

Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 3rd March 2024

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

Times of Holy Mass and Liturgies this week

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Parish Mass Book page: 158

| ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL | | | | ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------|--------------|---|----------------------|---|--|
| Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987 Email: office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk Executive Head: Mrs K Bennett | | | | Marston Road, ST16 3BT Telephone: 01785 413275 Email: office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk Principal: Mr. M. Brandon | | | |
| Day | Date | Mass Time | Church | Liturgical Day | | Mass Intention | |
| Sat | 2 nd | 4:00pm | St Patrick's | Vigil | | People of the Parish | |
| | | 6:00pm | St Anne's | Vigil | | Gwenda Fenton RIP & Brandon Harland RIP | |
| Sun | 3 rd | 9:00am | St Patrick's | Third Sunday of Lent | | Patty & Tim Tiernan RIP | |
| | | 10:00am | St Anne's | | | The Duke Family | |
| Mon | 4 th | 9:30am | St Anne's | Lent Feria | Marie Devaney(Ann.) | | |
| Tue | 5 th | 9.30am | St Patrick's | Lent Feria | Norah Cotter RIP | | |
| Wed | 6 th | 10:00am | St Anne's | Communion Service | Lent Feria | | |
| Thu | 7 th | 9.30am | St Patrick's | Lent Feria | Mgr. John Heslin RIP | | |
| | | 1.30 pm | St Anne's | Funeral Service for Ann Cheetham | | | |
| Fri | 8 th | 9:15am | St Anne's | Lent Feria | People of the Parish | | |
| | | 6:30pm | St Anne's | Stations of the Cross | | | |
| Sat | 9 th | 10.00am | St Anne's | Exposition, Holy Hour and Confession | | The McHugh & Middleton Families | |
| | | 4:00pm | St Patrick's | Vigil | | Lorraine Breakspear RIP | |
| | | 6:00pm | St Anne's | Vigil | | | |
| Sun | 10 th | 9:00am | St Patrick's | Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) | | The Tivenan Family | |
| | | 10:00am | St Anne's | | | Alan Barnes RIP | |

Prayers for the sick: St Patrick's: Susan Prince, Gregory McKinlay, Linda Reavy, Cecylia Kotara, Rebecca Kilkenny, Graham Burningham, Mary Kilkenny. **St Anne's:** Patricia Walters, Thomas McCormick, Walter Rogers, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Andrea Hulse, Winifred Meehan, Pat McDonnell, Georgina Copp, Marie Geal, Molly Hukin.

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's.] Philip Bates, Agnes Paish, Reginald Gould, Catherine Wood, Joanna Cooke, Kathleen Edwards, Mary Allport, Leslie Palmer, Helena Hawkins, Ethel Berenyi, Alfred Atkinson, George Wilkinson, Keith Ward, Monica Quayle, Ellen Jones, Harold Wilkes, Bernard Dempsey. **[St. Anne's.]** Gwenda Fenton, Ada Harrison, Lorraine Nicholls, Maurice Kelly, Lilian Morrisroe, Mary Orton, Eileen Richard, Bernard Lundberg, Kathleen Horton, Canon Larkin, Patrick McCoy, Elizabeth Walshe, Mary Helks, Jane Yarnold, Rueben Baker, Bernard Dale, Louise Keats, Vera Powell, Susanne Turner, Brian McCann.

| Income 25/02/24 | Source | Gift Aid | Non-Gift Aid | Standing Order | Total | Attendance |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|--------------|----------------|---------|----------------|
| St Anne's | Offertory | £138.60 | £172.63 | £408.25 | £719.48 | Sat 59 Sun 111 |
| St Patrick's | Offertory | £85.30 | £161.66 | £152.16 | £399.12 | Sat 64 Sun 93 |
| 18/02/24 | Offertory | £44.30 | £176.63 | £152.16 | £373.09 | |

On the Archdiocese website there is a standing order and Gift Aid form for parishioners so they can transform the way they donate. Please direct any such enquiries to: [Donate | Birmingham Diocesan Trust \(birminghamdiocese.org.uk\) / https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work](https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work)

Parish Tote 150 Club February Winners

£100 E Turner - 137, £50 P Walters - 15, £20 M Walker - 33, £10 B Roberts - 69, £10 J Freeman - 7, £10 R Fletcher - 88, £10 C Salt - 155, £10 A Heath - 138, £10 C Taylor - 46, £10 J Price - 80, £10 K Tivernan - 50.

