

# + Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

## St. Anne's Catholic Church

Lynton Avenue Weeping Cross Stafford, ST17 0EA. Telephone: 01785 661012 - Website [www.st-anne-st.org.uk](http://www.st-anne-st.org.uk)

## St. Patrick's Catholic Church

48 Sandon Road, Stafford ST16 3HF. Telephone 01785 661012 - Website [www.stpatrickssstafford.co.uk](http://www.stpatrickssstafford.co.uk)

Email: [stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk)

Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

## TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention	
Sat	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1:00pm 6:30pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil	Ned Taylor RIP Private Intention	
Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00am 9:30am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Second Sunday after the Nativity	Bob & Damian People of the Parish	
Mon	4 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Anne's		Christmas Feria	Tony Duke (Birthday Ann.)
Tue	5 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Patrick's	St Charles of St Andrew	(Staffordshire) Memoria	Sean Casey RIP
Wed	6 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am 6:30pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	The Epiphany of the Lord	Solemnity	Pupils and Staff of our two schools Celebrant's Intention
Thu	7 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Patrick's		Christmas Feria	Private Intention
Fri	8 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Anne's		Christmas Feria	Joseph Bartolo
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm 6:30pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil	Peggy Toner RIP Colin Wilkinson (Ann. of marriage)	
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am 9:30am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	Patty Tiernan RIP Bernard Massey (Ann.)	

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

By Appointment

**Prayers for the sick:** St Patrick's: Phylis Bowers, Susan Prince, Tim Tiernan, Gregory McKinlay, Linda Reavy, Martha Porter, Cecilia 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/ Julie Hainey, Elsie Milsom, Michael Riley, Patrick Hodgkinson, Molly Devine, Elizabeth Galvin, James McEwan, Margaret Regan, Peter Ryan, Florence Scott-Mullen, Rose Tyler, Alice Cull, Francis Fox, George Goulding, Frederick Millward, Edmund Taylor, Harriet Simms, Zenon Zawadka, Brenda Road, Rose Wright, Bernard Hussey, John Perkins and Cyril Adams. /St Anne's/ John Connelly, Kenneth Hammond, Frederick Plant, Keith Ross, Donald Simmill, Agnes Joret, John Owen, Steven Knowles, Patrick Gilhooly, Elizabeth Gonzalez, John Murphy, Roy Roderick, Marie Rusinowski and William Conlin.

Income 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£	£	£283.84	£	Sat 32 Sun 34
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£	£	£146.23	£	Sat 20 Sun 18

*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](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish Tote 150 Club December 2020 Winners.** £100 J Pettit - 97, £50 A Rutledge – 135, £20 S Whyte – 139, £10 T Lawrence – 129, £10 J Walsh– 20, £10 M Massey – 154, £10 A Reck – 25, £10 J Price – 80, £10 C McHugh – 39, £10 M Porter – 40, £10 C Johnson – 70.

Thank you for your support during 2020. Hopefully we can count on your support again in 2021. Those who pay yearly please can you put your monies in a sealed envelope with your name on the outside marked for 150 Club and put into the collection bins. Cheques should be made payable to St Patrick's. Further details from Marie on 01785 661012.

**John and Jean Pettit thank you all for your messages and prayers and send their best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year.**

*A big thank you to those parishioners who have filled out new Standing Orders to help support the churches at this critical time. If anyone wishes to make such 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 Roof Appeal (Update)**

**The remedial work to the lower roof has now been completed.** We are appealing for any donations St Anne's community can donate to this work; my thanks and appreciation to those who have already given so generously; we are gradually on our way - looking at a sum approaching £10,000. (We are nearly half of the way there). This year we hope to remedy 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

**Friends of the Holy Land:** We can continue our Crib Donations for Friends of the Holy Land until next weekend. This year has been particularly 'ruthless' for them in terms of lack of pilgrims (especially during this coming Christmas period when Bethlehem would normally be packed) and lack of sales for their wonderful artefacts etc. This year's Crib donations run throughout the Christmas period. You can donate through their website (where our Christian brothers and sisters' desperate situation is made evident). It is: <https://www.friendsoftheholylad.org.uk> They also take donations via internet banking. Their bank details are Friends of the Holy Land Sort Code 600541 Account Number 24591211 Gift Aid forms are available in the porch. Any amount of assistance would be very welcome. Many thanks

