

Sunday 1st November 2020

Weekly Newsletter

St. Anne's Catholic Church

Lynton Avenue Weeping Cross Stafford, ST17 0EA. Telephone: 01785 661012 - Website www.st-annes-st.org.uk

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

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Parish Administrator: Father Robert Devaney - Parish Secretary: Marie Badger

Deacon: Rev. Michael Horsnall

The parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Registered Charity No.234216

ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987 Email: office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen	ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL Marston Road, ST16 3BT Telephone: 01785 413275 Email: office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk Principal: Mr. M. Brandon
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TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	31 st	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Bridget Flood
		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Peggy Ogram RIP
Sun	1 st	8:00am	St Patrick's	Solemnity of All Saints	Bob & Damian
		9:30am	St Anne's		Josephine & John Ard RIP
Mon	2 nd	9:30am	St Anne's	Commemoration of All Faithful Departed	Ray Picking RIP
Tue	3 rd	9:30am	St Patrick's	Feria	Patty Tiernan RIP
Wed	4 th	No Mass		St Charles Borromeo	Memoria
Thu	5 th	6:30pm	St Patrick's	Feria	Peggy Toner RIP
Fri	6 th	6:30pm	St Anne's	Feria	Patrick Kenny RIP
Sat	7 th	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Keith Price RIP & Audrey Mitchell RIP
		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	
Sun	8 th	8:00am	St Patrick's	Thirty-Second Sunday of Year	People of the Parish Colin Wilkinson RIP
		9:30am	St Anne's		

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM By Appointment

Prayers for the sick: St Patrick's: Phylis Bowers, Susan Prince, Tim Tiernan, Gregory McKinlay, Linda Reavy, Martha Porter, Cecylia Kotara St Anne's: Michael Glover, Patricia Walters, Thomas McCormick, Mary Terry, Bernard Lundberg, Cath Miles, Walter Rogers, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Colin Wise.

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: *[St. Patrick's]* Elsie Batkin, Gertrude Peake, James Newton, Annie Dibb, Thomas Plant, Irene Lea, James Pratt, Wally Read, Teresa Miller, Wilfred Heath, James Byre, Peter Moore, John Galvin, Paul O'Shea and Maureen Draper. *[St Anne's]* Honor Clarke, Evelyn Finn, Danielle Fleming, Victoria Hudson, Ray Picking, Paddy Pate, Caroline Skidmore, Louis Norman, Joseph Loftus, Hilda Plant, Nicola Holmes, Mary McAuliffe, Shereen Slingsby and Brian Buckley.

Income 11 th Oct	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£67.00	£145.50	£283.84	£496.34	Sat 41
						Sun 39
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£50.00	£59.00	£146.23	£255.23	Sat 48
						Sun 28

On the Archdiocese website there is a standing order and Gift Aid form for parishioners so they can continue to give at this time. Please direct any such enquiries to:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/pages/FAQS/category/finance-resources>

***This email is from the archdiocese:** Just to let you know, there is a donate **BUTTON (TOP RIGHT)** on the home page of the diocesan website – www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

Parish Tote 150 Club October 2020 Winners. £100 J Porter – 9, £50 D Cycles- 116, £20 K Ronan – 59, £10 J Ryan – 66, £10 Fr Bob – 72, £10 N Shammass – 134, £10 S Farley– 124, £10 M Owen – 122, £10 K Owen – 82, £10 T Pettit – 12, £10 Rev M Harwood – 104.

Thank you for your support. There are a lot of numbers available at only £4 per number per month. Further details from Marie on 01785 661012.

