

Sunday 6th March 2022

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.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

ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987 Email: office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk Principal: Mr. M. Killeen	ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL Marston Road, ST16 3BT Telephone: 01785 413275 Email: office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk Principal: Mr. M. Brandon
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TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

First Sunday of Lent

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	5 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Robert Wilson RIP
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	People of the Parish
Sun	6 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	The First Sunday of Lent	McHugh&Middleton Families
		10:00am	St Anne's		Marie Devaney (Ann)
Mon	7 th	9:30am	St Anne's	Lent Feria	Celebrant's Intention
Tue	8 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Lent Feria	Special Intention (Kevin)
Wed	9 th	10:00am	St Anne's	Communion Service	Lent Feria
Thu	10 th	9:15am	St Patrick's	Lent Feria	John Jeffrey's (Intention)
Fri	11 th	9.15am	St Anne's	Lent Feria	Anne Harvey RIP
Sat	12 th	4:00 pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Mgr. John Heslin RIP
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Mary Bamber RIP
Sun	13 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	The Second Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish
		10:00am	St Anne's		Bridie &Paddy TonerRIP

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:** Patricia Walters, Thomas McCormick, Mary Terry, Bernard Lundberg, Walter Rogers, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Colin Wise, Hal Lindop, Andrea Hulse, Winifred Meehan, Ian Burnside, Pat McDonnell, Georgina Copp.

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's] Mary Allport,. Leslie Palmer, Helena Hawkins, Ethel Berenyi, Alfred Atkinson, George Wilkinson, Keith Ward, Monica Quale, Ellen Jones, Harold Wilkes, Bernard Dempsey, Margaret Gould, Nancy Sutton, Arthur Hawkins, John Gilbert, Patricia Evans, Margaret Birtles, George Cliff, Ethel Wilkinson and Edna Perry. **[St Anne's]** Maurice Kelly, Lilian Morrisroe, Mary Orton, Eileen Richard, Kathleen Horton, Canon Larkin, Patrick McCoy, Elizabeth Walshe, Rueben Baker, Bernard Dale, Louise Keats, Vera Powell, Susanne Turner, Brian McCann, Jeremiah O'Leary and Jack Thomas.

Income 27/2/22	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£123.00	£236.44	£391.45	£750.89	Sat 44 Sun 49
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£126.30	£83.60	£149.69	£359.59	Sat 57 Sun 48

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 winners of draw on 22nd February 2022

£100 B Awty -121, £50 J Antony - 73, £20 S Freckleton - 60, £10 J Croxall - 47, £10 R Fletcher - 88, £10 M Porter - 40, £10 W Meehan - 54, £10 M Badger - 53, £10 M&S Henthorne - 89, A Russell - 52, £10 R Ayirebi - 4, £10 B Farley -131, £10 C Salt - 155.

Thank you for your support. Numbers are available at £4 per number per month. Further details from Marie 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. Those who use gift aid envelopes will find new ones for this financial year, labelled and numbered at the back of each church. Switching your giving via Standing Order mandate would be a great help also. 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*** Expenses (maintenance, consumables, utilities and fabric upkeep, not to mention health and safety) are ongoing. Very many thanks

St Anne's and St Patrick's Church maintenance: Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously. Upcoming tasks include remedial H&S work required for making St Patrick's old boiler house safe. **Important remedial work is also needed on St Patrick's upper front roof.** My grateful thanks for any donations. Fr. Bob

Sacrament of Reconciliation: If notice is given, or at convenient times, before or after Mass, we priests of Catholic Stafford will be hearing confessions as usual. Fr. Bob

Drop in at St Anne's on Wednesday mornings: All are welcome (from around 10:25am) in St Anne's Church Hall.

The recently published "Bishops' Statement: Honouring Sunday" is fundamentally asking us to consider the central importance of the meaning of Mass and the central place that Sunday -- the Eighth Day / Resurrection Day has in our Catholic Faith. So, although the obligation to attend Sunday Mass may not yet have been re-imposed, we are asked seriously about our priorities for Sunday, this special and unique day for us. Giving serious consideration as to where we place Mass attendance in the hierarchy of other Sunday activities, whether sporting, leisure, entertainment, shopping and so on should impact on the coming synodal experience and our Diocesan Vision: "Behold I am making all things new."

SECOND COLLECTION:

Up-coming Second Collections: First Sunday in Lent 5th/6th March Cathedral Maintenance
Second Sunday in Lent 12th/13th March CAFOD Lent Fast Day

Wednesday Drop in have sent £150 to CAFOD 's Ukraine appeal.

As in previous years we would like to raise some money for McMillan Cancer Care, so will be holding a raffle, selling tickets after Masses on 12/13th and 19th/20th March at St Anne's.

Please join us on Wednesday morning after the Eucharistic Service for tea, coffee and a chat.

St Anne's Choir: Do you like to sing? We would love you to come and see if it would interest you to be "one in the Spirit" here @ St Anne's. Our very small choir could do with a "little support" to be "one in the Lord". Male and female voices provide such harmony. Do come along to our meeting in church 7pm Tuesday. Even if you can just come now and then for the pleasure of singing you will be most welcome.