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

Gift Aid 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. Switching your giving via Standing Order mandate would be a great help also.

Information cards [*gift-aid it*] can be found at the back of the churches for any parishioners who are not in the gift aid scheme. The cards explain how the system works (at no extra expense for the doner) and provide information as to how you can be part of the scheme. It is a simple, free and effective way to help our parishes increase our funds. Do consider this if you are not already gift-aiding. Very Many Thanks.

This week's Second Collection 2nd / 3rd March CATHEDRAL MAINTENANCE

Last week's Second Collection CAFOD LENT FAST St Anne's £536.85 St Patrick's £261.43

Many thanks for your generosity

Future Second Collections: 29th March (Good Friday) HOLY PLACES

St Anne's Readers: The rota is on the notice board in the church porch.

The Drop in Group Do Come and join us on Wednesdays in the Meeting Room after the St Anne's 10 am Communion Service. All Welcome.

Our Deceased: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Imelda Moore and Ann Cheetham of St Anne's Parish, who died this week. We remember also their families at this time. *May Imelda and Ann rest in peace and rise in glory.*

Wool donations – If anyone has any spare wool it can be left in St Anne's Church porch. It will be used for knitting hats and scarves for the homeless. Thank you.

Refreshments after Mass: Do join us after the 10:00am Sunday Morning Mass for tea and coffee in St Anne's Hall. Many thanks to those who prepare this valuable facility. **More volunteers would be most welcome.**

Wax Melts There are scented wax melts, for use in oil burners, for sale in the church porch this weekend. They have been recycled from old disused church candles and, as such, have all been blessed at some time. All proceeds will go towards the church maintenance fund.

St Anne's: CHILDREN'S LITURGY is up and running and held on every Sunday. This is due to the number of kind parishioners who have volunteered to help put on this much appreciated facility. It means we can form teams and a rota. Please do come forward to help if you would like to become involved. Ann Kelly is kindly looking after the necessary safeguarding procedures. Many thanks.

St Patrick's: (SUNDAY CHILDREN'S LITURGY) The Children's Liturgy Group is running and much appreciated. Open to children of primary school age and under. If you think you can help come along to a session and see what we do [Those interested in helping please see Fr. Bob]

*** SAFEGUARDING** The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our St Anne's Parish Safeguarding Representative is Ann Kelly and can be contacted at sg.stanne.stafford@rcaob.org.uk. Our St Patrick's Safeguarding Representative is Geraldine Thickett and can be contacted at sg.stpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

+BIBLE STUDY: St Anne's parish Bible Study usually meets on a regular fortnightly programme, in St Anne's parish hall meeting room from 10 am – 11 am. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th March. Pope Francis has declared this coming year to be a Year of Prayer and so all are very welcome to join in!!

Exposition and Holy Hour: There is Exposition and Holy Hour, including opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation, at St Anne's: From 10:00am until 11:00am. This is offered every Saturday, except the third Saturday of the month, upon which the Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham will be celebrated.

St Patrick's Eucharistic Minister Rota: St. Patrick's Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: we have re-established the rota, for both Saturday Evening and Sunday Morning. If you are an extraordinary minister and would like to be included in the rota, please contact Angela Russell (07765560153) or Fr Bob; please confirm which weekend mass you would be able to assist at. Also, if you are not yet a Eucharistic minister and may have thought of becoming one, please do give it thought and have a word with Fr. Bob. Full training would be given. Thank you.
[The new rota for 2024 is now complete]

LIVING SIMPLY: Parishioners are invited to purchase Fair traded goods and to buy world gifts from CAFOD <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk>

We are developing a wildflower meadow at the side of St Anne's Church to help support biodiversity. We are inviting parishioners to donate wildflower seeds, plants or peat free compost. If you would like to look at the area, Liz and Ann will be available to show you the area on Sunday after Mass.

CHRISTIAN FOOD HELP: Due to the ever increasing problem of food poverty, nationally and locally within many families, there is a continual need for donations. At the back of each church we have clearly marked boxes for your donations of food items. Please deposit them there so that they can be taken regularly to St Austin's, where the CFH team can arrange for their distribution. Many Thanks

Our local co-ordinators, Adam and Clare (St Austin's), send their thanks.

