



**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 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)

Email: [stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

#### **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)

Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

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#### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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		<u>St Anne's</u>	<u>St Patrick's</u>	<u>St Austin's</u>
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## HOMILY FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Over the last few years there has been an immense increase in the popularity of DNA Ancestry tracing and discovering family trees. Many of us wonder where we are in a particular family of ancestors and who we may have been related to way back in history. 'Who do we think we are?' (as a favourite TV programme was entitled). I think it has to do with our deep and primordial longing to belong; to have an identity and to recognise ourselves as part of a particular group. None of us like being in a state of abandonment or wilderness or isolation; in any of the forms we can imagine. That's the reason we find the stories of abandoned babies or children so heart-rending. Their blood families are totally unknown, and in past centuries there would have been no way of finding any relations. But history has taught us how incredible our human nature is, because even in such sad situations, adopted and institutionalised youngsters have come through and survived.

One immensely encouraging reality of our faith is that God is within us, as He has always been, and has never left us. He never abandoned Adam and Eve but made them clothes and gave them redemptive hope. We may have been banished from the Garden of Eden but we were never cut off from God's home; which is nothing but His loving heart. That's where our true home lies and it's where our true roots exist; and it may explain why and how those who have been abandoned by others, in this fallen broken world, survive and can often thrive. A special grace gives them a glimpse of their eternal home, with an ancestry that goes far deeper in time and space than any family tree we could ever construct or trace in this life. In fact, both Isaiah, in our first reading, and the Gospel of Mark lays out our homecoming and our destiny wonderfully.

If we wish to see an example of an "apparently" abandoned outsider existing in the wilderness, then we have John the Baptist who challenges the people's expectations as well as how they lived out God's will. He's a man from outside the system, beyond the edges of 'civilisation'; uncompromising and challenging and he dared to speak of SIN. How often do we hear that word in our media or polite conversation? And yet, unless sin is addressed then we have no hope of being able to celebrate a saving reality that breaks into our childishness. The event related in Mark amazingly had a stunning effect on the people. All Judea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him! This is because, as they listened to the Baptist, each person got in touch with his or her 'primitive' self; that primordial centre of our being where our creator is truly imminent and which is nothing but the core, epicentre and origin of our very being, our existence. No hiding place here, because our primitive self, which had long been hidden under the expectations of etiquette and 'civilisation', is exposed in all its rawness. That voice of John crying out from the wild called up his listeners' own untamed forces showing up their inner contradictions. We can recognise all this, can't we? It is from the dark, untamed areas within us that all the monsters of life emerge (too many and too horrific to name). But in John the Baptist's preaching the people found the courage to be honest, and honesty is the key. Honesty is provided by God's grace and it opens up our way back 'home'. Why is this? – because Mark himself entitles his Gospel as 'the beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, Son of God'. This good news is, for us, the promise of our long-awaited journey back home; back through all the 'branches' of our 'family' trees (known or unknown), home to our roots and origin. Our self-sufficient pride, obstinacy, opaqueness, and false ambitions have always prevented us from finding our way home. No matter what cruelties, of exclusion, banishment and marginal categories, our world and its 'centrifugal' nature throws at us, the centripetal pull of God's inner life will always overpower it. This is the essence of salvation.

Who, then, will be able to celebrate Christmas? Those who, in Advent, admit their primitive untamed areas; their sinfulness. This is at the heart of salvation for us.



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Email: [office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

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**Friends of the Holy Land:** We have now entered the season of **Advent** during which we usually have Crib Donations for **Friends of the Holy Land**. This year has been particularly 'ruthless' for them in terms of lack of pilgrims (especially during this coming Christmas period when Bethlehem would normally be packed) and lack of sales for their wonderful artefacts etc. We will be arranging for this year's Crib donations from the First Sunday of Advent, through to the Christmas period, but of course our lockdown may interfere with this. Just drop off at the presbytery if you wish. However, you can donate through their website (where our Christian brothers and sisters' desperate situation is made evident). It is: <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk> . Any amount of assistance would be very welcome. Many thanks