St Patrick's and St Anne's Music: May I ask for volunteers who attend regular Mass at both parishes (Sat or Sun) to operate our phone/Bluetooth system so that our parishes may once more sing hymns at Mass. It would be great to have a team taking care of this. I thank the two who have volunteered already, so if others could come forward and begin to form a rota it would be great. I will explain it all. Just phone/email Fr. Bob. With gratitude.

LENT: PLEASE TAKE ONE OF OUR 'COMBINED' PARISHES' PROGRAMME FOR THE LENTEN PERIOD; THEY SHOULD BE AT THE BACK OF CHURCH. A SIX WEEK PROGRAMME OF REFLECTIONS THROUGH THE AID OF DVD'S, CD'S, SPECIAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS, AND A 'THREE PARISHES PENITENTIAL SERVICE' WILL ALLOW US TO FULLY ENTER INTO THIS KEY MOMENT IN OUR CHURCH'S LIFE.

Parishioners of both St Anne's and St Patrick's are now encouraged to use our alternative email account which is: stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk (Also at the top of the bulletin)

CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY: SUPPORTING THE DIOCESAN VISION

'Cursillo' began in Spain in the 1940's, a name simply meaning 'a short course.' It has become a world-wide, tried and tested method of adult faith development. It is a way of making our discipleship effective and furthering the mission of the Church. The movement has papal approval and the support of our Archbishop. You are invited to discover Cursillo at two exciting events taking place in the next few weeks and months in our Archdiocese. If you would like to be involved in either or both of these events, and for further information, please contact: Canon Michael Leadbeater at canon.michael.leadbeater@rcaob.org.uk

3-Day Cursillo Weekend from Thursday 24th March (evening) to Sunday 27th March (afternoon). This will be held at Shallowford House, near Stafford. Experience community, formation and prayer with a warm and friendly welcome!

What's New?

Covid-19 update

Dear parishioners, we are, as we have recently heard, now free of legal restrictions, concerning the pandemic virus. This last week we received our most recent guidance from the Bishop's Conference. All restrictions have been lifted except for a small number. These naturally include the priest/minister gelling and masking when distributing communion, communion under one kind only. For Acts of Worship, the main mitigation against serious health issues arising from covid infection is to be fully vaccinated. The latest strain, Omicron, has mild symptoms. For those attending an act of worship there is no need for formal social distancing in church buildings, although masks MAY be worn if preferred.

The great news is that Parish Social Activities can resume. So, bearing in mind the above, I would like to ask both parishes to consider resuming these important aspects of parish life:

Altar Servers returning to the sanctuary (Both St Patrick's and St Anne's) [This can happen now]

Refreshments after Sunday Mass

Expanding our teams of readers

Reconstituting our parishes' social team for organising future events

Forming a parish 'Liturgy Team' to help priest in organising principal calendar celebrations such as Easter etc.

Building up our choir and musicians for regular liturgy. [This can start happening now]

****On the above points, would any parishioners from the two parishes like to be part of a team offering refreshments after Sunday Mass? If so, please see Fr. Bob if you have any ideas to share.***

Stafford Walsingham Association

For many years the Stafford Walsingham Association arranged a yearly pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Now restrictions have been lifted, we are hoping to revive this in 2022 and invite anyone in our three parishes to become a member. Every third Saturday, a Votive Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham will be held. We hope to begin this from May. During the Mass, we shall offer the Litany of OLW, praying that Our Lady will, as the prayer says, 'look down in mercy upon England thy Dowry and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee.' As membership of the Association is open to anyone within our three

parishes, the Mass will alternate between the three churches. If you would like to be a member of the Walsingham Association, please fill in one of the forms at the back of church and return it to the Presbytery.

North Staffs Vocations Promotions Group (Chalice Programme):

You are most welcome to join us as we all come together to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. The following will be held at The Church of the Immaculate Conception and St Dominic, Station Road, Stone ST15 8YG:

Holy Mass for Vocations Celebrated by Fr. Marco Egawhary, Thursday March 31st, 6:00pm

24 Hours For the Lord Devotion and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction and opportunity for Confession, will be available in the twenty-four hours between noon midday on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th March. This is the 24 hours immediately prior to the Fourth Sunday of Lent. (The times and venues will be advertised to all parishes in due course.

END NOTE: As baptised committed Christians now entering upon our most important and sustaining Liturgical journeys (and also within our renewed sense of freedom); a journey that draws us into the very heart of the Paschal Mystery of Christ, let us all focus our prayers on the re-energising of our parish communities. Even given the two years of disruption affecting aspects of our worship, there has been, as we are acutely aware, a steady dropping-off of those who helped fill the church at weekends. We can never overstate the vital importance of assembling as community around the Eucharistic Table of the Lord and this essentially involves families. I am sure most of us know of families and family members and friends who seem to be conspicuous by their absence over time. Shall we spend this Lenten period holding up to Jesus those we know and love; that they may once again discover the gentle voice of the Lord calling them back home within a chaotic and confused world of false promises. Prayer really does 'move mountains', but we need to believe it.
F. Bob