Take a look at our latest graph showing the numbers of meals provided (at the back of church)

New to the Parish? If you are new to either of the parishes of St Anne or St Patrick you are very welcome. Please let Fr Bob know (on 01785 661012 OR stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk) There are numerous aspects of our parish life that might be of interest to you. We hope that you will feel 'at home' within our parish community.

Parish Library St Anne's

Thank you to everyone who has donated bibles and books (and a bookcase).

The parish library is in the parish meeting room. You may borrow any of the bibles, books, or CTS booklets.

Still curious about Jesus?

St Anne's will be hosting an ALPHA COURSE beginning Monday 8th April at 7 pm

ALPHA is a 12 week course similar in format to the groups we have been having at St Austins over the past few months. The Alpha course is ideal to bring non-Christian or lapsed church going friends along with you to take part in. Alpha is a series of interactive video/discussion sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. We would love you to come along either as a helper with hospitality/group support/set up or just to join in and hopefully invite a friend. More info on our St Anne's Website.

Fr Stephen, Deacon Mike or Fr Bob will be happy to talk with you about the course.

THE BIG LENT WALK "Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose, over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty.

CAFOD and SCIAF are teaming up to bring the Big Lent Walk to Great Britain! Read more about us and our decision to join forces. [HERE](#) Thousands of walkers from England, Wales, Scotland and beyond, will be tying up their purple laces and walking an incredible 200km this Lent to fight global poverty. So, sign up to do the Memorial Mass: There is a Memorial Mass at Blessed William Howard Catholic High School on Thursday 21st March at 6.00 p.m. for Mr. Michael Crook, the former Head of R.E. at the school who died recently. All former staff and pupils are welcome to attend. **Big Lent Walk yourself, or join in with your school or parish** Then put your best foot forward with the biggest group of Big Lent Walkers yet."

(For more information go to: [The Big Lent Walk 2024 \(cafod.org.uk\)](https://www.cafod.org.uk))

Parish Ideas: There is a shortened link to work with for our Big Lent Walk: tinyurl.com/cafodlentwalk

People can support by donating, or joining in. They can join in by visiting the weblink and clicking 'Join Team' and they can record their walking by linking Strava to the justgiving page, or simply recording the distances as they go along.

Some sponsor forms and posters printed for the Churches will follow. A volunteer/s would be very welcome who might be willing to manage the sponsor form on our behalf.

Secondly, Two short walks in Lent are planned by Deacon Mike:

- 1) **Sunday 3rd March 2:30pm** from St Anne's Car Park. About 45 mins to an hour.
- 2) **Sunday 17th March 2:30pm** from St Annes' Car Park. About an hour and a half.

Both walks are easy and accessible. If we like the idea of a monthly stroll out then we can go over the Chase etc. [Take a sheet with the walk plan from the back of church]

We Dare To Say :

Year of Prayer: As part of the Year of Prayer the Bishops of England and Wales have produced a series of reflections called 'We Dare to Say' which looks at the petitions of the Our Father in five ready-to-use sessions. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. The connection of the Our Father with the sacraments and the devotional life is explored, and wisdom from the saints is offered for the spiritual growth of group participants and individuals alike. These sessions are on Mondays at 7.00 p.m. at St. Anne's and Tuesdays 7.00pm at St. Austin's and continue throughout Lent. Both the Monday and Tuesday session will focus on the identical topic but will provide folk with a choice of evening. All are very welcome.

To parishioners of both St Patrick's and St Anne's: as you will be aware the complete Holy Week Triduum will be celebrated in the three churches this year [as last]. We must understand that the Church guidelines advise that for such a liturgical celebration to be worthy the essential elements, such as readings, the music/hymns, serving and help with setting up, liturgy, lighting etc. should be present. This should reflect the keen participation of parishioners who are indispensable in such services. Next weekend I shall be leaving sheets out at the back of church for parishioners to volunteer for assisting in a variety of roles. Please do give this serious consideration. Synodality insists that, as CHURCH COMMUNITY, we play our part fully in all facets of church life.
Many thanks Fr. Bob

Memorial Mass: There is a Memorial Mass at Blessed William Howard Catholic High School on Thursday 21st March at 6.00 p.m. for Mr. Michael Crook, the former Head of R.E. at the school who died recently. All former staff and pupils are welcome to attend.