*A big thank you to those parishioners who have filled out new Standing Orders to help support the churches at this critical time. I am grateful to those who have continued to support their respective churches in this way for many years. If you can join them and make such a commitment for our offertory support; whether weekly, fortnightly, monthly or annually, it would make such a difference. You remain in control for as long as you want. Those who use gift aid envelopes will find new ones for this financial year, labelled and numbered at the back of each church. Some parishioners might like to know that the parish office (St Anne's) can always be used as a 'drop-off' for envelopes. Now that we have started public Masses once more, there will be large collection bins placed on entry and exit**

At this time though it makes a 'sink or swim' difference to your church. Without that money coming in, our ability to meet the ever mounting expenses (of maintenance, consumables, utilities and fabric upkeep, not to mention health and safety) will diminish. Also, for St Anne's, the regular income from Hall Hire has understandably dried up and this will make a massive difference. A significant amount of unavoidable remedial work is also planned shortly for St Anne's church roof, so the outgoings remain significant. We continue to pay Council Tax; Water; Electricity; Gas. We are all in uncharted territory, an uncertain future, but if you are able to please help in any amount you can afford. Very many thanks

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended and we can avail ourselves of weekday Masses to enable sensible spacing on weekends (some in the weekday evenings for those who work?) Now, because we are in a sort of 'fluid' time in terms of medium term commitment, the times of Masses will be published weekly due to possible occasional alterations. Below are the times and venues: (Looking two weeks ahead) including the schedule of Masses for St Austin's.

St Anne's Roof Appeal (Update)



The remedial work has now been completed. We are appealing for any donations St Anne's community can donate to this work; my humble appreciation to those who have already given so generously; we are gradually on our way - looking at a sum approaching £10,000. (We are over a third of the way there). Two special baskets are at the entrance and exit of the church dedicated to this special fund. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. I am very conscious of the straitened times we are living through at present. F.Bob

NOVEMBER (Month of Remembering our Dead)

At the back of St Anne's and St Patrick's churches you will find brown envelopes into which you may place the names of those you wish to be remembered during the month of November. These can then be put in the basket. If you wish to make a donation then please place donations in the smaller 'Mass intention' envelopes, found nearby, and also place in the basket. Before each Mass the basket will be placed before the altar.

Garden help? If anyone is able to help out an elderly parishioner of St Anne's with her garden please contact Fr. Bob. Thanks

This weekend our second collection will be for the Johnson Association

MASSES

SATURDAY 31st October 1:00pm St Patrick's
6:30pm St Anne's

SUNDAY 1st November 8:00am St Patrick's
9:30am St Anne's

MONDAY 2nd November 9:30am St Anne's

TUESDAY 3rd November 9:30am St Patrick's

THURSDAY 5th November 6:30pm St Patrick's

FRIDAY 6th November 6:30pm St Anne's

FOLLOWING WEEK:

SATURDAY 7th November 1:00pm St Patrick's
6:30pm St Anne's

SUNDAY 8th November 8:00am St Patrick's
9:30am St Anne's

MONDAY 9th November 9:30am St Anne's

TUESDAY 10th November 9:30am St Patrick's

THURSDAY 12th November 6:30pm St Patrick's

FRIDAY 13th November 6:30pm St Anne's

St Austin's Parish [Masses]

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 11:00am
WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 7:00pm
FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 7:00pm
SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 5:00pm

(FOLLOWING WEEK)

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 11:00am
WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 7:00pm
FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 12Noon
SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 5:00pm

[St Austin's will be streaming Masses on the other days also.]

The most important requirement is that each parish has plenty of volunteers, as part of teams, for helping to 'steward' and to clean pews and various touch points after each Mass. The sensible (distancing) capacity of each church is about 50, but Remember, a family group may sit together on one bench or in neighbouring chairs. Between the two parishes there should be 8 Masses during one week. I am asking for your help in making this happen as smoothly as possible by assuming that any parishioner who is 'able' may offer their assistance in cleaning a bench or chairs after Mass. (Many hands make light work). We as a church venue need to have a safe cleaning regime.

Many Thanks for your patience and understanding. Regarding safety and distancing, we have been told to operate the 1m+ guideline so all those coming to Mass must wear a face covering, but it means we don't have to be 2m apart. Holy Communion will be distributed as parishioners leave church. There will be stewards to guide people to seats and to help with communion arrangements. If you have not set up a standing order/direct debit for parish offerings please do so if you are able. (I can supply you with all the details you need). There will also be large offertory 'bins' for folk who give their envelopes and cash placed at the entrance and exit points of church. From the outset, I offer my humblest apology for potential situations that may arise.. Once our maximum capacity has entered either church, a notice will be placed outside the door to that effect. There will be a Mass on another day of the week that will be able to accommodate.

