

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

## Weekly Newsletter

### **St. Anne's Catholic Church**

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

### **St. Patrick's Catholic Church**

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

Email: [stannestpatrick.stafford@gmail.com](mailto:stannestpatrick.stafford@gmail.com)

**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**

### **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day		Mass Intention
Sat	4 <sup>th</sup>	pm	St Anne's	Vigil	<i>No Congregation</i>	Kevin Godwin RIP
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “	Fourteenth Sunday of the Year	<i>No Congregation</i>	People of the Parish
Mon	6 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “		Feria <i>No Congregation</i>	The Hawley Family's Intentions
Tue	7 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “		Feria <i>No Congregation</i>	Patty Tiernan RIP
Wed	8 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “		Feria <i>No Congregation</i>	Peggy Toner RIP
Thu	9 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “		Feria <i>No Congregation</i>	Joseph Galvin RIP
Fri	10 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “		Feria <i>No Congregation</i>	John & Edith Connor
<b>Sat</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>St Anne's</b>	<b>Vigil</b>	<b>(50 max)</b>	<b>Celebrant's Intentions</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>St Patrick's</b>	<b>Fifteenth Sunday of Year</b>	<b>(50 max)</b>	<b>John &amp; Elizabeth Galvin</b>
		<b>11:15am</b>	<b>St Anne's</b>		<b>(50 max)</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>

### **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** By Appointment

**Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time:** *[St. Patrick's] 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, Johanna Farrell, Robert Whitlock [St. Anne's] Margaret Bailey, Joseph Heyes, Johanna Sullivan, Beryl Lenchar, Barry Watson, Brian Bates, James Knocker, Mildred Carless, Thomas McNeish, Agnes Norman, Winnie Parsons, Mrs Peacock, Mary Simmill Charles Shackle.*

**Prayers for the sick:** **St Patrick's** Phylis Bowers, Kath Read, Susan Prince, Tim Tiernan, Gregory McKinlay, Linda Reavy, Martha Porter and 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.

Income 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory		£	£	£	
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£	£	£	£	

**Parish Tote 150 Club:** In order to catch up with the months missed, once we return, each of the missing months will be drawn separately. In this way, there will be no gaps.

Many thanks for your support.

### **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)

### **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)

**\*\*\*\* Important message: please go to paragraph just before the homily\*\*\*\***

*\*Please note that those who would like to pay their subscriptions to the 150 Club by STANDING ORDER can let Fr Bob know and he will pass on the name to Mary Owen. It would help immensely during this time. Many thanks*

**Our Recently Deceased:** Please pray for Shaun Gilbride, and Colin Wilkinson, both of St Anne's, who have died recently. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. We also remember their families at this time.

**I am very aware that our usual routine, as parish communities, will undergo a considerable change, and we do not know for how long, but nevertheless our parishes will still need supporting as best we can for the foreseeable future. The sustaining and maintenance of the buildings and parish administration has to continue. For those of you who use gift aid envelopes, the new ones for the**

coming financial year have arrived and Mark (St Anne's) and Margaret (St Patrick's) are labelling them and for those who contribute this way. There are a number who regularly use standing order (this is the most efficient way of giving) and if 'gift-aiders' could set up standing orders it would be a great help. Such a crisis as the present one shows the advantage of this method. However parishioners wish to donate, be assured of our grateful thanks and know that the parish office (St Anne's) can always be used as a 'drop-off' for envelopes. \* I have received this communication from the head of Finance from Cathedral House:

*You may like to know that we've made available on the Archdiocese website 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 diocese (Steve Roche):** 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)

*A big thank you to those parishioners who have filled out new Standing Orders to help support the churches at this critical time. I am grateful to those who have continued to support their respective churches in this way for many years. If you can join them and make such a commitment for our offertory support; whether weekly, fortnightly, monthly or annually, it would make such a difference. You remain in control for as long as you want. At this time though it makes a 'sink or swim' difference to your church. Without that money coming in, 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 dried up and this will make a massive difference. 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 to please help in any amount you can afford. Very many thanks*

