

Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, ‘Amen! Amen!’; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.’ For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

Psalm 18(19):8-10,15

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock!

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, ‘I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body’, would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, ‘I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body’, would that mean that it was not a part of the body? If your whole body was

just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I do not need you’, nor can the head say to the feet, ‘I do not need you.’

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ’s body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives. *Alleluia!*

Luke 1:1-4,4:14-21

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

*The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for he has anointed me.*

*He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour.*

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’



St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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

Antisemitism has been very much in the news recently. It is shocking that so soon after the monstrous events of the Holocaust that this ancient sin continues to plague the Jewish people and to corrupt wider society.

Many things can feed the evil - not least what Christians believe about Jesus Christ and the continuing tensions caused by the State of Israel. The Evil One will use anything in the attempt to draw us from goodness and truth.

A free on-line 6 week course offers a fascinating and accessible way of learning about

the history of antisemitism - from antiquity to the present. In the course, 50 leading scholars from all over the world explore questions and issues such as: what is antisemitism? How has it changed throughout history? Why can it be found among so many diverse cultures, even among opposing ideologies? What happened to antisemitism after the Holocaust? How is antisemitism expressed today, and what are the main spheres in which it can be found?

Details at <https://bit.ly/2WiE85j>
If you are interested in being part of a local group studying together, please let Fr Allen know.

Masses Week of 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time			
S	26	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	1700 <i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i> 1800 <i>Ints of the Rice family (Gill)</i>
Su	27	<i>Psalter Week 3</i>	0900 For the Parish 1100 Agnes O’Sullivan RIP (Hayes) 1800 <i>Exposition and Evening Prayer (4th Sun of month)</i>
M	28	St Thomas Aquinas	1000* Joan Hickey RIP (Hickey) 1500 <i>Exposition and Rosary for Vocations</i>
T	29		1000* Dawn’s destd family and friends
W	30		1000* Chris O’Connor (Roche)
Th	31		
F	1		1000 <i>Mass with St Nicholas School (All welcome)</i> 1100 <i>Exposition and Anointing of the Sick</i> 1900 Valerie O’Hara RD (Redmond) <i>followed by 30 mins exposition</i>
S	2	Present’n of the Lord	0730 Procession from St Nicholas school and Mass
S	2	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	1700 <i>Exposition and Sacrament of Confession</i> 1800 For the parish
Su	3	<i>Psalter Week 4</i>	0900 William and Alice Williams RIP (Sawbridge) 1100 Evelyn Hempenstall Ints (Kennedy)

Morning/Evening Prayer 20 mins before weekday Masses, *as indicated above **

Exposition: & Vespers 2nd & 4th Suns of month, 6-7pm; **& Rosary** Mon at 3pm

Reconciliation Sat. 1700-1730 (Exposition until 1740) and by arrangement.

Baptism, Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick: by arrangement.

Nourishing prayer at home: livingeucharist.wordpress.com/

Please pray for sick parishioners including Joan James, Pat Serafinas; Thomas Stevenson; Peter & Olwyn Foster; Lea Burke and Peggy Gallagher. **Please pray** for Terry Devenney, Kathleen Cecil, Roger Pryor, Maary O’Horo and all whose anniversaries of death are at this time: **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**
NB To include names on the list of isck parishioners please complete the form available in the porch and pass to Fr Allen so we meet the requirements of current Data Protection legislation.



Three suggestions as to how to keep HMD 2019.

- Come along to St Nicholas church for Exposition and Evening Prayer at 6pm. It will begin in the usual way with 30 minutes of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. This will conclude with Benediction which will be followed by a showing of the video made by Fr Allen with students from Bishop Walsh School, drawing on the testimony of children of the Holocaust, survivors and victim; and then we will pray Evening prayer for the Dead.
- Attend the civic service at Birmingham Council House Banqueting Suite, Victoria Sq, B1 1BB, 2-4pm. All welcome.
- Spend some time in prayer and reflection at home. You might like to watch the Bishop Walsh video. It is available to view online at <https://bit.ly/2S4Aqx6>

You might like also to reflect on this prayer of St Pope John Paul

*God of our fathers,
You chose Abraham and his
descendants to bring Your name
to the nations.*

We are saddened by the behaviour of those who, in the course of history, have caused these children of Yours to suffer.

*Asking your forgiveness, we
commit ourselves to genuine
brotherhood with the people of
the covenant. Amen.*

Next Week: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture readings: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19 / Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 / 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 / Lk 4:21-30

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The Ordinary of the Mass is found on p200 ff of *Laudate*.
The Gloria, Holy, Memorial Acclamation and Lamb of God used in Ordinary Time are nos 1013 ff in *Laudate*.

Parish

The Bell. New issue on sale today, £1

Mass Intentions Advice for those with anniversaries to remember etc. Feb is now booked out and March half full...If you wish to book Masses for April/May please do so soon, to avoid being disappointed.

Preparation for Baptism of Infants.

The next preparation programme starts on Sat 2 March from 11-12 noon, in the Benedict Room. Pl see Fr Allen before hand for an application form.

