

# St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere

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**Website:** www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk

**Parish Blog:** www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

**Facebook:** St Nicholas Church, Boldmere

**Parish Priest:** Fr Allen Morris **E-mail:** frallenmorris@gmail.com

**Parish Safeguarding contact:** Mrs Ann Foulds (0121 355 7892)

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



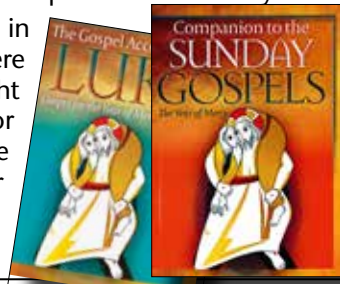
**Advent** is a time of new beginnings, and taking stock of where we are at. It is also a precious time for celebrating our faith.

There are a range of publications about Advent and for Advent available in the porch - CTS books and the regular *Walk with Me* booklet. Do make the most of them.

The beginning of the Church year sees a change in the Sunday Gospel. This year is the Year of Luke and handy CTS editions are available in the CTS

rack, also a Companion to the Sunday Gospels of the whole year.

The Parish Blog will also play its part in supporting family prayer. Already there are suggestions up on how we might keep the season well. See the blog for 24/11. Next weekend the Blog will have prayers for family use in blessing their Family Christmas Tree and Family Crib, when the time comes.

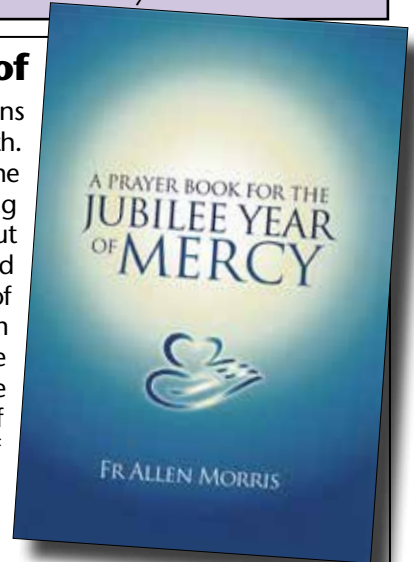


## The Year of Mercy

begins on December 8th. There will be the usual morning Mass at 10am, but it will be preceded by a time of Exposition, from 9am to mark the moment of Pope Francis' opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's in Rome.

A variety of resources have been published to assist us make the most of the Year of Mercy. One particularly helpful one is the one written by Fr Allen! Copies are available in the Repository at just £3.50 (a big discount on the cover price elsewhere!!)

Bishop Bernard writes: *This booklet helps us make the most of the Jubilee Year. It provides food for our private prayer, and support for times when we come together to pray with others. Used well, it will deepen our experience of God's mercy, so that the Lord can make us more fit for mission, and strengthen our desire to share the good news of the mercy of God with our families and our neighbours.'*



## Masses Week of the 1st Sunday of Advent

<b>S</b>	<b>28</b>	1800	1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Office Week I</i>	Tommy Quinslik RIP (Gill)
<b>Su</b>	<b>29</b>	0900 1100		Evelyn Coffey RIP (Drozd) Leith Salmons RIP (Salmons)
<b>M</b>	<b>30</b>	0930	St Andrew	Mairi Brunton Int (Renfrey)
<b>T</b>	<b>1</b>	1000	St. Ed. Campion	Mary Gilnagh Int (O'Brien)
<b>W</b>	<b>2</b>	0930		Robert McWilliams RIP Anniv (McW)
<b>Th</b>	<b>3</b>	0930	St Francis Xavier	Esther Burke RD (Wilkinson)
<b>F</b>	<b>4</b>	1900		Theresa Wade RIP
<b>S</b>	<b>5</b>	1800	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Office Week II</i>	Thomas QUinslik RIP
<b>Su</b>	<b>6</b>	0900 1100		Maria & Jon Szambir RIP (Szambir) Philip Cassera RIP (Cassera)