**Women's Refuge (gifts for the Christmas Tree):** As usual, we will focus our gifts for the refuge but this year we will offer donations in form of cash or vouchers (supermarket). I have ordered two trees (smaller ones) for both churches and, rather than present bulky gifts [such as bedding, towels etc.] the Refuge would really appreciate vouchers because it eliminates the need for storage, which becomes more problematic in these times. We are now back in church from **3<sup>rd</sup> December and will include the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent.** Vouchers or cash in envelopes can always be left at the presbytery and I shall place them under the trees. Mark them either St Anne or St Patrick. Many Thanks

The **SOWER:** The latest edition of this well produced archdiocesan periodical is available at the back of each church. Please help yourselves; many interesting articles concerning our archdiocese are to be found.

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Email: [office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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We all know that the Christmas celebration period will seem very strange this year in its family context [three households] but our parishes intend to provide **Christmas Masses for Catholic** **Stafford.** We are planning to offer Christmas vigil Masses in each parish church (one early, one later) and Christmas Morning Masses in each parish **LOOK BELOW:** The



**great news is that no matter what tier our town is in, Masses can still go ahead just as they did before Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. One important question I must ask our present volunteers of cleaners and stewards at St Anne's and St Patrick's is whether you will be available over the Christmas Eve or morning, or both. But, any parishioner who is 'able' may offer their assistance in cleaning a bench or chairs after Mass they attend. (Many hands make light work).**

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Unfortunately, due to the workable 'maximum' capacity of each church and the impossibility of trying to estimate the numbers for each Mass, we are having a booking system. We have one dedicated mobile number specifically for our Christmas Masses **(07856918465)** Please either call or text leaving your name, contact no., the Mass you wish to book and the total number in your group (including yourself). The phone is checked every evening and any bookings recorded. No bookings can be made by email. This sort of arrangement goes against our way of doing things, doesn't it, but sadly, **TO KEEP WITHIN LAWFUL GUIDELINES, WE HAVE TO WATCH NUMBERS.** Be assured that if, during the coming weeks, if places are booked and demand is high, extra Masses may be put on Christmas Morning. **With this in mind, it may mean that some may have to attend a different Mass – maybe a later one on Christmas Eve or even coming on Christmas Day. Also, it's a chance for us to remember that each day of the Christmas Octave week is really an extended Christmas Day!** Very Many thanks for your understanding. (Very important end note: we three parishes are appealing for as many stewards and cleaners as possible over these two days of Masses, so please, please indicate, by phone, email, or text, what Masses you might attend, and also if you could help in a neighbouring parish). Many thanks to all who do so much, but we do need extra hands for Christmas.

All our churches will be open 30 minutes before each Mass begins and we would encourage people to arrive early. This enables the stewards to show you to your seats, avoiding last minute rushes. Details for the Track and Trace will have already been collected via the booking system.

Sadly, because of restrictions, the Christmas Masses won't have any congregational singing.

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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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Email: [office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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Marston Road, ST16 3BT

Telephone: 01785 413275

Email: [office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk)

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### **St Anne's Roof Appeal (Update)**

*The remedial work to the lower roof has now been completed.* We are appealing for any donations St Anne's community can donate to this work; my humble appreciation to those who have already given so generously; we are gradually on our way - looking at a sum approaching £10,000. (We are well over a third of the way there). Next year we plan to try to remedy ongoing problems to the upper roof. Two special baskets are at the entrance and exit of the church dedicated to this special fund. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. I am very conscious of the straitened

**Return to Public Masses:** Now, public Masses can resume so you will notice the return of Mass times. Our Mass schedule will return to what it was before Nov 5<sup>th</sup>.

We all know that the Christmas celebration period will seem very strange this year in its family context [three households] but our parishes intend to **Stafford**. We are planning to offer Christmas



early, one later) and Christmas Morning **LOOK BELOW:** The great news is that no matter what tier our town is in, Masses can still go ahead just as they did before Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. One important question I must ask our present volunteers of cleaners and stewards at St Anne's and St Patrick's is whether you will be available over the Christmas Eve or morning, or both. But, any parishioner who is 'able' may offer their assistance in cleaning a bench or chairs after Mass they attend. (Many hands make light work).