Parish Book Clubs meet in the parish house, and all are welcome. **(A) The Daytime Group** 1030 on Weds 27 Feb to discuss *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. What do people mean

Pastoral Care for those who have been divorced and wish to remarry

The experience of a 'broken' marriage is a hard one for people to bear.

It can be particularly difficult and arduous for those who at a future date wish to 're-marry' in the Catholic Church.

Why? Because of the Church's need to establish whether the divorced person is free to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony.

With the best will in the world, the process of establishing this freedom to marry can be painful. Though it must be said it can also prove to be a good experience that allows people to move on, having dealt afresh with past hurts.

Recently Pope Francis introduced new procedures for the formal process concerning the declaration of nullity of marriage. The Pope's emphasis on mercy is at the heart of these changes. The new norms imbue the search for truth with the mercy of God. This has always been the aim. However, quicker processes, the concern that the lack of finance should not be a constraint and the possibility that a diocesan bishop may be able to use their judicial power for the good of those in their care, all contribute to that search for truth and mercy.

The National Board of Catholic Women has prepared a *Guide to the Annulment Process* as a resource to assist all those in our communities whose marriages have failed, and those accompanying them; and restore to them, with the mercy of God, hope and confidence on the journey of faith in the light of the Gospel. It is available at <https://bit.ly/2sp6T2y>

If you wish to know more, for your self or to help you support a friend, Fr Allen would be very happy to meet with you to discuss things. The *Guide* itself includes a very useful list of other sources of help and support.

when they say the Bible is inspired? *Inspired* draws on the best in recent scholarship to examine some favourite Bible stories and possible interpretations, retelling them through memoir, original poetry, short stories, soliloquies, and a short screenplay! Undaunted by the Bible's most difficult passages, The Bible is not a static work but is a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that is able to equip us to join God's loving and redemptive work in the world.

(B) The Night Time Club 8pm on Jan 28 to discuss *With the End in Mind: Dying, Death and Wisdom in an Age of Denial* by Kathryn Mannix who is a doctor in palliative care who wants us to be better informed and less afraid about dying.

Rosary for Vocations. The Rosary group meets in church on Mondays at 3pm to pray for vocations. All welcome.

Travelling Solo lunch All who 'travel solo in life' for whatever reason are warmly invited to meet for pub lunch after the 11am Mass on 3 Feb.

Scripture group Next meeting **7.30pm, Mon 4 Feb**, in the Benedict Rm to read Chaps 9 & 10 of Luke's Gospel. All welcome

Catholic Herald Deliveries regularly do not arrive before Sunday. Also sales are very few indeed. So our subscription has been cancelled. Private subscriptions are available from 01371 853645.

World Day of Prayer - an ecumenical event led by Christian women. 1st March, 2.30 at Banners Gate Church, Westwood

St Patrick's Night – Race Night
St Nicholas Parish, Boldmere

Saturday 16th March
Carpenters Arms
Boldmere Road
Starts 7:30pm

£7 for adult
£5 student
Family ticket £20
- 2 adults and up to 3 children
The price includes fish and chips
Bring your own drink!

All profits go to
Bishop Walsh
Lourdes
Pilgrimage



Dads' Get Together

The next meeting includes a reflection from Matteo Bellardi. Meeting on Monday 3rd March at 8pm. So as usual some lively conversation is promised, and some nice food and drink too.



Sacramental Certificates

Data Protection law now makes it more complicated for people to apply for new copies of baptism and confirmation certificates. So if you have already got a certificate keep it safe!!

Please be aware you can no longer apply for a certificate on behalf of someone else (unless they are under 12).

To request a certificate, you need to demonstrate your identity, and if applying for a certificate for a child under 12 provide their birth certificate also.

Full details are on our parish website: <https://bit.ly/2QyEa50>

ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE
"Happy are the poor" - Luke 6:20

25th May - 1st June 2019

Further details will be available during February.



Rd, or 7.30pm URC Brassington Ave. All are welcome. (If we presently have a parish rep for this event would she please speak with Fr Allen)

Diocese

Modern Slavery is all around us and the Archdiocese is about to launch 'Look Up' a campaign with Catholic anti-slavery charity *The Medaille Trust*. All are invited to come and join the Archbishop for the launch and to mark the feast of Saint Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of trafficking victims, on 8th Feb at 6pm at St Chad's Cathedral, followed by refreshments in the Grimshaw Room. All welcome. RSVP Email: comms@medaille-trust.org.uk

Bishop Walsh Catholic School Sixth Form Open Evening is on Weds 13 Feb 2019 6.30-8.30pm. All are welcome.

Faith In Politics Internship 2019 The Catholic Parliamentary and Public Affairs Internship Scheme is recruiting at least six recently graduated Catholics to learn from an intensive experience of political and social action in a spiritual context. The scheme will run from September 2019 until July 2020. Internship positions are given with Christian MPs and Peers in Parliament, the Catholic Education Service, CAFOD and the Caritas

For the sick and those who care for them

A simple and brief monthly service of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayer for the sick and for carers, and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Followed by light lunch.