**Our Recently Deceased:** Please remember in your prayers Thelma Taylor, St Patrick's, who died last week. We pray also for her family especially her daughter Pat O'Neil. MayThelma rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Women's Refuge (gifts for the Christmas Tree): Donations can continue until next weekend.** Rather than bulky gifts [such as bedding, towels etc.] the Refuge would really appreciate vouchers because it eliminates the need for storage, which becomes more problematic in these times. Vouchers or cash in envelopes can always be left at the presbytery and I shall place them under the trees. Mark them either St Anne or St Patrick. Many Thanks

\*\* St Anne's parish is now live-streaming Masses, so please go to the front web page and click on Mass Live at the top and you should be able to follow the Mass.

**Now, as we enter the final week of Christmastide, let us find some time to reflect and take in the mystery we have celebrated as Christmastide can be appreciated right through to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on next Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January.**

### **HOMILY FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**Sixteen years ago, almost to the day, the countries of the Indian Ocean region were overwhelmed by a devastating tsunami which took the lives of almost a quarter of a million people. By their very**

nature, tsunamis swamp and overcome all that stand in their path. An unstoppable wave appears to come from the ocean and we can imagine the fear felt by those living in its way, and the ancients would not have known why they occurred. Now, of course, we understand tsunamis as being caused by earthquakes under the ocean; seismic events that happen out of the way and unseen. But the consequences are awesome, aren't they?

Tsunamis can be metaphors for aspects of our own lives; especially our lives of faith, because through our baptism we are no longer 'disconnected' from the events of Christian history. And the one defining unique event, promised from the time of Abraham; an event which would be the 'spiritual' earthquake of all time, would cause a tsunami of grace. Bethlehem was the 'epicentre' of this seismic intervention of divine reality into human matter (body and soul). Jesus' birth, though hidden from all humanity except for those gathered around the manger, would cause a wave that would reach to the four corners of the world. But unlike the frightening and destructive tsunamis that originate from the earth's oceans, this tsunami of grace would recreate, re-build and reconfigure the fractured, fallen and sin-filled world, disfigured through Adam's legacy. In God's original creative act all was perfect; nothing could be added or taken away. But, through our disobedience and pride, that primal image was mutilated with terrible consequences for our human history. In fact, as we all realise, the state of the world seems so irredeemable that we are tempted to give up hope, but we also know that God never abandoned us.

Life teaches us that the more catastrophic our disasters, the more radical has to be the repair. So, when God redeems us He has to do so powerfully and deeply. He reconfigures (in the birth of Jesus) the 'tectonic' plates, if you will, of our sinful and lost community and allows grace to swamp the world. The world had already been 'swamped' or infused with wisdom, as we hear in that first reading from Ecclesiasticus. "From eternity, in the beginning, He created me, and for eternity I shall remain." This is created wisdom speaking. It reminds us that we, the human race, were given this created wisdom at the beginning of time when creation was begun. If only we had recognised it within ourselves and lived by its truth! But that is our story, isn't it? Again, that passage says: "I have taken root in a privileged people, in the Lord's property, in His inheritance." So, if His people ignored or refused to heed the world of wisdom, then, uncreated Wisdom Himself; the Word, would enter into our world, our lives in a powerful way. But, as John says in his Gospel chapter 1, "He was in the world that had its being through Him, and the world did not know Him." In other words, the true Wisdom, Jesus, was the 'hidden' earthquake of divine intervention that would shine light onto the wisdom within us that was ignored since the Fall. But the tsunami of Grace helps us to see the true light. The Word is the true light that enlightens us all, offering wisdom and true knowledge. It's a word that calls out to us in the quiet depths of our souls, but this word of life and light is daily submerged under the torrent of trivial words, empty words, words of no direction, no life. T.S. Elliot wrote that we have knowledge of 'words' but ignorance of the WORD. We need to protect the Word that God has spoken to us by distancing ourselves, as much as we can, from the empty and dead words: in discovering silence. Like Mary, let us ponder on the things that were said and treasure them. In this way, instead of running away and fleeing from a tsunami, we can let the tsunami of grace from the Incarnation; the grace of wisdom and redemption, cover us and fill us with a light and life the world cannot give.