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:****Catholic Stafford**

		<u>St Anne's</u>	<u>St Patrick's</u>	<u>St Austin's</u>
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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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Email: [stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk)

**Parish Administrator: Father Robert Devaney - Parish Secretary: Marie Badger**

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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)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

#### **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)

Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

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**Parish Tote 150 Club October 2020 Winners.** Thank you for your support. There are a lot of numbers 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*

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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

## Weekly Newsletter

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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)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

#### **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)

Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

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Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
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		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Fr. Robert Wright RIP
Sun	13 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	St Patrick's	Third Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
		9:30am	St Anne's		Celebrant's Intention

#### **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 **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]* Jane McDonald, Brian Begley, Tony Ruttledge, Elizabeth Bance, Michael Collins, Ronald Betteridge, Frederick Cartwright, Wasyl Bojczuk, Maurice McCarthy, Gertrude Garibaldi, Honora Passey, Anthony Josephs, Elizabeth McGreery, George Foster, William O'Neill, Valentine O'Toole, Elizabeth Harrison, Catherine Delaney and Stanislaw Gizynski. *[St Anne's]* Kathleen Bullock, Violet Donohoe, Edward Smith, Samuel Stott, Stephen Wright, Tom Curran, John Usher, Jean Kennelly, Crisanto Delgado, John Kelly, George Kenny, Eric Nixon, Monica Orton, Gertrude Rice and Pauline Sandy.

Income	Nov	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's		Offertory	£	£	£283.84	£	Sat Sun
St. Patrick's		Offertory	£	£	£146.23	£	Sat Sun

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Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987

Email: [office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

#### **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)

Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

### **TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK**

#### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	5 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Bob & Damian
		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	People of the Parish
Sun	6 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	St Patrick's	Second Sunday of Advent	Tony Ruttledge (1 <sup>st</sup> Ann.)
		9:30am	St Anne's		John Devaney RIP
Mon	7 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		St Ambrose	Memoria Intentions of Anne & John Murphy & Family
Tue	8 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Immaculate Conception of BVM	Solemnity Kitty Daly RIP
Wed	9 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass			Advent Feria
Thu	10 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Patrick's		Advent Feria Paul Nolan & Family
Fri	11 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Anne's		Advent Feria Peggy Toner RIP
Sat	12 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Intentions of May Galvin
		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Fr. Robert Wright RIP
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Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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Marston Road, ST16 3BT

Telephone: 01785 413275

Email: [office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk)

Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

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Who, then, will be able to celebrate Christmas? Those who, in Advent, admit their primitive untamed areas; their sinfulness. This is at the heart of salvation for us.



**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 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)

Email: [stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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**Women's Refuge (gifts for the Christmas Tree):** As usual, we will focus our gifts for the refuge but this year we will offer donations in form of cash or vouchers (supermarket). I have ordered two trees (smaller ones) for both churches and, rather than present bulky gifts [such as bedding, towels etc.] the Refuge would really appreciate vouchers because it eliminates the need for storage, which becomes more problematic in these times. We are now back in church from 3<sup>rd</sup> December and will include the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent. Vouchers or cash in envelopes can always be left at the presbytery and I shall place them under the trees. Mark them either St Anne or St Patrick. Many Thanks

The **SOWER:** The latest edition of this well produced archdiocesan periodical is available at the back of each church. Please help yourselves; many interesting articles concerning our archdiocese are to be found.

## HOMILY FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Over the last few years there has been an immense increase in the popularity of DNA Ancestry tracing and discovering family trees. Many of us wonder where we are in a particular family of ancestors and who we may have been related to way back in history. 'Who do we think we are?' (as a favourite TV programme was entitled). I think it has to do with our deep and primordial longing to belong; to have an identity and to recognise ourselves as part of a particular group. None of us like being in a state of abandonment or wilderness or isolation; in any of the forms we can imagine. That's the reason we find the stories of abandoned babies or children so heart-rending. Their blood families are totally unknown, and in past centuries there would have been no way of finding any relations. But history has taught us how incredible our human nature is, because even in such sad situations, adopted and institutionalised youngsters have come through and survived.

