

Sunday 4th July 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

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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

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TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Fourteenth Sunday of the Year

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	3 rd	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Private Intention
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Gwenda Fenton RIP (Ann.)
Sun	4 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Fourteenth Sunday of the Year	People of the Parish
		10:00am	St Anne's		Bridget & Eddie McAweaney
Mon	5 th	9:30am	St Anne's	St Modwen	Memoria Fr. Michael Crumpton RIP
Tue	6 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Feria	Gerry Hinks RIP
Wed	7 th	No Mass	St Anne's	Feria	
Thu	8 th	6:30pm	St Patrick's	Feria	Celebrant's Intention
Fri	9 th	6:30pm	St Anne's	Feria	Intention of Dawn Streeton
Sat	10 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Fr. Oliver Keenan OP (Ann of ordination)
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	People of the parish
Sun	11 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Fifteenth Sunday of the Year	Intentions of Claire&Simon
		10:00am	St Anne's		Josephine & John Ard 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, Rebecca Kilkenny. 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] John Connor, Peter Williams, Joan Johnston, Alice Broad, James Toner, Gladys Hughes, Gerald Bliss, Hamelin Hocart, James McLroy, James Miller, Emmanuel Ganci, Harriet Caddick, Margaret O'Shea, Alice Giusso, Dionisio Cupertino, Bernard Rourke and Johanna Farrell. [St Anne's.] John Hulme, Margaret Bailey, Joseph Heyes, Joannah Sullivan, Beryl Lenchar, Barry Watson, Brian Bates, James Knocker, Mildred Carless, Thomas McNeish, Agnes Norman, Winnie Parsons, Mrs Peacock and Mary Simmill.

Income 20/6/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£113.00	£106.49	£283.84	£503.33	Sat 44 Sun 50
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£69.00	£124.00	£146.23	£339.23	Sat 23 Sun 72

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 June 2021

£100 S Hird – 133, £50 Mrs Freeman – 7, £20 A Reck – 25, £10 A Russell – 52, £10 L Porter – 6, £10 S Farley – 124, £10 S Keenan – 1, £10 F Russell – 23, £10 A Rutledge – 135, £10 C Salt – 155, £10 J Pettit – 97, £10 Fr Bob - 72

Thank you for your support. Numbers are 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 open for Mass, but we are 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.

Dates to Note: **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** will take place on this Saturday 3rd July for St Anne's (Yrs 3 & 4)

[Please remember the children in your prayers]

MASS TO COMMEMORATE THE LOCAL MARTYR, BLESSED ROBERT SUTTON: Saturday 18th September 11:00am at St Thomas Mill.

Second Collection: Please note that there will be a second collection **next weekend 10th/11th July for Apostleship of the Sea.**

Last weekend's collection for Peter's Pence St Anne's £94.70 St Patrick's £25.32 Thank You.

The Year of St Joseph. For the remainder of the year we shall be honouring St Joseph (as this is the Year of St Joseph, initiated by Pope Francis). In St Anne's and St Patrick's churches the statue of St Joseph is prominent and the special St Joseph's 'Memorare' and prayer will be said at the start of each Mass.

St Anne's Church maintenance: The remedial work to the lower roof was completed last year. Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously. Upcoming tasks this year include **decorating the interior of the Hall** this summer and **comprehensive remedial tree surgery** to satisfy Health and Safety. Please accept my grateful thanks for any donations. **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 began 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

Visits to the sick and housebound are now possible if parishioners feel comfortable for them to happen. If you know of anyone (St Patrick's or St Anne's) who might like to receive the Sacraments at home, please do speak to Fr. Bob

Career Vacancy: The Archdiocese has a vacancy for a **DATA COMPLIANCE MANAGER** (full-time). If anyone is interested in such a post please view the letter on the noticeboard at the back of each of the churches. For a full job description about this role please contact Gerry.dryden@rcaob.org.uk or clare.obrien@rcaob.org.uk

