

## Sharing in responsibility for our parish celebrations of Mass

**Youngsters:** 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 - including this year's Holy Triduum.



**Altar servers:** We want to re-establish our teams of adult and junior servers. Application forms are available at the entrance to the church.

**Outreach to the sick and housebound:** Thank you to the ministers who took part in the Zoom meeting that took place on Sunday. A summary paper has been prepared for wider parish discussion at a follow-up meeting at 8pm on Friday 4th March. This is available in the porch. The meeting will take place in the Benedict Room, and will last no longer than 60 minutes! All are welcome.

## From Pope Francis' Letter for Lent 2022

*continued from page 1*

We need to pray because we need God. Thinking that we need nothing other than ourselves is a dangerous illusion. If the pandemic has heightened the awareness of our own personal and social fragility, may this Lent allow us to experience the consolation provided by faith in God, without whom we cannot stand firm (cf. Is 7:9). No one attains salvation alone, since we are all in the same boat, amid the storms of history; and certainly no one reaches salvation without God, for only the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ triumphs over the dark waters of death. Faith does not spare us life's burdens and tribulations, but it does allow us to face them in union with God in Christ, with the great hope that does not disappoint, whose pledge is the love that God has poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 5:1-5).

**Let us not grow tired of uprooting evil from our lives.** May the corporal fasting to which Lent calls us fortify our spirit for the battle against sin. Let us not grow tired of asking for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, knowing that God never tires of forgiving. [3] Let us not grow tired of fighting against concupiscence, that weakness which induces to selfishness and all evil, and finds in the course of history a variety of ways to lure men and women into sin (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 166). One of these is addiction to the digital media, which impoverishes human relationships. Lent is a propitious time to resist these temptations and to cultivate instead a more integral form of human communication (ibid., 43) made up of "authentic encounters" (ibid., 50), face-to-face and in person.

**Let us not grow tired of doing good in active charity towards our neighbours.** During this Lent, may we practise almsgiving by giving joyfully (cf. 2 Cor 9:7). God who "supplies seed to the sower

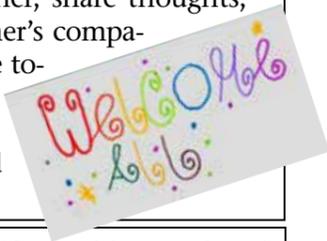
and bread for food" (2 Cor 9:10) enables each of us not only to have food to eat, but also to be generous in doing good to others. While it is true that we have our entire life to sow goodness, let us take special advantage of this Lenten season to care for those close to us and to reach out to our brothers and sisters who lie wounded along the path of life (cf. Lk 10:25-37). Lent is a favourable time to seek out - and not to avoid - those in need; to reach out - and not to ignore - those who need a sympathetic ear and a good word; to visit - and not to abandon - those who are lonely. Let us put into practice our call to do good to all, and take time to love the poor and needy, those abandoned and rejected, those discriminated against and marginalized (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 193).

**If we do not give up, we shall reap our harvest in due time.** Each year during Lent we are reminded that "goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day" (ibid., 11). Let us ask God to give us the patient perseverance of the farmer (cf. Jas 5:7), and to persevere in doing good, one step at a time. If we fall, let us stretch out our hand to the Father, who always lifts us up. If we are lost, if we are misled by the enticements of the evil one, let us not hesitate to return to God, who "is generous in forgiving" (Is 55:7). In this season of conversion, sustained by God's grace and by the communion of the Church, let us not grow tired of doing good. The soil is prepared by fasting, watered by prayer and enriched by charity. Let us believe firmly that "if we do not give up, we shall reap our harvest in due time" and that, with the gift of perseverance, we shall obtain what was promised (cf. Heb 10:36), for our salvation and the salvation of others (cf. 1 Tim 4:16). By cultivating fraternal love towards everyone, we are united to Christ, who gave his life for our sake (cf. 2 Cor 5:14-15), and we are granted a foretaste of the joy of the kingdom of heaven, when God will be "all in all" (1 Cor 15:28).