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Email: [office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

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Unfortunately, due to the workable 'maximum' capacity of each church and the impossibility of trying to estimate the numbers for each Mass, we are having a booking system. We have one dedicated mobile number specifically for our Christmas Masses **(07856918465)** Please either call or text leaving your name, contact no., the Mass you wish to book and the total number in your group (including yourself). The phone is checked every evening and any bookings recorded. No bookings can be made by email. This sort of arrangement goes against our way of doing things, doesn't it, but sadly, **TO KEEP WITHIN LAWFUL GUIDELINES, WE HAVE TO WATCH NUMBERS.** Be assured that if, during the coming weeks, if places are booked and demand is high, extra Masses may be put on Christmas Morning. **With this in mind, it may mean that some may have to attend a different Mass – maybe a later one on Christmas Eve or even coming on Christmas Day. Also, it's a chance for us to remember that each day of the Christmas Octave week is really an extended Christmas Day!** Very Many thanks for your understanding. (Very important end note: we three parishes are appealing for as many stewards and cleaners as possible over these two days of Masses, so please, please indicate, by phone, email, or text, what Masses you might attend, and also if you could help in a neighbouring parish). Many thanks to all who do so much, but we do need extra hands for Christmas.

All our churches will be open 30 minutes before each Mass begins and we would encourage people to arrive early. This enables the stewards to show you to your seats, avoiding last minute rushes. Details for the Track and Trace will have already been collected via the booking system.

Sadly, because of restrictions, the Christmas Masses won't have any congregational singing.

**Poor Mission Fund:** This Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec, The Second in Advent, is our scheduled second collection for the poor parishes of the diocese. Archbishop Bernard has asked if we could make a special effort in donating to this urgent cause. It is hoped that the collection can proceed because public Masses will have been allowed from 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Many Thanks.

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Email: [office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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Telephone: 01785 413275

Email: [office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk)

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### **St Anne's Roof Appeal (Update)**

***The remedial work to the lower roof has now been completed.** We are appealing for any donations St Anne's community can donate to this work; my humble appreciation to those who have already given so generously; we are gradually on our way - looking at a sum approaching £10,000. (We are well over a third of the way there). Next year we plan to try to remedy ongoing problems to the upper roof. Two special baskets are at the entrance and exit of the church dedicated to this special fund. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. I am very conscious of the straitened*

**Return to Public Masses:** Now, public Masses can resume so you will notice the return of Mass times. Our Mass schedule will return to what it was before Nov 5<sup>th</sup>.

We all know that the Christmas celebration period will seem very strange this year in its family context [three households] but our parishes intend to provide **Christmas Masses for Catholic** **Stafford.** We are planning to offer Christmas vigil Masses in each parish church (one early, one later) and Christmas Morning Masses in each parish **LOOK BELOW:** The



**great news is that no matter what tier our town is in, Masses can still go ahead just as they did before Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. One important question I must ask our present volunteers of cleaners and stewards at St Anne's and St Patrick's is whether you will be available over the Christmas Eve or morning, or both. But, any parishioner who is 'able' may offer their assistance in cleaning a bench or chairs after Mass they attend. (Many hands make light work).**

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:****Catholic Stafford**

		<u>St Anne's</u>	<u>St Patrick's</u>	<u>St Austin's</u>
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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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**Parish Administrator: Father Robert Devaney - Parish Secretary: Marie Badger**

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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)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

#### **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)

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**Parish Tote 150 Club October 2020 Winners.** Thank you for your support. There are a lot of numbers 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*

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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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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)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

#### **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)

Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

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Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
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		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Fr. Robert Wright RIP
Sun	13 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	St Patrick's	Third Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
		9:30am	St Anne's		Celebrant's Intention

#### **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 **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]* Jane McDonald, Brian Begley, Tony Ruttledge, Elizabeth Bance, Michael Collins, Ronald Betteridge, Frederick Cartwright, Wasyl Bojczuk, Maurice McCarthy, Gertrude Garibaldi, Honora Passey, Anthony Josephs, Elizabeth McGreery, George Foster, William O'Neill, Valentine O'Toole, Elizabeth Harrison, Catherine Delaney and Stanislaw Gizynski. *[St Anne's]* Kathleen Bullock, Violet Donohoe, Edward Smith, Samuel Stott, Stephen Wright, Tom Curran, John Usher, Jean Kennelly, Crisanto Delgado, John Kelly, George Kenny, Eric Nixon, Monica Orton, Gertrude Rice and Pauline Sandy.

