

Sunday 6th June 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

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ.

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	5 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Patty Tiernan RIP
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Theresa Del Pizzo RIP
Sun	6 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Solemnity of the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ	Eddie Lennon RIP (25 th Ann)
		10:00am	St Anne's		Lea Panzavecchia RIP & Rodger Whitefield RIP
Mon	7 th	9:30am	St Anne's	Feria	David Harwar RIP
		12 Noon	St Patrick's	Funeral Service for Bernard Tallent	
Tue	8 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Feria	John Pettit RIP
Wed	9 th	No Mass	St Anne's	Feria	
Thu	10 th	6:30pm	St Patrick's	Feria	Private Intention
Fri	11 th	6:30pm	St Anne's	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	Solemnity Hilary Glover RIP
Sat	12 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	People of the Parish
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Celebrant's Intention
Sun	13 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Eleventh Sunday of the Year	Cecilia & Gerald Jelfs RIP
		10:00am	St Anne's		Rodger Whitefield 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 Likenny. 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] Kathleen Bacon, Margaret Deaville, Dorothy Dolphin, Florence Lakin, Constance Bickley, Matthew Melvin, Ronald O'Brien, Francis Ashun, Mary Perry, Leslie Jackson, Frederick McGarry, Noreen Chance, Albert Terrie, Ethel Mayhew, Joan Creamer and William Unsworth. [St Anne's] Stephen Fulton, Katherine Ilsley, Evelyn Rimmer, Clara Rushton, Gladys Wolveson, Jack Cheetham, Agnes Pearce, John Sandy, Hilary Glover, Maurice Vincent Jones, Geoff Owen, Stephen Wright and Dorothy Bilton.

Income 23/5/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£120.00	£287.50	£283.84	£691.34	Sat 50 Sun 53
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£102.00	£199.90	£146.23	£448.13	Sat 36 Sun 37

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 30th May 2021

£100 C Whitehall – 100, £50 M Badger – 53, £20 A Bindu – 92, £10 J Croxall – 47, £10 Lennon Family – 57, £10 C Tomlinson – 50, £10 C McHugh – 2, £10 M Owen – 122, £10 J Antony – 73, £10 M Simpson – 36, £10 J Stamyard – 64, £10 C McHugh – 39.

Thank you for your support. A lot of numbers are available at only £4 per number each 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 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.

Future Dates to Note: CONFIRMATIONS take place for St Anne's candidates on Wednesday 16th June
And for St Patrick's candidates on Monday 21st June
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION will take place on Saturday 26th June for St Patrick's (Yrs 3 & 4)
And on Saturday 3rd July for St Anne's (Yrs 3 & 4)
MASS TO COMMEMORATE THE LOCAL MARTYR, BLESSED ROBERT SUTTON: Saturday 17th July 11:00am at St Thomas Mill.

Our Deceased: Please pray **Bernard Tallent** and **Eleanor Bridget O'Sullivan**, of St Patrick's, and **Joan Bullock** of St Anne's, who have died recently. We remember their families at this time. **Bernard's** Funeral service will be at St Patrick's on **Monday 7th June at 12 Noon**. *May Bernard, Eleanor and Joan rest in peace and rise in glory.*

School Governors: St Patrick's School is in need of **Foundation Governors**, which is why we are making this appeal. If any parishioner might feel they could fulfil this important role please approach/phone Fr. Bob (**parish phone or email**). Alternatively, contact St Patrick's School (413275). Many thanks in anticipation.

The Year of St Joseph. During the month of May we honoured Our Lady in St Anne's and St Patrick's. 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 sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. 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

Training Workshops for Readers:

Saturday 19th June St Anne's 12 noon

Tuesday 22nd June St Anne's 7 pm

Wednesday 23rd June St Patrick's 7 pm

(Each workshop will be identical to give opportunity for everyone to get to one).

What we will do:

Basics of reading in public-posture, use of diction etc. We will practice these skills.

Consideration of the privilege and reality of being a reader, what it is to stand before the people of God to bring God's word. A brief shared reading of scripture.

Please contact the church office or Deacon Mike on 07706077124 to say which is your preference of date.

