

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 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.stpatricksstafford.co.uk](http://www.stpatricksstafford.co.uk)

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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**

<b>ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987 Email: <a href="mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk">office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk</a> Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen	<b>ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> Marston Road, ST16 3BT Telephone: 01785 413275 Email: <a href="mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk">office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk</a> Principal: Mr. M. Brandon
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### **TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK**

#### **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	5 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Bridget McKenna & Andy Stewart RIP
Sun	6 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am 11:15am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year	Colin Atherton People of the Parish
Mon	7 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Anne's	Feria	DamianMcKinlay(Birthday)
Tue	8 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Patrick's	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Feast Patty TiernanRIP
Wed	9 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass		Feria	
Thu	10 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Patrick's	Feria	Peggy Toner RIP
Fri	11 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Anne's	Feria	Thanksgiving for P & J
Sat	12 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Private Intention
Sun	13 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am 11:15am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year	People of the Parish Mgr. Louis McRaye RIP

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

**Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time:** *[St. Patrick's]* John Breen, Dorothy Goodall, Martha Figel, William Millward, Bernard Gunn Julie O'Doherty Vanessa Traversari, Norma Dodd, Patrick Porter, Mary Mason and Maud Gosling.. *St. Anne's* Thomas Fenton, Peter Gough, Harold Nelson, Anne Nelson, Marie Smith, Mabil Austin, Rosemary Mitcherson and Donald Skeen.

**Prayers for the sick:** *St Patrick's* Phylis Bowers, 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 30 Aug	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£34.00	£235.86	£283.84	£553.70	85
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£98.50	£110.80	£146.23	£355.53	41
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*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](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk)**

**Parish Tote 150 Club August Winners** £100 M Harwood – 104, £50 K Owen – 82, £20 E Reck – 42, £10 T Lawrance – 129, £10 K Johnson – 70, £10 P Harland – 96, £10 F Russell – 127, £10 A Rutledge – 135, £10 A Russell – 52, £10 Fr Bob – 72, £10 M Massey – 154.

Thank you for your support. We are now up to date with the draws. A lot of numbers are available at only £4 per number per month. Further details from Marie on 01785 661012.

***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. 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. Now that we have started public Masses once more, there will be large collection bins placed on entry and exit\****

***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. A significant amount of unavoidable remedial work is also planned shortly for St Anne's church roof, 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 to please help in any amount you can afford. Very many thanks***

***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?) Now, because we are in a sort of 'fluid' time in terms of medium term commitment, I will publish the times of Masses weekly since there will be occasional alterations and gaps. Below are the times and venues: (Looking two weeks ahead) including the schedule of Masses for St Austin's.***

### **St Anne's Roof Appeal**



Leaking church roofs sound like a cliché, don't they? But certainly in our case, the situation is a reality. For quite some time now (year in year out) we have pondered how best to solve St Anne's leaking roof problem, from various 'patching' solutions to full re-roofing! However, it has been decided that we can't ignore it any longer. It would be a neglect of duty of care for our parish fabric. So, having sought a wide range of advice it has been decided that the best and most cost-effective way forward is to undertake a comprehensive 'remedial' repair project on the whole of the lower tier roof. It is in fact this aspect which has caused the most alarming revelations and internal problems. It is hoped that the work will commence within the next few weeks, well before 'winter' weather arrives! [Although, can we tell the difference?] I am appealing for any donations St Anne's community can generously donate to this work, since we are looking at a sum approaching £10,000. There will be two special boxes at the entrance and exit of the church dedicated to this special fund; so we can at least make a start. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. I am very conscious of the straitened times we are living through at present.

F. Bob

***St Patrick's:*** We are now using a 'track & trace' system so that we satisfy the governmental advice in regard to tracing contacts attending public gathering settings. All you will need to do is to provide your name and contact number to one of the stewards as you come into church. It will be extremely simple. St Anne's and St Austin's already have such a routine. Many thanks for your co-operation.

## **MASSES**

**SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup> September 6:00pm St Anne's**

**SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> September 9:30am St Patrick's  
11:15am St Anne's**

**MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> September 9:30am St Anne's**

**TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> September 9:30am St Patrick's**

**THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> September 6:30pm St  
Patrick's**

**FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup> September 6:30pm St Anne's**

## **FOLLOWING WEEK:**

**SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup> September 6:00pm St Anne's**

**SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> September 9:30am St Anne's  
11:15am St Patrick's**

**MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> September 9:30am St Anne's**

**TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> September 9:30am St Patrick's**

**THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> September 6:30pm St Patrick's**

**FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> September 6:30pm St Anne's**

[St Austin's Parish](#) [Masses]

SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 10:30am

WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 7:00pm

FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 7:00pm

(FOLLOWING WEEK)

SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 10:30am

WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 7:00pm

FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 7:00pm

[Fr. Michael will be streaming his Masses  
on the other days also.]