Income	Nov	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's		Offertory	£	£	£283.84	£	Sat Sun
St. Patrick's		Offertory	£	£	£146.23	£	Sat Sun

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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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**Parish Administrator: Father Robert Devaney - Parish Secretary: Marie Badger**

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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)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

#### **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)

Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

### **TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK**

#### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	5 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Bob & Damian
		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	People of the Parish
Sun	6 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	St Patrick's	Second Sunday of Advent	Tony Ruttledge (1 <sup>st</sup> Ann.)
		9:30am	St Anne's		John Devaney RIP
Mon	7 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		St Ambrose	Memoria Intentions of Anne & John Murphy & Family
Tue	8 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Immaculate Conception of BVM	Solemnity Kitty Daly RIP
Wed	9 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass			Advent Feria
Thu	10 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Patrick's		Advent Feria Paul Nolan & Family
Fri	11 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Anne's		Advent Feria Peggy Toner RIP
Sat	12 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Intentions of May Galvin
		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Fr. Robert Wright RIP
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Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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Marston Road, ST16 3BT

Telephone: 01785 413275

Email: [office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk)

Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

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Who, then, will be able to celebrate Christmas? Those who, in Advent, admit their primitive untamed areas; their sinfulness. This is at the heart of salvation for us.



**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 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)

Email: [stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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Email: [office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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**Women's Refuge (gifts for the Christmas Tree):** As usual, we will focus our gifts for the refuge but this year we will offer donations in form of cash or vouchers (supermarket). I have ordered two trees (smaller ones) for both churches and, rather than present bulky gifts [such as bedding, towels etc.] the Refuge would really appreciate vouchers because it eliminates the need for storage, which becomes more problematic in these times. We are now back in church from 3<sup>rd</sup> December and will include the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent. Vouchers or cash in envelopes can always be left at the presbytery and I shall place them under the trees. Mark them either St Anne or St Patrick. Many Thanks

The **SOWER:** The latest edition of this well produced archdiocesan periodical is available at the back of each church. Please help yourselves; many interesting articles concerning our archdiocese are to be found.

## HOMILY FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Over the last few years there has been an immense increase in the popularity of DNA Ancestry tracing and discovering family trees. Many of us wonder where we are in a particular family of ancestors and who we may have been related to way back in history. 'Who do we think we are?' (as a favourite TV programme was entitled). I think it has to do with our deep and primordial longing to belong; to have an identity and to recognise ourselves as part of a particular group. None of us like being in a state of abandonment or wilderness or isolation; in any of the forms we can imagine. That's the reason we find the stories of abandoned babies or children so heart-rending. Their blood families are totally unknown, and in past centuries there would have been no way of finding any relations. But history has taught us how incredible our human nature is, because even in such sad situations, adopted and institutionalised youngsters have come through and survived.

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Email: [office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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Marston Road, ST16 3BT

Telephone: 01785 413275

Email: [office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk)

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Unfortunately, due to the workable 'maximum' capacity of each church and the impossibility of trying to estimate the numbers for each Mass, we are having a booking system. We have one dedicated mobile number specifically for our Christmas Masses **(07856918465)** Please either call or text leaving your name, contact no., the Mass you wish to book and the total number in your group (including yourself). The phone is checked every evening and any bookings recorded. No bookings can be made by email. This sort of arrangement goes against our way of doing things, doesn't it, but sadly, **TO KEEP WITHIN LAWFUL GUIDELINES, WE HAVE TO WATCH NUMBERS.** Be assured that if, during the coming weeks, if places are booked and demand is high, extra Masses may be put on Christmas Morning. **With this in mind, it may mean that some may have to attend a different Mass – maybe a later one on Christmas Eve or even coming on Christmas Day. Also, it's a chance for us to remember that each day of the Christmas Octave week is really an extended Christmas Day!** Very Many thanks for your understanding. (Very important end note: we three parishes are appealing for as many stewards and cleaners as possible over these two days of Masses, so please, please indicate, by phone, email, or text, what Masses you might attend, and also if you could help in a neighbouring parish). Many thanks to all who do so much, but we do need extra hands for Christmas.

