

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

48 Sandon Road, Stafford ST16 3HF. Telephone 01785 661012 - Website www.stpatricksstafford.co.uk

Email: stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk

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 Principal: 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
--	--

TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	1 st	4:00pm 6:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil	Alex Marriamma RIP Peggy Ogram RIP
Sun	2 nd	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Patty Tiernan RIP Peggy Toner RIP
Mon	3 rd	9:30am	St Anne's	Ss Philip & James	Feast Helen's Intention & Fr. David Duggan RIP
Tue	4 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	The English Martyrs	Feast Special Intention (AS)
Wed	5 th	No Mass			Easter Feria
Thu	6 th	6:30pm	St Patrick's		Easter Feria John Pettit RIP
Fri	7 th	6:30pm	St Anne's		Easter Feria Teresa Walsh RIP
Sat	8 th	4:00pm 6:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil	ET Elliott & MC Elliott RIP People of the Parish
Sun	9 th	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Private Intention Margaret & Roy Kiberd RIP

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]* Mary Hardy, Patrick Lee, Bridget Duffy, Harry Rothwell, Patrick Scanlon, Isabella Palmer, Mary Matthew, Dorothy O'Shea, Ian Milward, Lawrence Dillon, Martin Murphy, Edith Adams, Witold Kurek, Catherine McCabe, John Hannifin, Eileen Edensor, Fr Walter Joret and Lawrence Clifford..

[St Anne's] Beryl Scott, Jean Higgins, Mary Murphy, Madeline Sweet, Gordon Truckel, Mary Wharton, Edith Hird, Margaret Kiberd, Thomas Callaghan, Monica Scriven, Noel O'Sullivan, Tony Adamson and Fr Walter Joret.

Income 25/4/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£89.50	£133.81	£283.84	£507.15	Sat 53 Sun 44
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£145.00	£75.21	£146.23	£366.44	Sat 31 Sun 37

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 April 2021 Winners

£100 M Ross – 45, £50 P Turner - 75, £20 A Reck - 25, £10 T Kelly – 126, £10 S Freckleton – 60, £10 E Turner – 137, £10 J Stamyard – 64, £10 R Fletcher – 88, £10 A Eaton – 19, £10 M walker – 33, £10 A Kelly – 128, £10 C McHugh – 46, £10 I Coghlan – 144.

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

Gift Aid At this critical time, if anyone wishes to make a commitment; 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. There are large collection bins placed on entry and exit*

Without such donations, 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 been reduced. A significant amount of unavoidable work is also planned shortly for both parishes, 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 please help in any way. **Very many thanks**

St Anne's: At present all Masses celebrated at St Anne's are web streamed. (Our grateful thanks to Peter) [Please go to the front web page and click on Mass Live at the top and you should be able to follow the Mass]. **Fr. Bob**

Places of Worship are still able to remain open, but we were reminded of the need and importance for us all to be extra careful and diligent with social distancing and hygiene. All our parishes have been grateful for the help and dedication of our stewards/ cleaners, ensuring that all guidelines are followed and that we can safely celebrate Mass.

Second Collection: My apologies for failing to give prior notice for last week's second collection for the Clergy Training Fund. Those using envelopes would have known of course but others would not. I have left the baskets out for this weekend also. Many thanks for your understanding.

Our Deceased: Please pray for **John Pettit**, husband of Jean, St Patrick's, who died recently. We remember Jean and her family at this time. *May John rest in peace and rise in glory.*

Fr. David Duggan: As many of you may remember, Fr David Duggan died this time last year when, sadly, conditions prevented a full memorial Mass. Fr David was the first parish priest of St Anne's from 1964 until 1970. It is planned that the diocese will hold a memorial Mass for Fr. David in due course. We remember him in our prayers.

The Month of May: Archbishop Bernard has asked that we include this message from him: *The Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation has called for a universal daily prayer to be offered for the end of the Covid-19 Pandemic during the month of May and that each day during the month will focus upon one of the international Marian Shrines. This includes Our Lady of Walsingham. We have been asked to note that Saturday 1st May has been assigned for Our Lady of Walsingham with the prayer intention in favour of the Holy Souls. A list of the Marian Shrines can be found (in Italian) by clicking the link on the home page.*

Honouring Mary in May: During this month of May we shall be honouring Our Lady in St Anne's and St Patrick's by saying the 'Regina Caeli' followed by the Memorare at the start of each Mass. You will find copies of these prayers on small pieces of paper in each church porch. Please take them with you so may be familiar with the anthem and prayer.

