Holy Communion at home.

Help needed (so please read on....)

We are in urgent need of additional parish readers and ministers of Holy Communion.

It is likely that new readers would assist at Mass twice a month and new ministers of Holy Communion assist with distributing Holy Communion at Mass once a month. An introductory session, of about an hour, will be provided for new ministers at a time convenient for you.

As baptised Christians we are really and truly brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, and when we receive the holy Eucharist this union is perfectly reached, for then we not only receive the King of Kings — in him we receive each other.

Now there is no doubt that many people are not very keen about receiving each other. They have a little complex that revolts against the incorrect grammar one person uses, against the taste in dress of the woman three pews ahead and the man five rows behind. They have a regular Great Wall of China of their own — enclosing themselves and acquaintances of similar tastes and capacities.

Mary Fabyan Windeatt.

PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

Sa 29	6pm		For the parish
Su 30	9am	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Ints Ann Byrne (Byrne)
	11am		Claire O'Neill RIP (Egan)
M 31	11am	St John Bosco	Thanks for the NHS
T 1	10am		Mary Dunleavy RIP (Gateley)
W 2	10am	Presentation of the Lord	
Th 3			
Fr 4	11am		Celebration of Sacrament of Anointing of the sick (w. Exposition)
	7pm		
Sa 5	6pm		Luke Gill RIP (Gill)
Su 6	9am	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	For the parish
	11am		William Hempenstall RIP (H)

Sacrament of Confession: Friday evenings after 7pm Mass until 8pm; and 5-5.30pm on Saturday. (Also by appointment)

Anointing of the Sick: Last Friday of month at 11am

Please pray for parishioners who are sick including Jean Lawlor, Stephen Burke, Brenda Davies, Elizabeth Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for Fr David Lloyd who died recently, and for Bridget Kelly, Rosemary Robinson, Raymond Jones, Luca Atzori, Linda Bradley and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

RESOURCES FOR PRAYER.

- Parish prayer on Zoom (links on parish website)
Morning Prayer: Zoom meeting Monday to Saturday at 8.30am;
Lectio Sunday at 4pm; **Rosary** Mon at 7pm.
- Readings of the day and much more at Universalis.com
- Read your way through Luke's Gospel - the Gospel of the year (Text available at <https://www.esv.org>)

The Introductory Rites

Opening Song

Lord, Jesus Christ, you have come to us,
you are one with us, Mary's son.
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in,
Jesus our love for you we sing, living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, now and ev'ry day
teach us how to pray, Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this in remembrance, Lord, of you.
Into our lives your pow'r breaks through, living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,
born as one of us, Mary's Son.
Led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus, help us see, you are Lord.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I would come to you,
live my life for you, Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,
into my life your pow'r breaks through, living Lord.

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

Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.

'So now brace yourself for action. Stand up and tell them all I command you. Do not be dismayed at their presence, or in their presence I will make you dismayed. 'I, for my part, today will make you into a fortified city, a pillar of iron, and a wall of bronze to confront all this land: the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests and the country people. They will fight against you but shall not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you – it is the Lord who speaks.'

Psalm 70(71):1-6,15,17

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me.
Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked.
It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother's womb you have been my help.

My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help.
O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still.

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; No one can come to the Father except through me. *Alleluia!*

Luke 4:21-30

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue: 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, 'This is

Joseph's son, surely?'

But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside."' And he went on, 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country. There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
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

Our next monthly collection for the Bethany Food Bank will be on 5th/6th February.

The Offertory

Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ for you.
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on the journey,
We are travellers on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will bear the Christ-light for you,
in the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping.
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joys and sorrows,
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we will find such harmony,
born of all we've shared together
of Christ's love and agony.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly
Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your
glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na, ho -
san-na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Memorial Acclamation

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-
claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a -
gain, un - til you come a - gain.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

Song after Communion

*Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas,
Deus ibi est*

(Where there is charity and love, there is God.)

The Concluding Rites

Blessing and Dismissal

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God of salvation,
in your Prophet, Jesus the Christ,
you announce freedom
and summon us to conversion.

As we marvel at the grace and power of your word,
enlighten us to see the beauty of the gospel.
and strengthen us to embrace its demands.

We ask you, hear our prayer
which we make through Christ our Lord. Amen