*The Archdiocese of Birmingham have allowed parishes to open for 'MASS'. We have recently received guidance information underpinning the strict conditions for celebrating Mass. The guidance includes issues such as volunteer 'stewards', cleaning materials / routines, signage, one-way systems, safety contingencies, 2m distancing, etc. We are still open for 'private prayer' during this coming week (Beginning 6<sup>th</sup> July), but please note the revised times for St Patrick's and St Anne's. The three Stafford parishes will open (NEXT WEEK ONLY) as follows:*

**ST PATRICK'S: Tuesday 11:30am till 12:30pm and Thursday 5pm till 6pm. [With important meeting for St Patrick's Mass volunteers, in church at 6:10pm Thursday 9th!]**

**ST ANNE'S: Wednesday 11am till 1pm and Friday 5:30pm till 7pm. [Important meeting for St Anne's Mass volunteers, in church at 6:00pm Wednesday 8th!]**

**ST AUSTIN'S: Monday 5pm till 7pm and Saturday 11am till 1pm. For us to enable Masses to start again it must be stressed that we shall need a healthy cohort of "volunteers". Do please offer, and rest assured that myself, together with Peter, Lyn and Geraldine, will happily go through preliminary guidance with you. It should also prepare us for the organising of 'teams' that we will definitely need when the Government allow Masses to go ahead. Many Thanks in advance.**

**Fr. Bob**

**(Stop Press!!) As I mentioned last week, churches are now allowed to hold Masses. However, the strictures, conditions and preparations have required very careful reading through of the guidance for each parish. So, please bear with me as I mention here just a few details we need to be aware of. At the start of each Mass I shall explain a lot more of how we proceed, so no problems. What I can let you know, in terms of looking ahead, is that Masses**

will be celebrated within the (1metre + guidelines) This will entail the wearing of some form of face covering within the church.

***An important and interesting point for us to understand is that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended and we can avail ourselves of weekday Masses to enable sensible spacing on weekends (some in the weekday evenings for those who work?) As you can see from the bulletin schedule above, Masses will start from Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 6:00pm at St Anne's, followed by our usual weekend Masses, 9:30am at St Patrick's and 11:15am at St Anne's on Sunday. Now, because we are in a sort of 'fluid' time in terms of medium term commitment, I have decided to publish the times of Masses weekly since there will be occasional alterations. Below are the times and venues: (Looking a week ahead)***

**MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> July 9:30am St Anne's**

**TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> July 9:30am St Patrick's**

**THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> July 6:30pm St Patrick's**

**FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> July 6:30pm St Anne's**

**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> July 6:00pm St Anne's**

**SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> July 9:30am St Patrick's**

**SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> July 11:15am St Anne's**

***The most important and pressing and absolutely vital requirement is that each parish has plenty of volunteers, as part of teams, for helping to 'steward' and to clean pews and various touch points after each Mass. I can't emphasise enough how the church needs you! Because the sensible (distancing) capacity of each church is 50, it will be 'first come, first served', but, between the two parishes there should be 7 Masses during one week, potentially allowing for a total of 350 parishioners. I am asking for your help in making this happen as smoothly as possible by assuming that any parishioner who is 'able' may offer their assistance in cleaning a bench or chairs after Mass. (Many hands make light work). We know that the hospitality sector has opened up and cleaning regimes are expected on their premises, so we as a church venue need to have a cleaning regime also.***

***This is why it is very important for sufficient volunteers to be able to cover Masses. Many Thanks for your patience and understanding. Regarding safety and distancing, we have been told to operate the 1m+ guideline so all those coming to Mass must wear a face covering, but it means we don't have to be 2m apart. There will be no bidding prayers and no offertory procession, and Holy Communion will be distributed as parishioners leave church. There will be stewards to guide people to seats and to help with communion arrangements. If you have not set up a standing order/direct debit for parish offerings please do so if you are able. (I can supply you with all the details you need). There will also be large offertory 'bins' for folk who give their envelopes and cash placed at the entrance and exit points of church. But worry not if this all sounds daunting and strange because once you are seated comfortably in the Mass of your choice I shall, with the help of the stewards we have already, explain exactly how Mass***