11am on First Fridays (usually). Next service is February 1st

Social Action Network. All interns also gain from retreats and spiritual guidance, as well as living in a vibrant, young Catholic community in the center of London. During the year, as part of their overall formation, interns will study for a Postgraduate Certificate in Catholic Social Teaching from St Mary's University, Twickenham. Further information can be found at www.faithinpolitics.org.uk. Applications are open, and the closing date is 28 February 2019. Applications are made by the website. Please direct any questions to stephanie.macgillivray@cbcew.org.uk.

The Birmingham Passion Play 2019:

The Archbishop invites you to support/participate in this event which will run on 16, 17 and 18 April in the City Centre. The leading actors/actresses will be supplied by professional players from the Saltmine Trust (www.saltminetrust.org.uk), a Christian company keen to recruit volunteers for the community cast, choir, musicians and stewards, etc. There will be meeting for all those who are interested at One Colmore Row, Floor 8, This is one of the new 'glass' buildings near the Cathedral in Snowhill) - 2.30-5.00, SUNDAY 3 FEBRUARY (NB Organisers have changed day of meeting!)

St Joseph's Home, Coleshill, offers Catholic residential care to older people and those living with dementia. Ring 01675 434500 for details.

Can you help? Bishop Walsh Catholic School is looking to recruit members to the Bishop Walsh Association (BWA) able to help raise funds or offer services to support and enhance the teaching and learning of pupils. Could you or your company provide sponsorship or offer work experience opportunities? The BWA meets monthly at school. Please contact t.killworth@bishopwalsh.net if you can help in any way.

Young People's Summer Camp 2019 There is no better place to be this Summer than at Alton Castle for the *Best Camp Ever*. So get your places

booked now for Week 1: August 4th-8th or Week 2: August 11th-15th. Experience a life-changing encounter with God in a way like never before through powerful moments of prayer, crazy activities, exciting day trips, challenging talks and so much more... Don't miss out on your place at Summer Camp 2019! For more information email beccy.roseman@kenelmouthtrust.org.uk

Other

Settlement Scheme For EU Citizens


Bishop Paul McAleenan, lead Bishop for Migration and Asylum, for the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has written: *As you will be aware, Brexit is causing uncertainty and concern to many EU citizens living in the UK. Both clergy and laity alike share this uncertainty and concern. Apart from those who are uncertain about their future, others are inevitably in a state of ignorance and unaware that Brexit will affect their immigration status. In March 2019, the Government is due to launch a Settlement Scheme. All EU citizens (other than Irish citizens) living in the UK will be required to make an application if they wish to remain here after Brexit. Many parishioners, priests and religious in our Dioceses will be affected. CBCEW has issued a statement that can be read at <https://bit.ly/2FBY1DU>*

A Lifeline for Marriages Is your marriage stressed, unloving, cold? Do you want to improve your communication? Have you separated, divorced, or are you thinking of doing so? Do you want to try again? The Retrouvaille programme may be just what you need! Info from 0788 729 6983 or www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Thomas Merton. Catholic Times author Chris McDonnell will speak on Merton -

monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet, social activist and scholar of comparative religion. Sun 24 Feb, St Mary's Parish Centre, Vivian Rd, Harborne B17 0DN. 1.30pm tea, 2.00 talk, Q&A, discussion. All welcome. Contact local ACTA at mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk

Food Cycle provide free community meals every Weds at 7 pm at Sutton Coldfield United Reformed Church. All welcome. Meals are made from food being discarded by local supermarkets and available to anyone. So please feel free to come and see for yourselves or refer anyone who might benefit from a warm meal and an opportunity to meet new people. All welcome.



Sundays of Lent

A prayerful weekly reading of the New Testament's First Letter of Peter

5 - 6pm on Sundays
March 10, 17, 24, 31
and April 7

St Nicholas church,
243 Jockey Road

All welcome

ST JOHN PAUL II Multi Academy

Admissions 2020/2021 to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Sutton Coldfield; St Nicholas Catholic Primary School Boldmere; Holy Cross Catholic Primary School Walmley; and Bishop Walsh Catholic Secondary School that form part of the St. John Paul II Multi Academy.

The Board of Directors have published the proposed Admissions Policy and SIF (Supplementary Information Form) to be implemented for the school year 2020/2021. These documents are now available on the individual schools websites for the consultation period.

Please refer to these new policies if you are considering making an application for the 2020/2021 intake in any of the above schools.

Should you want to comment or discuss the proposed policy content please email j.farrell@sjp2.net before 1st February, 2019

The major proposed change has to do with the Certificate of Catholic practice.

The MAC wishes to adopt a new national definition of Catholic practice to privilege practising Catholic applicants.

Priests are advised in national and Archdiocesan guidelines that (except in truly exceptional circumstances) to qualify for this certificate a parent should have attended Sunday Mass weekly for 5 years and (in the case of applications to Secondary School) the child concerned should have attended Sunday Mass weekly since the age of 7 also.

The guidance given to priests can be read at www.bdes.org.uk/admissions.html

The consultation process allows parents and others to indicate approval or otherwise of the change before a final decision is made.