Hednesford Pilgrimage 2021: Our second event involving parishioners from Hednesford and surrounding area: **Mass for the Diocesan Pilgrimage.** Bishop Stephen Wright will say Mass at the shrine on **Sunday June 20th at 3pm.** The Mass will be filmed and posted online on **Sunday July 4th** in place of the Diocesan Pilgrimage Mass. If you would like to actually come to the shrine, book a place by ringing 01543 422576 or emailing lol.hednesford@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.*

DIOCESAN VISION: Unfolding God's Plan. We are pleased to let you know that **next weekend (12/13 June)** a Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard will be read out/or made available at all Masses. This letter is focused on the Diocesan Vision: Unfolding God's Plan. The Archbishop will introduce the Vision and how we intend to move forward as an Archdiocese over the coming years. As we make a fresh beginning after more than a year of lockdowns and restrictions, our aim is for clergy and the lay faithful to work closely to create vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour. The letter will be accompanied by a prayer card and will also be available in audio and video format via the diocesan website, for which details will be given next week.

HOMILY FOR CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY

'His blood be on us and on our children'. We hear this, don't we, on Passion Sunday in the year of Matthew; 27:25. And so much has been written about this cry from the Jewish crowd that we could fill a library. Tragically, it has been wrongly interpreted down the ages, in some quarters as origin and part of the infamous 'blood libel' attributed to the Jewish people, with momentous historical consequences. The symbolism of blood in the Old testament is so rich in its meaning, and because Christ's 'Passover' - His passion and death and resurrection, is so powerfully linked with Exodus 12:13, we need to begin with that incredible night of salvation for the Israelites in Egypt. This is because we can only understand 'Corpus Christi' (or Body of Christ) when we see blood sacrifice as a necessary part of our Eucharist. Eucharist means thanks giving and at Mass, in the heart of the Eucharist, we give thanks to our Saviour for the shedding of His blood and how that blood became the eternal life running through our life and sustaining us through our journey home to our Father.

Way back, throughout the history of humanity, once a people arrived at a belief in a deity or supreme being, they had to find a way of placating or responding to it. And what developed over time was sacrifice. 'Sacrum facere' means to make something sacred, in other words, to remove it from everyday life and dedicate it specially for the supreme being. Some form of food was chosen to represent life and, more often as not, this was some animal. So, if this was the case, then the animal's blood began to play an important part of the sacrifice and two very important rituals developed; the sprinkling of people with the animal's blood and the sacrificial meal. Those who took part in a particular sacrifice were sprinkled with blood, indicating they had taken part in the sacrifice; and, importantly, that they'd sealed their 'covenant' with their god. It was after sprinkling with blood that the people had their sacrificial meal as if their 'god' sat down at table with them, because those who shared a covenant meal together were bound in a very sacred bond. Now for the Jewish people, Yahweh's chosen nation, this basic human ritual sacrifice had a special depth of meaning; and this is precisely because of their belief that God had chosen them to share in a special covenant relationship. For us to fully understand how God's chosen people saw themselves we need to go back to that defining night in Egypt when they were led out of the centuries of slavery endured by them and their ancestors. This unique encounter with God was the beginning of their painful birth into a nation of their own.

Although, in our Gospel today, Mark links up his account of the Last Supper with the Passover background, it was on the very day "when the Passover lamb was sacrificed", at this meal there was no lamb mentioned. Clearly, we know that in the Last Supper the 'body' that would be given up in sacrifice would be Jesus' own body. The blood that will ratify the covenant is His own blood. So what Jesus really did at this supper was to anticipate His sacrificial death and rising – not in the smoke of burnt animals, but in His return to the Father. And this shift in the nature of slaughter and sacrifice is shown in the early Church; when we hear, in Hebrews, that the one sacrifice of Jesus was perfect. Now, there's no longer any need for the blood of goats or bull calves or the ashes of heifers because the blood of Jesus Christ represented the perfect sacrifice to the Father. So, on that fateful Good Friday, when Pilate washes his hands, none of us thinks for a moment that he is any less guilty. The point is not that guilt is transferred to the crowd, and to their children – these children would grow up to be cut down or crucified by Pilate's successors as Jerusalem lurched towards its final downfall. No, for Matthew, all are guilty including us and the rest of sinful humanity.

As the Christian community, we see the inner meaning of sacrifice and how it leads us to praise and thanks to God. This is the true meaning of Eucharist and it is the Eucharist that will nourish us in our hunger and longing for our heavenly home.