

Sunday 7th March 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

48 Sandon Road, Stafford ST16 3HF. Telephone 01785 661012 - Website www.stpatricksstafford.co.uk

Email: stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk

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

Deacon: Rev. Michael Horsnall

The parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Registered Charity No.234216

ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA

Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987

Email: office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk

Principal: Mr. M. Killeen

ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Marston Road, ST16 3BT

Telephone: 01785 413275

Email: office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk

Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	6 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	People of the Parish
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Dick Jarvis RIP
Sun	7 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Third Sunday of Lent	The Middleton & McHugh Family
		10:00am	St Anne's		Anne Wilks RIP
Mon	8 th	9:30am	St Anne's	Lent Feria	Tony Watts
Tue	9 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Lent Feria	Philomena McCarron RIP
Wed	10 th	No Mass		Lent Feria	
Thu	11 th	5:00pm	St Patrick's	Lent Feria	Patty Tiernan RIP
Fri	12 th	6:30pm	St Anne's	Lent Feria	George & Teresa Smith RIP
Sat	13 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	People of the Parish
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Patrick Bayliffe RIP
Sun	14 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Fourth (Laetare) Sunday of Lent	Bartholomew & Katie Tivenan RIP
		10:am	St Anne's		Geoffrey Green 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 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] Helena Hawkins, Ethel Berenyi, Alfred Atkinson, George Wilkinson, Keith Ward, Monica Quayle, Ellen Jones, Harold Wilkes, Bernard Dempsey, Margaret Gould, Nancy Sutton, Arthur Hawkins, John Gilbert, Patricia Evans, Margaret Birtles, George Cliff, Ethel Wilkinson Edna Perry, Fanny Hollinshead and Anthony O'Reilly. [St Anne's] Kathleen Horton, Canon Larkin, Patrick McCoy, Elizabeth Walshe, Rueben Baker, Bernard Dale, Louise Keats, Vera Powell, Susanne Turner, Brian McCann, Jeremiah O'Leary and Jack Thomas.

Income 28/2/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£40.00	£118.00	£283.84	£441.84	Sat 32
						Sun 38
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£109.00	£178.68	£146.23	£433.91	Sat 30
						Sun 28

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:

***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

February 2021 Winners. £100 K Johnson – 70, £50 M Ross– 146, £20 K Bermingham -71, £10 J Peck – 153, £10 N Shammass – 134, £10 A Smith – 94, £10 P Turner – 75, £10 M J Murphy – 63, £10 E Compton – 101, £10 W Meehan – 54, £10 L Garnett – 120.

Thank you for your continued support for 2021. Numbers are still available at £4 per number per 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

Second Collection: Last weekend's Lenten collection for **CAFOD St Anne's £378.40 St Patrick's £160.00**
Thank You.

This weekend there is a second collection for **Cathedral Maintenance.**

** St Anne's parish is live-streaming Masses, so please go to the front web page and click on Mass Live at the top and you should be able to follow the Mass.

St Anne's: At present all Masses celebrated at St Anne's are web streamed. (Our grateful thanks to Peter) Fr. Bob

LENT: May we all enjoy a Blessed period of spiritual enlightenment, deeper self-knowledge and the beautiful reality of salvation filled hope. Light through our darkness heralds the coming of Spring.

MISSIO: The latest Mission Today periodicals have arrived for both parishes. Please help yourselves; in the church porch at St Patrick's and on the table under the hall porch in St Anne's. You can take them for yourselves, neighbours or the promoters (box openers) can deliver to their normal addresses. But **DO NOT** collect any monies yet. Many thanks

Places of Worship are still able to remain open, 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. Please remember that the obligation to attend Holy Mass is still suspended.

