

Thank you to all who completed the survey form to help establish some parish priorities as we move out of the disruption of COVID, and responding to the Diocesan call to renewal and Pope Francis's call that we look at how we walk together.

The basic information from your responses (up to Monday!) is recorded in the table here. Other comments made are not lost. They have been recorded too and there will be opportunity to return to them.

It was interesting to see a number of people seemed to think everything was of equal importance! Everything may be important (though not everyone thought that) but if we are to move forward it will mean focussing on some things in particular.

From the responses received the one thing that is well ahead of everything else is the development of teams who, as representatives of St Nicholas parish community, can support, visit, pray with and take communion to housebound parishioners. By next week there will be some first reflections for our consideration together on how we might be able to build on past practice and offer still better support to those who are housebound. And of course how we can make it as easy as possible for us to volunteer to help our fellow parishioners.

Children's Liturgy came next and that began again last weekend - and there's plenty of scope to extend the provision.

Music came next. Music is a key element of Catholic Liturgy, itself source and summit of Catholic life. Indeed we are instructed that no Sunday Mass should be celebrated without our joining in song together. Any individuals keen on helping with music and liturgy are invited to contact Fr Allen: a meeting will take next Sunday to plan the liturgies for Lent and Easter.

Another high priority from the parish was for us to develop parish groups. You may recall that a first start was made with this immediately before COVID hit. But Lent is just around the corner and that seems a great opportunity to start up again - and look further at the *diocesan* priorities for the renewal of the Church and the deepening of our communion with Christ and each other.

The Priority Points You Gave to...	6pm	9am	11am	Total
Number of responders	12	14	17	43
1. Music ministry at Mass	53	75	103	231
2. Children's Liturgy	74	72	122	268
3. Refreshments in Newman Centre after Mass	53	64	68	185
4. Welcoming team at Mass	64	57	68	189
5. Advisory group for use and development of the Newman Centre	66	51	67	184
6. Tending parish gardens/car park	45	66	62	173
7. Developing team to visit and take communion to housebound people	91	76	90	257
8. Develop parish house/area groups to help deepen/develop faith and parish life	71	46	73	190

Helping children to take their proper part in Mass

For the youngest children the first things that are going to be in place are them getting used to the rhythm of Sunday/going to church; of being blessed with water as they come in and maybe helped to know it is a place where we pray and to recognise some of the figures of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Once they are older help them to join with us in our actions — genuflecting to the Blessed Sacrament, together with when you come to your bench; making the sign of Cross; standing and kneeling etc, as seems practical.

Once they are starting to read, help them — again, along you — to follow the prayers and readings in the newsletter/service sheet. And when it is possible, encourage them to take part in the parish celebrations of Liturgy of the Word for children (from Reception through to end of Year 2, presently at 9am Mass).

When children are in Year 1, especially, do encourage them to take part in all of the prayers and actions of the Mass. This is what they will be doing when they are at Mass at school, so it is clearly important that parents encourage their children to that full participation in Sunday Mass too. And help them to learn some of the simpler prayers and responses and songs off by heart.

At every stage, it is such a help when parents speak with their children about what struck them themselves in the readings, or in the songs and prayers. And of course to help the children prepare for the Mass by each person being ready to come to Mass with three things to pray about: 1 thing to give thanks for; 1 thing to say sorry for; and one thing to ask for help with. Don't press your child to share with you what in particular *they* will be praying about, but encourage them to do this — to the extent it is appropriate! — by sharing with them what *you* yourself will be praying for.



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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Parish Blog: www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

Parish Priest: Fr Allen Morris **Deacon:** Rev John Garvey

Parish Safeguarding: Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)

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

Sharing in responsibility for our parish celebrations of Mass

There is a meeting at 6pm in the Benedict Room on Sunday 20th Feb (for just 60 minutes!) to help plan music and liturgy for our Lent/Holy Week/Easter liturgies. All welcome.

On Sunday 26th Feb in the church at 5.30pm (for 60 mins) there is a meeting for all parents and younger children who would like to take a fuller part in our Sunday Masses.

Liturgy of the Word for children Thank you to four young parents who are now leading LWC (for children in Reception through to the end of Year 2) at the 9am Mass. They will be leading liturgies fortnightly. The next liturgy is on 19th Feb. This service can be offered at other masses if additional volunteers come forward.

What is LWC? It is our Liturgy of the Word adapted to help children enter into the regular ritual, learning to listen and reflect on the word and apply it to their lives - in a way suited to their age and stage of development.

There is not one of us, individually, racially, socially, who is fully complete in the sense of having in himself all the excellence of all humanity. And this excellence, this totality, is built up out of the contributions of the particular parts of it that we all can share with one another. I am therefore not completely human until I have found myself in my African and Asian and Indonesian brother because he has the part of humanity which I lack.

Thomas Merton

If writing today, there can be no doubt that Merton would have included gender amongst the distinctions he mentions and the need to find himself in his sisters also!

Can you gift aid your donations to the parish?