All our churches will be open 30 minutes before each Mass begins and we would encourage people to arrive early. This enables the stewards to show you to your seats, avoiding last minute rushes. Details for the Track and Trace will have already been collected via the booking system.

Sadly, because of restrictions, the Christmas Masses won't have any congregational singing.

**Poor Mission Fund:** This Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec, The Second in Advent, is our scheduled second collection for the poor parishes of the diocese. Archbishop Bernard has asked if we could make a special effort in donating to this urgent cause. It is hoped that the collection can proceed because public Masses will have been allowed from 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Many Thanks.

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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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Email: [office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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Telephone: 01785 413275

Email: [office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk)

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### **St Anne's Roof Appeal (Update)**

***The remedial work to the lower roof has now been completed.** We are appealing for any donations St Anne's community can donate to this work; my humble appreciation to those who have already given so generously; we are gradually on our way - looking at a sum approaching £10,000. (We are well over a third of the way there). Next year we plan to try to remedy ongoing problems to the upper roof. Two special baskets are at the entrance and exit of the church dedicated to this special fund. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. I am very conscious of the straitened*

**Return to Public Masses:** Now, public Masses can resume so you will notice the return of Mass times. Our Mass schedule will return to what it was before Nov 5<sup>th</sup>.

We all know that the Christmas celebration period will seem very strange this year in its family context [three households] but our parishes intend to provide **Christmas Masses for Catholic** **Stafford.** We are planning to offer Christmas vigil Masses in each parish church (one early, one later) and Christmas Morning Masses in each parish **LOOK BELOW:** The



**great news is that no matter what tier our town is in, Masses can still go ahead just as they did before Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. One important question I must ask our present volunteers of cleaners and stewards at St Anne's and St Patrick's is whether you will be available over the Christmas Eve or morning, or both. But, any parishioner who is 'able' may offer their assistance in cleaning a bench or chairs after Mass they attend. (Many hands make light work).**

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:****Catholic Stafford**

		<u>St Anne's</u>	<u>St Patrick's</u>	<u>St Austin's</u>
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Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA

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Email: [office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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Marston Road, ST16 3BT

Telephone: 01785 413275

Email: [office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk)

Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

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**Parish Tote 150 Club October 2020 Winners.** Thank you for your support. There are a lot of numbers 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*

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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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Email: [office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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Telephone: 01785 413275

Email: [office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk)

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Sun	13 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	St Patrick's	Third Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
		9:30am	St Anne's		Celebrant's Intention

#### **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 **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]* Jane McDonald, Brian Begley, Tony Ruttledge, Elizabeth Bance, Michael Collins, Ronald Betteridge, Frederick Cartwright, Wasyl Bojczuk, Maurice McCarthy, Gertrude Garibaldi, Honora Passey, Anthony Josephs, Elizabeth McGreery, George Foster, William O'Neill, Valentine O'Toole, Elizabeth Harrison, Catherine Delaney and Stanislaw Gizynski. *[St Anne's]* Kathleen Bullock, Violet Donohoe, Edward Smith, Samuel Stott, Stephen Wright, Tom Curran, John Usher, Jean Kennelly, Crisanto Delgado, John Kelly, George Kenny, Eric Nixon, Monica Orton, Gertrude Rice and Pauline Sandy.