Our Deceased: Please remember in your prayers **Dilys Holmes**, of St Anne's, who died last Wednesday. We pray for her family at this time. **Dilys'** Requiem will be held at St Anne's at **12 Noon on Tuesday 16th March.** Please also remember **Fr. Oliver Kemp**, a priest of our archdiocese who was resident in Aston Hall, who died last week. Fr Oliver looked after St Patrick's for a short time in 2009. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Mill Hill Missionaries (novena): As you may be aware, this year is 'The Year of St Joseph' and the Mill Hill Missionaries are holding a national novena to St Joseph from 10th until 18th March. There is a poster in the porch of each church with details and you can find further information on the Mill Hill website at: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena It will provide information as to which parishes are holding novena Masses.

HOMILY THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Over the centuries there have been countless studies by Christian theologians on the human nature of Jesus and how it unfolded during His time on earth. These studies come under the general term of 'Christology'. And there's no doubt that, if we are believers, we are drawn into fascination about Jesus' human characteristics – His sense of humour, His appetites, His temperament and His feelings and attitudes in general. We most probably try to compare

them with ours as well. Let's be very clear about our starting point in how we approach this. Our foundation point, if you like, is the Church's doctrine on the Person of Jesus Christ, and this was formulated many centuries ago in early Councils of the Church. Ferocious arguments arose and a number of heresies came about because of these efforts to establish who Christ was. Basically, as we now believe, Jesus Christ is one Person [the Son] and two natures (divine and human) totally unconfused. One other (very important) proviso is that Jesus is one hundred percent perfect divinity and one hundred percent perfect humanity; end of.

So, when we hear John's Gospel account of Jesus 'clearing' the Temple this Sunday it's important to understand that this action was no loss of temper or 'losing it' on Jesus' part. Rather it was a grand, symbolic gesture; no-where near being an act of violence. After all, a little whip made from cord could hardly be regarded as an effective instrument of physical force. Can you imagine, during the busy days before Passover there would have been thousands of animals and birds with several hundred drovers and sellers there. It's hardly likely that one man would have driven them all out. Once the dust had settled everybody would have been back where they started with business as normal. Many great leaders have known the power of a symbolic gesture to challenge the system and arouse the slumbering energy of people's consciences. The picture of Jesus clearing the Temple was a grand gesture to express the end of a practice which emphasised the worship of God by sacrifices in the Temple.

Of course, it was never meant to be like that, going way back centuries to the time of King Solomon who had the first Temple built. Originally, its intention was to express God's presence with His chosen people, being the sacred place where all their prayer and worship reached its climax. Sadly over many centuries the place had become too crowded for genuine worship, with business, chaos and noise being the result of institutional regulations that had lost their focus. In fact, the spirituality of what the Temple meant and existed for had long gone. And, in a sense, isn't this saga true for all institutions that were originally planned and created for good and wonderful reasons. We could even look at our own Church and see and experience a gulf between its structure and the person of Jesus Christ. But although all institutions are easy to criticise, many alternatives put forward never have the complete solution do they? The answer to our despondency about the institutions that seem to fail us, particularly in regard to our faith, may lie in the first reading from Exodus. The giving of the Commandments should be a part of our consciousness from early years (remember the Catechism?) and notice the character of the first commandments. They are focused primarily and absolutely on God Himself, aren't they? "You shall have no gods except me", "you shall not make for yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth..... you shall not bow down to them or serve them". So, before we reach the commandments about how to deal with our neighbours, the absolute first must be the ones concerning how we relate to our God; and how could it be otherwise? He is the one who gives us existence, ongoing forgiveness, freedom, redemption and ultimate perfection. But because of our chronic state of sin and blindness to who we really are, we find it almost impossible to take in and accept these blessings.

We don't have to think hard before we recognise our own 'craven images within us and a part of us; whether it's pride, conceit, social position, power and wealth and possessions. And ultimately, these have become the 'busy market place' and the obstacles within our souls that prevent true worship within the sanctuary of our 'quiet place'. Let's ask the Lord this Lent to help us drive out those selfish and unnecessary distractions so that we may let God into our 'Holy of Holies.