If you are, the parish is able to claim back from the Government 25p for every £1 you give. And it will not cost you any extra.

When people join this scheme, it makes a very big difference to our parish finances. This is especially important as we try to get things back together after 2 years of COVID.

If you are able to help the parish in this way, then **(1)** please complete a Gift Aid declaration form, (available in the porch) and **(2)** make your future donations either by Standing Order, or using the parish Gift Aid envelopes we can provide you with, on request.

While we're on the subject,

- if you are currently part of the parish Gift Aid scheme but *no longer eligible* to be, do please inform Fr Allen or Brian Devlin (the parish Gift-Aid organiser), so that our records can be kept up to date.

- If you want collection envelopes (Gift Aid or other) but dropped out of the system during COVID-time, please complete one of the forms in the porch and we'll get your new envelopes ready for April.

PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

Day	Time	Parish	Notes
Sa 12	6pm		Peter Becque RIP (Gill)
Su 13	9am	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Joseph Ba Pham RIP (Nguyen)
	11am		For the parish
M 14	10am	Ss Cyril & Methodius	St Nicholas Parish (Suteherland)
T 15			
W 16	10am		Maita Fruchart RIP (Cummings)
Th 17			
Fr 18	7pm		
Sa 19	6pm	7th Sunday in Ordinary Time	John Gill RIP (Gill)
Su 20	9am		For the parish
	11am		Imelda Kirrane RIP (Devane)

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 Chris Palgrave, Maureen Cleary, Mary McEvoy, David Meade, Kathleen Melody, Marie Hodgetts, Emily Zytkeiwicz and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

RESOURCES FOR PRAYER.

1. 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.
2. Readings of the day and much more at Universalis.com
3. Read your way through Luke's Gospel - the Gospel of the year (Text available at <https://www.esv.org>)

God,
who alone can satisfy our deepest hungers,
protect us from the lure of wealth and power;
move our hearts to seek first your kingdom,
that ours may be the security and joy of those
who place their trust in you.

The Introductory Rites

Opening Song

Blest are the pure in heart,
For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs,
Their heart is Christ's abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens,
Our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men,
Their pattern and their King.

Still to the lowly soul
He does himself impart,
And for his dwelling and his throne
Chooses the pure in heart.

Lord, we thy presence seek;
May ours this blessing be;
Give us a pure and lowly heart,
A temple meet for Thee.

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 17:5-8

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.
He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,

its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

Psalm 1:1-4,6

Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night.

He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper.

Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind:
for the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been
preached, how can some of you be saying that there
is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not
raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has
not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is
more serious, all who have died in Christ have per-
ished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only,
we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the
first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Luke 6:17,20-26

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a
piece of level ground where there was a large gather-
ing of his disciples with a great crowd of people from
all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the
coastal region of Tyre and Sidon.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:
'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the king-
dom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.
Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out,
abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on
account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day
comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will
be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors
treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your
consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.
Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This
was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

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 monthly collection for the **Bethany Food Bank** is next taken on Sunday 6th March.
In the meantime donations to various local
foodbanks can be made at local supermarkets.

The Offertory Song

Take my hands and make them as your own,
And use them for your kingdom here on earth,
Consecrate them to your care,
Anoint them for your service where,
You may need your Gospel to be sown.

Take my hands they speak now for my heart,
And by their actions they will show their love,
Guard them on their daily course,
Be their strength and guiding force,
To over serve the Trinity above.

Take my hands I give them to you Lord,
Prepare them for the service of your name,
Open them to human need,
And by their love they'll sow your seed,
So all may know the love and hope you give.

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

*Abba, Abba, Father,
You are the potter,
we are the clay,
the work of your hands.*

Mould us, mould us and fashion us
into the image of Jesus your Son,
of Jesus your Son.

Father, may we be one in him,
as he is in you, and you are in him,
and you are in him.

Glory, glory and praise to you,
glory and praise to you
for ever, amen,
for ever, amen.

The Concluding Rites

Blessing and Dismissal

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A Refresher Day for parish liturgical ministers

from our parish and other parishes in the
Birmingham North and East Deanery
All readers, ministers of communion, musicians,
welcomers, , church cleaners etc welcome

Saturday 5th March

**The Day begins at 10am and ends at 3pm
— come for all or part, as you like.**

Full details on noticeboard in the porch

Pilgrim Cross - a walking Pilgrimage for Holy
Week, journeying to Walsingham. Suitable for all
ages. Full details at pilgrimcross.org.uk

Free Hearing Aid Clinic run by RNID and NHS.
Details on noticeboard.

Bishop Walsh 6th Form: Deadline for
applications is 4th March, 2022.

**Preaching the Gospel in a Multifaith
Society** — an aspect of synodality/walking
together. Dr Rosalee Velloso Ewell, Principal of
Redcliffe College, will be speaking at ACTA Zoom
meeting Sun Feb 20, 2.30 - 4pm. Zoom link
available from email actabhm@gmail.com.