



## St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

### A time of change

It has been confirmed that we can celebrate (public) Mass in the church again from 4th July. Beyond that most every detail waits to be clarified - for how many, how far apart, what about masks and so on. Then there are the local decisions - if it is Mass for a maximum of 30, how is it to be settled who they should be for any celebration. Doubtless all these things will become clearer over the next days. As and when details become clearer they will be posted on the parish blog.

Another big change will be upon us shortly. The current tenants of our former parish hall have asked to terminate their lease, and return the property to the control of the parish.

This presents a great opportunity for the parish - both to continue the service to the broader community that the Carpenter's Arms has offered over recent years, and to make the most of the resources to develop aspects of our own community's life.

In other circumstances there would be an open parish meeting to discuss the matter, but that is not possible. So there is to be a Zoom meeting at 7pm on 1st July - and apologies to those who cannot access that, but if you wish to email or post your questions or comments in advance, please do.

### Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92198848458>

Other (and hopefully face to face) meetings will follow in due course....

### Unity and Diversity

The congregation of our parish is not the world's most diverse - but we are made up of people from a variety of countries and ethnic backgrounds. As yet we don't do very much to acknowledge that, still less celebrate.

We do generally make a point of remembering the patron saints of the countries of the United Kingdom and of Ireland, if only because their feasts are included in our national calendar.

However in our number we also include people from Europe more broadly; from Africa, from Asia, and the Americas. Off the top of my head I can't recall anyone from Australia or Oceania, but I may be wrong.

It would be good to mark and honour the nations of origin for all of us - making a special point of noting the feast of patron saints, and praying for the people of those nations, as well as giving thanks for those with links there who are now a welcome part of our parish family.

To help get this underway, please email the parish with the date of your national day and nation's patron saint...

## Readings for Mass of Solemnity of Ss Peter and Paul

### Acts 12:1-11

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said 'Hurry!' - and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city.

This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. 'Now I know it is all true' he said. 'The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me.'

### Psalm 33(34):2-9

I will bless the Lord at all times,

his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.