**Morning/Evening Prayer** 15 mins before weekday Mass.

**Exposition & Evening Prayer**, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 6-7pm

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

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

**Nourishing prayer at home:** see back page for suggestion.

**Please pray for sick parishioners** including Tess Carneiro; Anna Smith; Conleth Maher; Anne Gallagher; Fr Patrick Shanahan; Sean Finnegan; Mary Williams; Bernie Morton; Joan James; Bridie Moffitt; Lea Burke; Mary Burgess; Kathleen Cecil; Ron & Elfreda Walk; Audrey Waterson; Brenda Davies; Sarah Johnston; Doreen Jones; Simon Gallagher; Tony Lawlor; Timothy O'Regan; Michael McDermott; Rachael Gallagher; Mary Gilnagh; Michael Green; Pat Wenbeck; Joseph Steer. **Please pray for the dead** including George Montgomery and Anthony Fallon who died recently, and those whose anniversaries are at this time, including Sohan Sanghera, Harold Brown, Kay Cooper. *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

## Parish News & Events

**A date for the Diary** Fr Gabby, our Dean, is coming to the parish to the 6pm Mass next Sat 5th Dec to formally install Fr Allen as Parish Priest. Following the Mass and induction there is a celebration in the school hall. *If anyone can help with providing a pudding or cake please sign the list in the porch or phone 355 4841 for more information.*

**Sunday carparking** If you are parking in the school carpark please do not park on the multi-coloured play area (near the entrance gate, or on the paved area near exit to church. Damage is being caused to the surfaces. Also if you see children playing in playground, please ask them to leave. Thank you.

**First Holy Communion families rota** Over the coming Sundays the families preparing for their children's first Holy Communion next year will be taking the lead in the presentation of the gifts during Mass. Please keep the parents and children in your prayers. The Rota is available in the porch and on our parish website (on First Holy Communion page under 'Join us'.)

**Baptism Preparation** The next parish Baptism preparation course begins on Saturday 23 January (11.30-12.30) in the Benedict Room (behind the

## Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,  
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew  
from being enslaved by money;  
the adulteress and Magdalene  
from seeking happiness only in created things;  
made Peter weep after his betrayal,  
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us,  
the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:  
"If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,  
of the God who manifests his power  
above all by forgiveness and mercy:  
let the Church be your visible face in the world,  
its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in  
weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those  
in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them  
feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.



Send your Spirit  
and consecrate every one of us  
with its anointing,  
so that the Jubilee of Mercy  
may be a year of grace from the Lord,  
and your Church,  
with renewed enthusiasm,  
may bring good news to the poor,  
proclaim liberty to captives  
and the oppressed,  
and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus,  
through the intercession of Mary,  
Mother of Mercy;  
you who live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit  
for ever and ever. Amen

church) Those wishing to attend are asked to  
contact Fr Allen beforehand.

**Christian Aid carol singing** on Boldmere  
High Street. 10am-1pm on Sat 19 Dec, meet  
outside *The Bishop Vesey*

**Knit&Natter** Thurs, 2-4pm, Benedict Rm.

**Coffee morning** After Tuesday 10am Mass.

**Parties for Senior Citizens** A number of  
groups are inviting the senior members of  
our parish to parties. Details are on the notice  
board, please sign up if you wish to attend.

## Deanery News

**Erdington Abbey** Christmas Fair 5th Dec  
at 10am; Year of Mercy Mass 12noon Mass  
on Sunday 13th Dec. Deanery Carol service,  
3.00pm Saturday 13th December.

## Other News & Events

**Ex Cathedra concerts** 6th Dec Bach  
Christmas Oratorio; 7th Dec Britten Rejoice  
in the Lamb. All at Birmingham Town Hall.  
[www.excathedra.co](http://www.excathedra.co)

### A parish Pilgrimage: To Rome for the Year of Mercy

Monday 29 February – Friday 4 March 2016.