Income	Nov	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's		Offertory	£	£	£283.84	£	Sat Sun
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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA

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Email: [office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

#### **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)

Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

### **TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK**

#### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	5 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Bob & Damian
		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	People of the Parish
Sun	6 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	St Patrick's	Second Sunday of Advent	Tony Ruttledge (1 <sup>st</sup> Ann.)
		9:30am	St Anne's		John Devaney RIP
Mon	7 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		St Ambrose	Memoria Intentions of Anne & John Murphy & Family
Tue	8 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Immaculate Conception of BVM	Solemnity Kitty Daly RIP
Wed	9 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass			Advent Feria
Thu	10 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Patrick's		Advent Feria Paul Nolan & Family
Fri	11 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Anne's		Advent Feria Peggy Toner RIP
Sat	12 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Intentions of May Galvin
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Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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Marston Road, ST16 3BT

Telephone: 01785 413275

Email: [office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk)

Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

### **TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK**

#### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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Who, then, will be able to celebrate Christmas? Those who, in Advent, admit their primitive untamed areas; their sinfulness. This is at the heart of salvation for us.



**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 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)

Email: [stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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Email: [office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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**Women's Refuge (gifts for the Christmas Tree):** As usual, we will focus our gifts for the refuge but this year we will offer donations in form of cash or vouchers (supermarket). I have ordered two trees (smaller ones) for both churches and, rather than present bulky gifts [such as bedding, towels etc.] the Refuge would really appreciate vouchers because it eliminates the need for storage, which becomes more problematic in these times. We are now back in church from **3<sup>rd</sup> December and will include the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent.** Vouchers or cash in envelopes can always be left at the presbytery and I shall place them under the trees. Mark them either St Anne or St Patrick. Many Thanks

The **SOWER:** The latest edition of this well produced archdiocesan periodical is available at the back of each church. Please help yourselves; many interesting articles concerning our archdiocese are to be found.

## HOMILY FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Over the last few years there has been an immense increase in the popularity of DNA Ancestry tracing and discovering family trees. Many of us wonder where we are in a particular family of ancestors and who we may have been related to way back in history. 'Who do we think we are?' (as a favourite TV programme was entitled). I think it has to do with our deep and primordial longing to belong; to have an identity and to recognise ourselves as part of a particular group. None of us like being in a state of abandonment or wilderness or isolation; in any of the forms we can imagine. That's the reason we find the stories of abandoned babies or children so heart-rending. Their blood families are totally unknown, and in past centuries there would have been no way of finding any relations. But history has taught us how incredible our human nature is, because even in such sad situations, adopted and institutionalised youngsters have come through and survived.

One immensely encouraging reality of our faith is that God is within us, as He has always been, and has never left us. He never abandoned Adam and Eve but made them clothes and gave them redemptive hope. We may have been banished from the Garden of Eden but we were never cut off from God's home; which is nothing but His loving heart. That's where our true home lies and it's where our true roots exist; and it may explain why and how those who have been abandoned by others, in this fallen broken world, survive and can often thrive. A special grace gives them a glimpse of their eternal home, with an ancestry that goes far deeper in time and space than any family tree we could ever construct or trace in this life. In fact, both Isaiah, in our first reading, and the Gospel of Mark lays out our homecoming and our destiny wonderfully.

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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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Email: [office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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Telephone: 01785 413275

Email: [office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk)

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Unfortunately, due to the workable 'maximum' capacity of each church and the impossibility of trying to estimate the numbers for each Mass, we are having a booking system. We have one dedicated mobile number specifically for our Christmas Masses **(07856918465)** Please either call or text leaving your name, contact no., the Mass you wish to book and the total number in your group (including yourself). The phone is checked every evening and any bookings recorded. No bookings can be made by email. This sort of arrangement goes against our way of doing things, doesn't it, but sadly, **TO KEEP WITHIN LAWFUL GUIDELINES, WE HAVE TO WATCH NUMBERS.** Be assured that if, during the coming weeks, if places are booked and demand is high, extra Masses may be put on Christmas Morning. **With this in mind, it may mean that some may have to attend a different Mass – maybe a later one on Christmas Eve or even coming on Christmas Day. Also, it's a chance for us to remember that each day of the Christmas Octave week is really an extended Christmas Day!** Very Many thanks for your understanding. (Very important end note: we three parishes are appealing for as many stewards and cleaners as possible over these two days of Masses, so please, please indicate, by phone, email, or text, what Masses you might attend, and also if you could help in a neighbouring parish). Many thanks to all who do so much, but we do need extra hands for Christmas.