*The most important 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. The sensible (distancing) capacity of each church is 50, 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 as a church venue need to have a safe cleaning regime.*

*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. 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. From the outset, I offer my humblest apology for potential situations that may arise. 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. There will be a Mass on another day of the week that will be able to accommodate.*

## **HOMILY FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

"Am I my brother's keeper?" We know where this came from, don't we? Genesis after the Fall lays out our condition beautifully. What we are now, what we were thousands of years ago and what we'll be in thousands of years to come is encapsulated in that story of our beginnings and its consequences. It's a story we should come back to over and over again, really – after all, we're IN it! The 'blame game', envy and murder are all there; stark and for all of us to understand. Eve blames the serpent, Adam blames Eve, their offspring show typical sibling rivalry and Cain murders Abel because he thinks he isn't loved. The

thing is, once Cain is confronted, his attitude is a 'shrug of the shoulders' as if to say: "What's my brother got to do with me?" Well, quite a lot, actually. And that applies to us as well whenever we shrug at many of the world's problems and reassure ourselves with the attitude of "What can I do about that? – It's tough, but it's a different world."

If we want to try and throw some light on this issue then I think it's necessary to understand what it really means to be 'my brother's or my sister's keeper'. I mean, how involved do we become? Now to be honest, I suppose, we do have a pretty good understanding about how we're to treat others; not only from what we hear in the Gospels and Jesus' fundamental message, but also what we feel in our hearts anyway. Because, unless we're full of hate, or we're totally cold, or psychopathic, we aren't going to walk by someone who's obviously in need of urgent help – and I mean URGENT. And we'll also probably give to charitable causes. That's the easy bit, though. Our charity, in this sense, might ease our conscience in regard to the general, anonymous 'world out there', and there's no doubt that it does material good obviously. But our readings today – both the first reading from Ezekiel and Matthew's Gospel – take us deeper, and in a sense, 'closer to home'. And this is where we might apply the term TOUGH LOVE.

The prophet Ezekiel is appointed by God to be a 'sentry' – in other words to make sure the people of the House of Israel don't come to any harm. So, who's going to harm them? Ezekiel couldn't possibly defend them from an EXTERNAL enemy or army, so the harm that's at issue here is the harm the House of Israel will do to themselves. And this is where 'tough love' comes in. And, boy, is it hard? Ezekiel must have baulked at what he was asked to do – and so would we, I bet. Most prophets received a lot of abuse for warning people about their behaviour and the lives they lead. But these are God's chosen people and Ezekiel is one of them. It's the hardest thing in the world to criticise those closest to us and those within our own Christian church community – and by criticise we mean sitting down with them (face to face) and in a spirit of love and care, help them to see the error of their ways.

If we think about this, there are probably two main reasons why we probably don't want to confront those close to us or those who profess the same faith. Firstly, we don't want to be re-butted with those two magic words and be on the receiving end of their anger (a bit like a prophet). And, secondly, we might be afraid of offending the person or create an embarrassing situation. We're also very aware (or should be) of our own failings and weaknesses. So, if we're left with the feeling that these readings today are just too difficult to follow then we should take heart in what Jesus says "If two or three of you meet in my name, then I shall be there with you". In other words, whether approaching a straying brother or sister is made alone or with others, it's got to be part of prayer in action. Because any confrontation can only be made in a true spirit of prayer and the humility to accept that none of us are perfect, Courage, trust, and above all, love have all got to be there amongst us. Jesus, Emmanuel, is with His disciples (which include us) who live the life of CARE and PRAYER.

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*On 26-27 September weekend, the second collection bin will be for Father Hudson's Care to support their mission of supporting vulnerable people across the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Father Hudson's reaches out to people of all ages who need support at times of adversity. Please Call 01675 434000 if you would like to donate outside of Mass this year. Please give generously to this worthy cause.*

#### END NOTE

It was good to know that both our schools returned to their proper roles once again. We hope and pray that their new routines may settle down into a daily reality that pupils, staff and parents may find reassuring. So, for our schools' communities and also, importantly, for our parishes' communities, let's 'hold our heads up', live true lives of faith and enjoy the opportunities we are given, and, of course, place our hands in the one who never fails to guide our steps.