

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 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**

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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**

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

### **TRINITY SUNDAY**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day		Mass Intention
Sat	6 <sup>th</sup>	pm	St Anne's	Vigil	<i>No Congregation</i>	Peggy Toner RIP
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “	Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity	<i>No Congregation</i>	David Harwar RIP(3 <sup>rd</sup> Ann.)
Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “		Feria <i>No Congregation</i>	Bridie Collins RIP (Ann.)
Tue	9 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “		Feria <i>No Congregation</i>	Pat Collins RIP (Ann.)
Wed	10 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “		Feria <i>No Congregation</i>	Susan Healy RIP
Thu	11 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “	St Barnabas	Memoria <i>No Congregation</i>	John & Edith Connor
Fri	12 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “		Feria <i>No Congregation</i>	People of the Parish
Sat	13 <sup>th</sup>	pm	“ “	Vigil	<i>No Congregation</i>	Celia & Gerald Jelfs RIP
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “	Solemnity of The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ	<i>No Congregation</i>	Eddie & Bridie Hunt

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

**Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time:** [St. Patrick's] Dorothy Dolphin, Florence Lakin, Matthew Melvin, Ronald O'Brien, Francis Ashun, Mary Perry, Leslie Jackson, Frederick McGarry, Noreen Chance, Albert Terrie, Ethel Mayhew, William Unsworth, Elizabeth Batkin, Albert Stringer, Gerald Jelfs, Mary Sweeney, Mary Reid [St. Anne's] Jack Cheetham, Agnes Pearce, John Sandy, Hilary Glover, Maurice Vincent Jones, Geoff Owen, Stephen Wright, Dorothy Bilton, Peter Colbeck, Joseph Roman.

**Prayers for the sick:** St Patrick's Phylis Bowers, Kath Read, 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, Colin Wilkinson, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Colin Wise and Shaun Gilbride.

Income 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory		£	£	£	
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£	£	£	£	

### **ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**Parishes Social (Fundraising Events) DATES UP TO SUMMER:** Due to our present emergency situation all such events

**Parish Tote 150 Club:** In order to catch up with the months missed, once we return, each of the missing months will be drawn separately. In this way, there will be no gaps. Many thanks for your support.

Hello Parishioners on this Trinity Sunday. But as we resume 'Ordinary Time' so close to the passing of Eastertide we can see how fundamental tenets of our faith follow from it. Our celebration of the Holy Trinity (three persons in one God) is so fitting, following on from Pentecost Sunday. And of course next

Sunday we look forward to Corpus Christi Sunday, where we give thanks for the continuing Real Presence of Christ sacramentally with us until the end of time; His Body and Blood nourishing us and sustaining us throughout our earthly pilgrimage on our fraught and difficult journey home to our heavenly Father.

I hope and pray that we have become aware of our new mode of living lives as Eucharistic faithful. For all of us, such a significant change in how we worship as Catholics is unprecedented. But, as our faith keeps telling us, and as we keep reminding ourselves, God's creation, God's universe, God's world and God's people fit in with His 'blueprint' for the kingdom He has prepared for us, no matter what turmoil or disaster afflicts our precarious lives. If we keep steadfast and, most importantly, take advantage of the prayer time we will be offered, our Church will come through this 'crisis' humbled and with greater awareness of our utter dependency on God. Meanwhile, during our time of 'waiting' upon the Lord, we offer our prayers for all who have been, are, and will be affected by this plague.

To parish practical matters:

The bulletin continues to appear on the websites of both parishes weekly and this space will give me a chance to share with you all sorts of concerns, from how we might keep in touch with the housebound, to how we might continue to provide food etc. for those in great need. All church buildings remain locked. This is mainly to discourage folk from venturing out and potentially coming into proximity with others unnecessarily. But, the parish presbytery will be open and I shall, **in so far as I am able**, be a source of information for any who wish to know what is happening in regard to our two parishes. Marie, as you will understand, like many of you, no doubt, is furloughed; I am available in the presbytery for point of phone contact. The bulletin will continue to be uploaded to the parish websites and a few hard copies printed and left under the Hall porch at St Anne's.

As you notice above, the Mass intentions are inserted and will be honoured as I celebrate Mass each day; but sometimes I will need to combine intentions from both parishes because I am only saying one Mass a day.

Regarding the **Drop-in** at St Anne's, some may need help now that it is closed. If any need help on Wednesday morning, for example shopping or collecting medication, please contact Liz Harrison between 10:30am and 12 Noon on 07802694580. Many thanks, Liz.

I know that all three Stafford parishes will work as closely as we can, and on that point, there is a request from St Austin's, in regard to the charity BRUSHSTROKES. They are desperate for all supplies. If people wanted to drop off donations at St Anne's a regular pick-up can be arranged, but, since the church will be locked, just phone me first. Many thanks.

As the year progresses we will reflect upon this extraordinary mystery of faith and realise that the Lord Jesus Christ's resurrected glorified reality reaches across obstacles, walls, buildings, 'situations', difficulties, anxieties and pain to take us with Him back to our origins and beyond our imagination.