St Anne's Church Roof: **The remedial work to the lower roof was completed last year.** Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously. This year we plan to try to monitor and possibly remedy any ongoing problems to the upper roof. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. **F.Bob**

Sacrament of Reconciliation: [Easter Duties and Confession at this time]. Please be assured that the Church's communication on this is still valid from the beginning of last year's lockdown, and that provided we are fully contrite in our hearts, we can confess our sins to the Lord within our own 'private prayer space'. According to the teaching of the Church, the present ongoing situation would not warrant the 'Rite of General Absolution'. If notice is given, and at convenient times, before or after Mass, I have been hearing confessions and this will continue. God Bless. **Fr. Bob**

Gift Aid Envelopes: Please be aware that the new 2021/22 GA boxes are available at the back of each parish church. They are numbered and named and begin on 11th April (many thanks to Margaret [SP] and Mark [SA] for preparing these). They are ready for collection. If anyone would like more information concerning this method of giving (or, indeed, concerning donation by Standing Order) please see Fr. Bob

Appeal for Readers: *In order to grow and develop our pool of readers in both parishes, we are appealing for anyone from St Anne's or St Patrick's parishes to help by becoming a reader. Reading the scriptures at Mass encourages personal contemplation of the Word of God and allows the word to dwell more richly in our hearts. We need more parishioners willing to read occasionally at Mass. A training session for Readers will take place soon (date to be decided). Please text Deacon Mike 07706077124 or leave a message at the parish office if you would like to take part. If you are already a reader please make contact as well to indicate your continued availability for this service. Many Thanks.*

HOMILY FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

You know, perhaps the strongest evidence we have that our human family has inherited a fallen, broken and tragic legacy, since the dawn of time, is our division/s. Division, rupture and opposition is all around us in the world we live in. And not only between us and others; we can feel that opposition and fracture within ourselves, can't we, – psychologically, emotionally and spiritually. When Satan corrupted our first parents the seeds of division, tension, self-consciousness and ultimately violence, became humanity's lot! I remember a retreat giver once describing Satan as a 'crowbar', and we know what these are used for. A crowbar as we know is designed to split apart or break open. Some call it a wrecking bar. And this is what the evil one has done since the creation of humanity; separating us from each other, from God, and even from 'ourselves'. In the journey of evil the mission of Jesus is, if you will, to build back better – to make us whole. In fact, this is where the word 'holy' comes from, because when we are made holy, we are made whole within ourselves, living in harmony and completion within all and with all, just as our creator intended from the beginning. So how is this accomplished?

Well, we've only got to read the Gospel, haven't we? And, I mean anywhere in the teachings, actions and examples of Jesus, to see His love for us and longing for us to be whole in every fibre of our being. So, we may ask the question how are we going to be made whole and harmonious in ourselves and in our lives? Jesus's parables, His teaching and stories give us a clue here, don't they. What they are essentially telling us is that we will never be whole within ourselves, with all the happiness and bliss that this promises, unless and until we become one with Jesus Christ. In other words, our whole vocation is to live and act as though we were totally within Jesus and He was completely within us. Remember last week's Gospel passage about the Good Shepherd? It was all about us being able to hear and follow the Way of Jesus when we recognise His call. But we can only do this when He is fully one with us.

This theme of unity and wholeness continues in this Sunday's Gospel because Jesus now likens His relationship with us using the analogy of the grape vine. In an agricultural society the image of the vine is well-known, and Jesus' listeners understand how to get the best out of the vine. If the grapes are going to develop so they can be turned into good wine, then they need careful management. In other words, the energy of the plant has to be directed to the fruit through proper pruning, because if the vine is just left to do its own thing it will grow out of control, producing lots of leaves and poor grapes. There's an obvious connection between root and branch here, isn't there and it's pretty obvious that Jesus is using this analogy to show His connection with us. Just as the leaves and fruit shrivel and die if they are cut off from the nourishment of the main body of the vine, so we diminish and waste away if we don't receive nourishment from Christ 'the true vine'. God the Father is the 'gardener', and He nurtures us and carefully encourages us through His Son, the 'Vine'. It's important for us to realise here that within the ancient Jewish tradition the vine was a picture of Israel and now Jesus is saying that He is the true vine. This can only mean that He is, in Himself, the true Israel and this picture of the 'vine' is not just a clever illustration from gardening. It's ultimately about who Jesus and His people (that is, us) really are.

Whether we are hearing about the Good Shepherd or the True Vine, the overriding message for us is very clear; that becoming and remaining a part of Jesus Christ, the Son made flesh, is essential for our true life and well-being. As sheep we are at one with the shepherd and as branches, we are at one with the vine, but how do we remain in Him and what does it look like in practice? Well, remaining in the community that knows and loves and celebrates Him as its Lord is our vocation; there's no such thing as a solitary Christian. In this way we are protected by a solidarity that Satan's "crowbar" can never split apart.