

CHRIST HAS RISEN**Sunday 4th April 2021****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.ukEmail: 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**

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TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK**SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	3 rd	8:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Fr. Oliver Kemp RIP
		8:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Manus Mc Dermott RIP
Sun	4 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Easter Sunday (The Resurrection of the Lord)	Christine Halton RIP
		10:00am	St Anne's		David Harwar RIP
Mon	5 th	10:00am	St Anne's	Easter Monday	Solemnity Colin Wilkinson RIP
Tue	6 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Easter Tuesday	Solemnity Patty Tiernan RIP
Wed	7 th	No Mass		Easter Wednesday	Solemnity
Thu	8 th	6:30pm		Easter Thursday	Solemnity People of the Parish
Fri	9 th	6:30pm		Easter Friday	Solemnity Andrew Young RIP
Sat	10 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's		Ned & Thelma Taylor RIP
		6:00pm	St Anne's		Ferdie O'Halaran
Sun	11 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Second Sunday of Easter	Patrick & Bridget Collins RIP
		10:00am	St Anne's		& John Rennie RIP Peggy Toner 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 Masterson, Jon King, Marie Foster, John Mulholland, Mary Matthew, Michael McLuckie, Kathleen Tiernan, Kathleen Jensen, Veronica Gregory, Michael Creamer, Dennis Ennis, Reginald Cooper, Christine Sargeant, Georgina Meegan, Terence Baker, Barbara Cooke, Thomas Dunleavy, Josephine Kavanagh, Don Oddy, Patrick O'Connor, John Rennie, Margaret Hardy and Patrick Collins.

[St Anne's] Mary Davis, Bertha Arriagade, John Callaghan, Badia Geadam, Muriel Sandy, Edward Machaj, Sean McDonnell, Catherine O'Sullivan, Kathleen Foy, Tony Grantham and Bridget Walsh.

Income 28/3/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£144.95	£62.00	£283.84	£490.79	Sat 46
						Sun 37
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£162.00	£57.00	£146.23	£365.23	Sat 34
						Sun 43

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:

***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

Thank you for your continued support for 2021. Numbers are still available at £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.

Our Deceased: Please remember in your prayers **Fr. Michael Crumpton** (retired priest of St Mary & St Modwen, Burton) who died recently. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

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; we are gradually on our way – over £6,000 has been raised so far. 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: A number of parishioners have asked about 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

Holy Thursday Gifts: (In each of our three churches) **Starting from Maundy Thursday** and at any time through the Triduum, in the spirit of sharing we invite you to bring an appropriate food item for Christian Food Help and Brushstrokes. These can be left at the back of the churches (but in the Presbytery Porch in St Anne's)

This weekend there is the traditional Second Collection for the Easter Offerings for the parish clergy.

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 please see Fr. Bob

EASTER 2021

A Big Thank you

It was good news that our churches were able to be open, and that we could gather together to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of the Lord's Death and Resurrection this year (so different to 2020!). Now that we have established a pattern for co-operative ministry between our three Stafford parishes, I would like to give a big thank you to all our parishioners who have helped to assist this initiative. Your patience, understanding and willingness to help in so many ways

has also given us confidence in seeing a way forward pastorally, looking to the future. For me personally, and maybe also for many of you, the approach of Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter back in February felt very strange given the situation we were/are in. Preparing a meaningful and worthy liturgy for the Lord's Paschal Mystery had its challenges but, thanks to your ongoing help and the thought we put into organising service/Mass bookings, we have, I believe, allowed a worthy celebration of our most important moment in our calendar. Thank you to all St Patrick's and St Anne's parishioners who prepared so carefully and worked so hard over the Holy Week and Easter weekend. Whether it has been stewarding, cleaning, organising readers, liturgy, sacristy preparation, linen, flowers, administration, many contributions have sustained the life of our churches. We hope and pray that, as society 'opens up' more fully in the coming months, our congregations will 'blossom' and grow. So, as we reach Easter and Eastertide, we know we are utterly dependent on the deep blessing of God that allows us to respond with thanks and praise.

May I also thank everyone for the cards, kind wishes of support and gifts. It is much appreciated.

On behalf of Deacon Michael and myself, may I wish you all a Blessed and Joyful Easter. Alleluiah.

HOMILY EASTER SUNDAY

You may very well have heard us human beings described as 'rational animals' by some. And such descriptions have tended to originate from the scientific community, with its tendency to categorise the entire empirical universe. There is no doubt that we should always respect the scientific 'method' especially its scrupulously careful evidence analysis and objective testing. It goes without saying, doesn't it, and it's how we progress scientifically and technologically; very important, and if we google "science and Christianity" we find many great scientists who were and are deeply religious. I would strongly argue, and I would imagine many in the scientific community would also, that a human is far more than his or her rational power. All of us, I'm sure, can recognise that part of us that goes far beyond logical thinking. It's the visceral, intuitive, 'sixth sense' part of us that no scientist has, or will ever, fathom empirically. In fact, I would go so far as to say that most of us here are pretty glad that it can't be fathomed because it is actually the foundational bedrock of what makes us human. It's also pivotal in helping us understand the unique reality and 'epicentre' of our faith. And essentially, we must recognise it as valid and true knowledge in the deepest sense. The very source of our Christian faith and its infinitely powerful energy originate from Jesus Christ's Paschal Mystery.

The whole awesome movement of Jesus' "Passover", from the Last Supper to the Resurrection, can only be fully appreciated and entered into through the call of faith. And the seedbed of faith is that part of us that sees reality through our viscerally fractured, broken and confused humanity. Our need to love and be loved is key and we know that love completely escapes empirical measurement. Let's just consider the unfathomable mystery that we have been a 'part' of over the last three days. Our Creator God who fashioned the galaxies and formed us out of nothingness is put on trial for loving His creatures with unconditional love, He's abandoned by those who followed Him and seemingly cut loose from the First person of the Trinity. He's flogged mercilessly and tortured before being executed as a 'criminal' before being 'buried' and leaving an empty tomb on the third day. Everything within us cries out that no 'rational' explanation can be offered; there is none. But the most wonderful reality for us who can be, and are a part of this story, is that we know it is true. We know it with a certainty that defies all logic and measurement. And what's more wonderful is that we know deep down that its utterly 'rational' – that there's no contradiction. Through that great "jigsaw" of our salvation history, because of God's promise to Adam and Eve in Eden, it had to happen. Amongst all the wonderful icons of the Orthodox Church, one

of the most famous is the icon of the resurrection. This icon shows a victorious Jesus triumphantly rising up from hell, with one strong arm pulling out Adam and the other raising up Eve. They are being dragged from the realm of the dead, from the depths of where sinful humanity had fallen. And Jesus is lifting them up to the life of the new creation where Christ is, surrounded by His saints. This image is immensely powerful and it echoes the very famous ancient homily for Holy Saturday where Christ has gone to the underworld to bring home our first parents. As Saint Paul wrote: "for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone." But for us all this creation continues. In Christ's company we find those who are troubled and tempted, strugglers and those just hanging in there, and saints too; and all of us are upheld not by our own strength but by the arms of Christ. There is no limit to the height to which our souls can rise. Through God's grace, today we gladly renew our promises to reject sin and to believe in Christ. And we celebrate the resurrection of our Saviour, which is also the reason for our hope of resurrection too.

Alleluia
He is
Risen