Harvest Time Collection for CAFOD St Anne's £260.71 St Patrick's £165.70 Thank You.

MISSIO: (St Patrick's) *At the back of St Patrick's parishioners will find the latest Autumn edition of Missio's magazine. Please help yourself to a copy. There are many interesting articles included. Many thanks to Graham for his help in liaising with the charity.* If parishioners who have RED BOXES could continue to donate their boxes using either the online donations page at www.missio.org.uk, by phone, cheque or text that would be great. If you use your postcode as requested, you will be able to be matched to Missio's database and the totals will be attributed to the parish totals. Many thanks.

St Patrick's and St Anne's each have a QR CODE displayed for church goers to scan if you have downloaded the NHS Covid-19 APP. It might help 'speed things up' as queues can develop on entry through the porches as you provide contact details. We will make sure there are sufficient codes on the doors and walls. Many thanks.

HOMILY FOR ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Well here we are, having reached the penultimate month of our year, November, as we fully enter the dark days of winter. But for this year particularly, and uniquely, as it begins to close in on a gloomy, unpredictable and 'unknowing' climax, we think about the awesome 'brokenness' of our fallen world, and how the last ten months or so have brought so many things into our daily lives. To be honest, we wouldn't know where to start would we; from pandemic to economics, from travel to trade, jobs, social breakdown issues we just wouldn't have the time to mention. From East to West and from North to South, a nervous creation hurts in anxiety at a mess that defies us all. Which now, today brings us into November 1st: All Saints Day. At First there might seem to be a disjunct between a suffering world and us here in church celebrating "All Saints Day". But the encouraging fact about remembering all the Blessed people, that are enjoying the unspeakable presence of their creator, is that every single one of them walked and breathed, cried and laughed on this same planet that we enjoy now.

That is why All Saints Day is our "Hope Day"; and don't we need hope? We literally have nowhere else to turn and these Blessed brothers and sisters that we pray to, for their powerful help and intercession, know exactly what our human condition entails. Maybe when we were young or before we let Jesus enter our lives more fully, perhaps we thought of these saints as 'unreal figures out there, in some Blessed state far from our grubby lives of daily grind here. But this is far from how we should look upon the saints. Because, even though we might not know them personally, we know that every one had to struggle on earth. They were as broken as we are and each and every one of them recognised themselves as unworthy. For us they really emphasise that message of Jesus: "I have come not to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance" (Luke5:32) and "It is the sick who need healing, not the healthy" (Mark2:17). And we haven't got to look far to see the human weakness, frailty and sinfulness that affected some of the common saints we remember. St Paul, St Peter, St Augustine, these 'wore' their former unworthiness for all to see. Whereas there are many saints who would have seen their painful unworthiness within the solitude of their own hearts, struggling with all sorts of temptations in their own way.

What should be clear to us is that every saint, throughout every age, would have had a powerful empathy and solidarity with us all; knowing the common struggle of humanity from the Fall. And, as we hear so often from our Gospel, we are all called to be saints; though we might roll our eyes somewhat when we're told this. I think that's because we still see a vast 'gap' between how we look at ourselves and the Church's canonised men and women who gaze upon the face of God. So, how can we get through this? How can we bridge the gap? Maybe our clue here is to really take seriously St Peter when he says in his First letter: "by His wounds you are healed". Jesus is wounded by our sin and His wounds atone for our sinful condition. Now if we believe we have become a real part of Jesus Christ, a mystical part of His mystical body, then our own wounds will be the means of our salvation. In other words, we need to expose and open our wounds to Jesus' grace and this is how we are healed. And for us it'll take a lifetime because we're in a chronic state, aren't we? We're habitual sinners but faith reassures us that God's healing power never stops; and our response is to always and everywhere be honest about who we are (God's loved, fallen children), where we are (living in a messy fallen world) and our need for healing (Jesus' wounds heal our wounds).

While baptism is the beginning of our Christian life, it is also the gift of a calling to be a saint. Each of us has a personal calling from God to be followed. As St John Henry Newman said, "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another..... I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next." Let's pray for the grace to persevere in the power and love of God.