Visit the great Basilicas, and the great Door  
of Mercy at St Peter's, and, have  
supper with Fr Van! £599.



Full details on  
parish website and  
noticeboard.

Book direct with  
Pax Travel:  
0207 853003.

### A parish Pilgrimage:

- To the shrine of St Nicholas in Bari
- To Naples and Pompeii
- To Monte Cassino (spiritual home to the Benedictines)
- To the shrine of St Padre Pio

Monday 24 - Sunday 30  
October 2016

- Flights Birmingham/ Rome
- 6-nights accommodation in shared twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in Castellammare di Stabia (3-nights), Bari (1-night) and San Giovanni Rotondo (2-nights).



Full details on  
noticeboard  
and parish  
blog.

Book direct  
with Pax  
Travel:  
0207 853003.

Countdown to  
**CHRISTMAS**

The Christmas story:  
FACT or FICTION?



Monday 30th November, 7pm

The real meaning  
of Christmas...



Monday 7th December, 7pm

The truth about the 12 days of  
Christmas...



Monday 14th December, 7pm

Ha-humbug or the season  
of goodwill?



Monday 21st December, 7pm



@ The Deli - Boldmere High Street - B73 5TJ



Come to Boldmere  
Deli on the Mondays  
of Advent at 7pm - and  
bring a friend who is  
not a Christian, or is  
taking a 'rest' from  
practicing their faith.  
Music, mince pies, and  
chat about Christmas  
and faith offer a gentle  
way in or a gentle  
way back to Christian  
living.

Each session includes  
a presentation by a  
local Christian Leader  
- Fr Allen is there on  
Monday 14th. Come  
to one or all of the  
sessions as you choose  
- but do try to bring  
someone who might be  
helped to faith. They  
could be very grateful  
you made the effort to  
bring them....

**Apostleship of Prayer: Pope Francis' November intentions**



**Universal:-**

*EXPERIENCING THE MERCY OF GOD* That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

**For Evangelization: FAMILIES** That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

**Daily Prayer:** Each morning pray 'Jesus I offer my day to you' - then live your prayer as best you can. In the evening review the day, to give thanks and say sorry.

**The Bigger Picture... Hear the Bible better.**

Two ways of joining with others to deepen knowledge and love for Holy Scriptures.

**Bigger Picture** - a progressive read through Salvation History - how God seeks to draw us and all into life at one with him. 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in Benedict Room. **Next meeting: Weds 9th December** - reading Genesis 4-11. *Please bring your Bible and try to read those chapters before the meeting.*

**Divine Reading (Lectio Divina)** - quiet prayer and reflection for an hour each 3rd Weds at 7.30pm in Benedict Room. **Next meeting: Weds 16th December**



**Advent & Christmas Dates**

**Weds 16th Dec**  
Advent Reconciliation Service at 7pm

**Sun 20th December** ★ ★  
Carol Concert at 4.30pm

**Christmas Eve, Thurs 24th Dec**  
• Children's Mass at 4pm  
• Mass during the Night at 10pm

**Christmas Day, Fri 25th Dec**  
Mass at 9am, 11am and 6pm ★

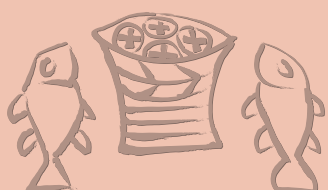
**Thurs 31st Dec** ★  
Mass at 11pm

**Fri 1st Jan (Mary Mother of God)** Mass at 12 noon

**In Communion with Christ**

*Authentic Catholic spirituality is centred on communal celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ so that we may go out into the world to live that mystery, refreshed and restored as agents of God's love. The Christian is called into a broken world to witness to and work for the coming of the Kingdom of God. The Eucharist must feed those who celebrate: for their work in the healing of relationships, in the promotion of peace and justice, and in the proclamation of the Good News.*

*Celebrating the Mass 200*



*An extract from a resource of the Liturgy Office of the Bishops Conference of England and Wales*

The Liturgy is frequently spoken of as the source and summit of Christian life. It is source: for in the Liturgy we receive the grace we need to live in communion with God each day of our lives. It is summit: because we bring to the Mass all the events of our lives, the joys and sorrows, the failures, the successes, and they are united with Christ's self offering of himself to his Father.