Diocesan Vision: “Unfolding God’s Plan”. The Diocesan Evangelisation Team are inviting parishes to host **‘Something Greater’** which takes place on Thursday 8th July. This event will help parishes extend a hand of friendship to their local community. This online gathering will include a welcome, a short film and a personal invitation to come to church. A pack is being created which will have everything we need to host **‘Something Greater’**. It will include a step-by-step guide and different ways for parishes to reach out to invite their community and ideas on how we may extend a personal invitation to church. If any parishioners are interested in coming together to form a group who would help lead this then the Evangelisation sub group would be pleased to make contact. They can be contacted at: something.greater@rcaob.org.uk More information on the Diocesan Vision will be released in June. We are all asked to pray for this event and also encouraged to think how we might begin to reach out to:
(1) Those who have lost the habit of coming to church and who may be anxious about doing so.
(2) Those who may not want to re-establish a pattern of Catholic worship – who may have seen a gap widen between the spiritual dimension of their lives and communal expression of that spiritual quest.
(3) Those ‘Covid curious’ who may have encountered the Catholic Church for the first time during the pandemic.

Candle Lighting day: Unfortunately, due to the and the delay of their lifting until 19th July, our ‘Open Church’ day has been postponed for a few weeks. Please keep your eye on the newsletter for further



ongoing Covid restrictions announced on Monday Church’ day has been postponed for a few weeks. information.

HOMILY FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF YEAR

We’ve probably heard it said that nothing succeeds like success. And in our world it might seem very true, if it means that achieving success in a particular enterprise will bring further reward and greater success. Though like many generalisations there are the inevitable exceptions, because there are those who have made quite awful decisions in life and have reached the depths of failure, but they have somehow built back careers or businesses and become massively successful against the odds. Life’s like that though, isn’t it – difficult to categorise neatly, and our way through life most often won’t follow a simple and clear path. Today’s readings give us a different perspective on success, don’t they, and it’s worth bearing in mind that our first ‘parents’ before the FALL in Eden (however we might interpret that primeval story) would have had no concept of ‘success’; it would have no meaning, would it. Success implies achievement and what could Adam and Eve have ever hoped to achieve? However we look at it, there would have been no concept of success without failure and sin. Just as Adam and Eve were our original ‘parents’, so failure is the original parent of success.

Today’s readings actually suggest that there are times when nothing succeeds like failure. Just think of poor Ezekiel; the prophet relates that the Lord spoke to him, saying: “Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me.....they are defiant and obstinate”. God doesn’t even guarantee to Ezekiel whether they will listen or not! What a task this prophet has. I wonder how successful Ezekiel feels he is going to be. When Jonah was asked to do similar he ‘did a runner’ didn’t he. But, both he and Ezekiel are able to do what God asks because of the power and assurance He gives them; Ezekiel receives the Spirit of God’s word when he eats the scroll. Success isn’t really a factor since it is the Lord’s will that is carried out, and the prophet’s weakness is used by God. In today’s second reading we know also that St Paul achieved amazing things; becoming an apostle, spreading the name of Jesus and setting up new Christian communities to the ends of the known world. Yet, we know that he openly admits he has a weakness – “a thorn in the flesh”, as Paul calls it. We don’t know what this was, but it doesn’t matter because, even though Paul pleaded with God for help, the Lord replied that “my grace is enough for you: my power is at its best at its weakness”.

I remember when I was at seminary a few years ago, the rector relating how he had a conversation with someone who wondered whether a student was 'strong' enough for the challenge of priesthood, whereupon the rector suggested the question should be whether the candidate was 'weak' enough. Weakness, in this sense, really means the ability to recognise our brokenness and total dependency on God to work in us and through us. We need faith to assure us that this will happen whether we are aware of it or not. It might very well surprise us that, even in today's Gospel when God's only Son returns to His home town, that Jesus seems to "fail", where perhaps He most hoped to succeed. They would have heard all about Jesus' healings, His miracles and the events that had gone before His arrival, but they don't want to listen to Him because they know Him too well (or they think they do). But Jesus must have had a foreknowledge of what was going to happen to Him a few years later, mustn't He? And if we're worried about our failures, there was never a greater apparent failure than that of Good Friday. But that failure was the gateway to the glory of the resurrection and the salvation of the human race.

And for us here today, whatever our "thorn in the flesh" is, instead of dragging us down into despair, it can give us hope as we offer the Lord our frailty and inadequacy. It takes faith and trust in Jesus, but if we have this, He has the power and desire to help us, the power and desire to make saints of us – even if it takes a miracle.