## Welcome all

A parish group is slowly feeling its way, wanting to discover and learn how we can best offer welcome and support to those with special needs in our Christian community - and their families.

There is a fun social meeting on 3rd April, from 1-3pm in the Benedict Room. It is open to all who are interested. It offers an opportunity for people to come together, share thoughts, enjoy each other's company and prepare together for our celebration of Holy Week and Easter.



## 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 **Deacon:** Rev John Garvey

**Parish Safeguarding:** Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)

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

Unfolding God's Plan: Journeying Together

# THE CHURCH IN ENGLAND: THEN, NOW AND NEXT...

## Three talks by Dr Judith Champ

Pope Francis and Archbishop Bernard invite us to consider and share our understandings of the Church and her mission. This series of talks by an eminent Church historian, active in the Diocesan Synod consultation process, will provide interesting and helpful context for our continuing reflections on the life and mission of the Church in our parish and Archdiocese.



**Tuesdays 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> March**  
**7.45 — 9pm**

**Meeting in the Benedict Room**

## PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

Sa	26	6pm	8th Sunday in Ordinary Time	For the parish
Su	27	9am 11am		David P RIP (McGrath) Karen Walsh RD (Rhodes)
M	28	10am		Julie Cairns RD (Devlin)
T	1	10am	St David	Mary Dunleavy RIP (Gateley)
W	2	10am 7pm	Ash Wednesday	Private intention For peace & the people of Ukraine
Th	3			
F	4	7pm		
Sa	5	6pm	1st Sunday of Lent	Luke Gill RIP (Gill)
Su	6	9am 11am		For the parish 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 Margaret Healy, John Banks, Margaret Farrell, Christopher Coxalland 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>)

## Ash Wednesday

*Liturgy of the Word with application of ashes* 7am & 12noon

**Parish Masses** 10am and 7pm

Pope Francis has urged everyone to make Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace, in response to the tragedy of war in Ukraine. He said "I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war."

## From Pope Francis' Letter for Lent 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lent is a favourable time for personal and community renewal, as it leads us to the paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For our Lenten journey in 2022, we will do well to reflect on Saint Paul's exhortation to the Galatians: "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity (kairós), let us do good to all" (Gal 6:9-10).

**Let us not grow tired of praying.** Jesus taught us to "pray always without becoming weary" (Lk 18:1). *continued on page 4*

God, our teacher, hear our prayer as we gather at the table of your word. Enrich our hearts with the goodness of your wisdom and renew us from within that all our actions, all our words, may bear the fruit of your transforming grace.

## The Introductory Rites

### Opening Song

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you; allelu, alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia.*

Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you; allelu, alleluia.

### 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

### Ecclesiasticus 27:5-8

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where a tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

### Psalms 91(92):2-3,13-16

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night.

The just will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God,

still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

### 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. *Alleluia!*

### Luke 6:39-45

Jesus told a parable to his disciples: 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.'

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

### 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 will be made **NEXT SUNDAY**.

### The Offertory Song

All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have, I offer now to you. Take and sanctify these gifts for your honour, Lord. Knowing that I love and serve you is enough reward. All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have I offer now to you.

All that I dream, all that I pray, all that I'll ever make, I give to you today. Take and sanctify these gifts for your honour, Lord. Knowing that I love and serve you is enough reward. All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have I offer now to you.

### 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

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me, Christ be behind me, King of my heart. Christ be within me, Christ be below me, Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me, Christ be in all tongues telling of me, Christ be the vision in eyes that see me, in ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

## 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

**The Universe Catholic Weekly** has launched as an online newspaper. To receive your Digital 4 weeks FREE trial call Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: [michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)

**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 6th March. This service can be offered at other masses if additional volunteers come forward.

## Gift Aid helps your parish

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

The scheme 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 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.

**Baptism Preparation** Our next baptism preparation sessions begin on Saturday 19th March at 12noon. Application forms available from Fr Allen.

**Do you have a Latin/English Daily Missal that you would be happy to pass on?** Fr Allen is looking for a copy published before the reforms of the mid-1950s.