All our churches will be open 30 minutes before each Mass begins and we would encourage people to arrive early. This enables the stewards to show you to your seats, avoiding last minute rushes. Details for the Track and Trace will have already been collected via the booking system.

Sadly, because of restrictions, the Christmas Masses won't have any congregational singing.

**Poor Mission Fund:** This Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec, The Second in Advent, is our scheduled second collection for the poor parishes of the diocese. Archbishop Bernard has asked if we could make a special effort in donating to this urgent cause. It is hoped that the collection can proceed because public Masses will have been allowed from 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Many Thanks.

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Email: [office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

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Telephone: 01785 413275

Email: [office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk)

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### **St Anne's Roof Appeal (Update)**

***The remedial work to the lower roof has now been completed.** We are appealing for any donations St Anne's community can donate to this work; my humble appreciation to those who have already given so generously; we are gradually on our way - looking at a sum approaching £10,000. (We are well over a third of the way there). Next year we plan to try to remedy ongoing problems to the upper roof. Two special baskets are at the entrance and exit of the church dedicated to this special fund. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. I am very conscious of the straitened*

**Return to Public Masses:** Now, public Masses can resume so you will notice the return of Mass times. Our Mass schedule will return to what it was before Nov 5<sup>th</sup>.

We all know that the Christmas celebration period will seem very strange this year in its family context [three households] but our parishes intend to provide **Christmas Masses for Catholic** **Stafford.** We are planning to offer Christmas vigil Masses in each parish church (one early, one later) and Christmas Morning Masses in each parish **LOOK BELOW:** The



**great news is that no matter what tier our town is in, Masses can still go ahead just as they did before Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. One important question I must ask our present volunteers of cleaners and stewards at St Anne's and St Patrick's is whether you will be available over the Christmas Eve or morning, or both. But, any parishioner who is 'able' may offer their assistance in cleaning a bench or chairs after Mass they attend. (Many hands make light work).**

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:****Catholic Stafford**

		<u>St Anne's</u>	<u>St Patrick's</u>	<u>St Austin's</u>
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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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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)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

#### **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)

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**Parish Tote 150 Club October 2020 Winners.** Thank you for your support. There are a lot of numbers 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*

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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 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)

Email: [stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen

#### **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)

Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

### **TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK**

#### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	5 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Bob & Damian
		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	People of the Parish
Sun	6 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	St Patrick's	Second Sunday of Advent	Tony Ruttledge (1 <sup>st</sup> Ann.)
		9:30am	St Anne's		John Devaney RIP
Mon	7 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		St Ambrose	Memoria Intentions of Anne & John Murphy & Family
Tue	8 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Immaculate Conception of BVM	Solemnity Kitty Daly RIP
Wed	9 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass			Advent Feria
Thu	10 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Patrick's		Advent Feria Paul Nolan & Family
Fri	11 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Anne's		Advent Feria Peggy Toner RIP
Sat	12 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Intentions of May Galvin
		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Fr. Robert Wright RIP
Sun	13 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	St Patrick's	Third Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
		9:30am	St Anne's		Celebrant's Intention

#### **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 **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]* Jane McDonald, Brian Begley, Tony Ruttledge, Elizabeth Bance, Michael Collins, Ronald Betteridge, Frederick Cartwright, Wasyl Bojczuk, Maurice McCarthy, Gertrude Garibaldi, Honora Passey, Anthony Josephs, Elizabeth McGreery, George Foster, William O'Neill, Valentine O'Toole, Elizabeth Harrison, Catherine Delaney and Stanislaw Gizynski. *[St Anne's]* Kathleen Bullock, Violet Donohoe, Edward Smith, Samuel Stott, Stephen Wright, Tom Curran, John Usher, Jean Kennelly, Crisanto Delgado, John Kelly, George Kenny, Eric Nixon, Monica Orton, Gertrude Rice and Pauline Sandy.

Income	Nov	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's		Offertory	£	£	£283.84	£	Sat Sun
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