What we receive at Mass we take to our lives: what we live we bring to the Mass. Mass leads us to life/life leads us to worship - there is a progression, a cyclical, spiralling progression able to lead us into an ever-deeper relationship with God.

Saint John Paul II challenged us to ask whether this is how things actually are, for us. 'To what extent does the Liturgy affect the practice of the faithful and does it mark the rhythm of the individual communities? Is it seen as a path of holiness, an inner force of apostolic dynamism and of the Church's missionary outreach?'

At the end of Mass things don't suddenly end - we are sent out: 'go in peace', 'go to love and serve the Lord'. Sent to do in the world what we have done at Mass - to be at one with others; to listen for God's voice; to offer praise and thanksgiving; to love. These are not easy things to do. We might want to live in peace, but our peace will often be disturbed by injustice and suffering. If these are things endured by others we might simply try to block them out of our consciousness. But then we simply live a lie. To live the peace of Christ's kingdom is to seek to heal all hurt, overcome all wrongdoing. It calls us to action, not to passivity. Not just to love the Lord but also to serve him. And Jesus teaches us that we most truly love and serve the Lord when we love and serve him in the least and the weakest of our brothers and sisters (Matthew 25.31-46).

**Reflection**

- *What does it mean for me to be sent 'to love and serve the Lord?' To whom am I sent? What am I asked to do?*
- *In the scriptures we read again and again of people charged with particular work by the Lord. Sometimes they receive their mission with great peace of mind. At other times it causes them great confusion or distress. We see this with Jesus himself, in the account of the agony in the garden. We see it in an altogether more humorous way in the story of Jonah - the prophet who tries to run from the Lord and ends up getting swallowed by a whale. But, almost always, they bring their struggles to the Lord in prayer. Our lives too are rarely trouble free - and it is good to bring all this to prayer, again and again, as often as we need to. How do I bring my challenges to prayer?*

# Readings for Mass today

## First reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The-Lord-our-integrity.’

## Psalm 24:4-5,8-9,10,14

**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour.

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path  
to those who stray,  
He guides the humble  
in the right path,  
He teaches his way to the poor.

His ways are faithfulness and  
love for those who keep his  
covenant and law.

The Lord’s friendship  
is for those who revere him;  
to them he reveals his  
covenant.

## Second reading:

### 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.



Window in parish church of Villeneuve-lès-Avignon.

**G**our Saviour,  
You utter a word of promise and hope  
and hasten the day of justice and freedom,  
yet we live in a world forgetful of your word,  
our watchfulness dulled by the cares of life.

Keep us alert.

Make us attentive to your word,  
ready to look on your Son  
when he comes with power and great glory.  
Make us holy and blameless,  
ready to stand secure  
when the day of his coming shakes the world  
with terror.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

## Gospel Acclamation:

### Mk 11:10

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help.

## Gospel: Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

## The Ordinary of the Mass is found on p200 ff of *Laudate*.

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## Next Sunday is the second Sunday of Advent.

The readings will be Baruch 5:1-9/Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11/Luke 3:1-6

On the Sundays of Advent we will use the first Common Psalm (Psalm 24) provided by the Church for the season. The words and chant will be in next week’s newsletter.

Make use of the Sunday readings in daily prayer to help you participate more fully in the Mass, and find greater nourishment in the Bread of the Word. The Sunday readings are posted daily, in turn, on the parish Blog. Sign up there to get them sent directly to your smartphone or PC for use in daily prayer.