**will unfold and how we will all benefit from the experience. From the outset, I offer my humblest apology for potential situations that may arise through the 'first come, first served' policy. Remember, a family group may sit together on one bench or in neighbouring chairs. Once our maximum capacity has entered either church, a notice will be placed outside the door to that effect. The consolation remains that there will be a Mass on another day of the week that will be able to accommodate. If anyone would like further clarity then contact Fr. Bob on 01785661012.**

**But, to parishioners of both parishes:: Don't forget the meetings next week, as scheduled above for volunteers.**

#### **HOMILY FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF SS PETER & PAUL**

You probably notice how some of the most popular T.V. programmes that have been around in recent years are reality T.V., where ordinary (supposedly, anyway) people are filmed in the 'raw' – basically, without rehearsal, without preparation; in fact, without any of the finery and self-conscious modesty that may have been present in the past. I suppose programmes such as 'Big Brother' (mercifully it went off the air a while ago) and 'celebrity get me out of here' are some examples of the programmes that use people "live". 'Through the keyhole' quite a few years ago was another type of programme that let us glimpse what a personality was like by seeing their home or possessions. It was on a totally different par, though, to those shown on T.V. lately. The whole idea of all this is to enable viewers to know and understand the inner personalities of the subjects (assuming we ever wanted to). The trouble is, as experience has proved, what we glimpse isn't nice – to say the least. Usually, in contrived and entertainment-based situations, where ordinary (and not so ordinary) people allow us to see how they 'tick', we open up a 'Pandora's Box'. Are we left with any warm, encouraging, positive feelings about the sweetness and beauty of human nature? Does it edify us and give us cause for hope?

Matthew's Gospel today allows us, and also obviously, the disciples, to take a glimpse into Jesus' private world – to understand what He's about and learn His inner thoughts. We're allowed to enter into the prayer of Jesus – and it's a bit like peeping through a window where He's at home with His Father. But this isn't some curious secretive conversation or action to be 'gawped at' by people from the outside. This is Jesus at the heart of the Trinity – at the very centre of His relationship with His Father. Jesus lets His followers know that He and the Father are one, and not only that, He invites US into this deep mystery – right to the heart of what it meant to be Jesus. Jesus was realising that the 'powers that be at the time' didn't really want to hear what He was telling them. They were either alarmed at the direct challenge He presented or made excuses for not believing in Him. Can we see ourselves here? But Jesus also knew that the wise and the learned were getting nowhere fast – in some ways a bit like our intelligentsia 'chattering' classes who tend to seek respect from their 'great' individualistic and relativistic moralising that often leave God and Jesus out of the equation (as a kind of embarrassment).

Our view through the window at Jesus' inner self shows us the attitude of a small child. You see, Jesus came to know His Father the way a son does – not by studying books about him, but by living in His presence and listening for His voice – watching and imitating. And it's here that the so-called unimportant 'little people' were leading the way; because the poor, the sinners, the tax-collectors were discovering more of God just by following Him in Jesus. Not surprising, really, is it, since, what does Jesus tell us? "Come to me all you who labour and are over-burdened and I will give you rest" and, what's more incredible is His invitation to us to accept His burden – "my yoke is easy and my burden light". Is He serious? One glimpse of Jesus' life on earth wouldn't have given us the impression it was easy, I'd have thought. So, what on earth does he mean? For those in Jesus' time, the yoke or burden would have been the burden of the Jewish Law with all its commandments and impossible demands. But Jesus offered a yoke that came from His mercy and love – one that was easy to bear. He's calling to us, in every age – inviting us to rest in His gentleness; to rest in what He has in Himself to offer. Whether we're weighed down by moral burdens, physical, psychological, emotional or financial burdens, the 'easy peace' we're going to find in Jesus springs from His own inner character – that character we see as He draws back the veil to reveal the truth about God. This is no celebrity embarrassment or curiosity peepshow; no can of worms or Pandora's Box, but a treasure chest of our deepest desires we all long for.