**Finally, I am very aware that our usual routine, as parish communities, will undergo a considerable change, and we do not know for how long, but nevertheless our parishes will still need supporting as best we can for the foreseeable future. The sustaining and maintenance of the buildings and parish administration has to continue. For those of you who use gift aid envelopes, the new ones for the coming financial year have arrived and Mark (St Anne's) and Margaret St Patrick's are labelling them and for those who contribute this way. There are a number who regularly use standing order (this is the most efficient way of giving) and if 'gift-aiders' could set up standing orders it would be a great help. Such a crisis as the present one shows the advantage of this method. However parishioners wish to donate, be assured of our grateful thanks and know that the parish office (St Anne's ) can always be used as a 'drop-off' for envelopes. \* I have received this communication from the head of Finance form Cathedral House:**

*You may like to know that we've made available on the Archdiocese website 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 diocese (Steve Roche):** Dear Fathers, 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) From there donations which can also be gift aided can be made to any parish via credit or debit card. Funds will initially be passed to the diocese but we will have reports available to allow us to pass them on to each parish, we will work the process out over the next week or 2 and much will depend on how much it is used. There are transaction charges levied by the card processing company which amount to 20p + 1.9% of the value of the donation – so for a £10 donation this will amount to £0.39 which will be deducted from the amount we receive. Please do note therefore that standing order remains the most cost effective way for our parishioners to donate.

*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. 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. 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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I shall be remembering you all in my prayers during this most unprecedented of times and have faith that the Lord will be looking after us in a way only He can offer.

Blessings Fr Bob

**PS:** Don't forget the many websites you can access if you wish to follow Mass. A good start would be our own Archdiocese of Birmingham website. I, like so many other priests, will be continuing to celebrate Mass on my own. I know you will be with me in Spirit, celebrating the ONE sacrifice made by Christ for all time; a truly universal and real remembrance, uniting our sisters and brothers across the face of the earth.

### **HOMILY FOR TRINITY SUNDAY**

**One thing that I have noticed over the last few years or so, especially in regard to major significant events, is how our views and opinions of knowledge and facts has changed dramatically. You may understand what I mean by this. Traditionally, we've always listened to experts, haven't we? Whether economists, politicians, journalists, pollsters or commentators, we've tended to give them the benefit of the doubt. But, somehow now, in this age things have changed; and pretty dramatically. Obviously, in the areas of science, technology, and medicine all of us have to trust in the 'experts'. But in the vast world of society and politics; national and global, who knows what's true or false, fact or fiction? Fake news has been the buzz-word now, hasn't it? In the end we're going to have to rely more and more on our own instincts to make the right decisions and to be authentic. For me personally, I'd call it "thinking" viscerally"; in other words, what's my 'gut feeling?' about all this? And to be honest, it's not such a bad thing as people might imagine, because now we can counter the political pundit with their facts and figures and statistics. The new phrase is: "think viscerally", "think instinct". When you think about it our instinct and gut feeling is as real as our conceptual and cerebral thinking capacity.**

In case you might be wondering what all this has to do with our great feast day today, then think Holy Trinity and try deepening your intellectual understanding of this, the greatest mystery of our faith. As Christians our vocation is to bring Christ to others and the world. Whatever we might think of this (whether it makes us queasy or not) we are evangelists by definition. And evangelisation (the Good News) is a story in three acts: the story of the three divine persons in our lives. In other words, this is the Holy Trinity itself in our lives. And for us to come anywhere near understanding, knowing or living the Trinity inside us, we have to get beyond the intellectual, the concepts. We need the visceral! The first act is the story of God the creator, and He's not some sort of clinical, scientific cause or mechanical trigger. But He's a Father who lovingly wishes to share life – existence. And why did God create? Well, one famous thinker offered the view that love didn't permit God to remain alone; He wished to have co-lovers. [Interesting thought, isn't it?] And it seems to fit in with the creation story in Genesis. Remember, after each day of creation God saw that 'it is good' but after God created man and woman in His own image, He saw that it was very good. So this is the first act of the drama and we can only experience it or know it through feeling it. Each of us was first a beautiful thought in the mind of God, but there's so much moral ugliness in society and in each one of us – it's called SIN. Our gift of freedom has been misused. The second act in this drama is our redemption, because God didn't desert us when we strayed – it was the Father's love for us that sent His Son to us. The mission of Jesus was not to pronounce damnation but to announce salvation. And what must we do to gain that salvation? Believe in the name of God's only Son – with all that that implies.

But to believe in the name of God's only Son there needs to be a third act in this drama of evangelisation. For us to be able to believe, we have to give ourselves in heart and mind to Jesus Christ as the only Saviour of the world. And that's where the grace of the Holy Spirit is essential. So, in the end, the subject of this Good News isn't some remote, mysterious power up-there or out-there – we call God Father because His love planned us, created us and upholds us. God the Son comes to free us, heal us and lead us. God the Holy Spirit raised us up to share in God's life, breathing in us, living in us and loving in us. And all of these three divine acts challenges not only we Christians with faltering faith, but especially all those of our contemporary world whose extreme rationalism, intellectualism and statistician's mindset is in danger of missing the real and the existential. To many in our contemporary age giving our whole being to a supposed creator offends their 'bubble' of human rationality and cold clinical analysis. But faith bursts this 'bubble' and allows the Three persons of the Trinity into the core of our being, allowing us to fully breathe in God.

*End note: Message from Cardinal Vincent Nicholls (on re-opening churches):*

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinal-on-safely-re-opening-churches-for-private-prayer>

**Friends of the Holy Land:**

Previously, our parish has donated to this charity during Lent and Eastertide. However, due to the closure of parishes, this very worthy and needed cause is feeling the effects of our lack of donations. Archbishop Bernard, as patron of the FHL, has asked us if we could make a very special effort at this time of Pentecost. Please read the short piece below: *Many Thanks*

*The FHL are undertaking wonderful work with a very small team of paid staff and many volunteers both over here and in the Holy Land. Coronavirus is changing the lives of all of us but for so many Christians, especially in the West Bank but also Gaza, Israel and Jordan, it is devastating. So many are dependent for their income on pilgrimages and tourism which disappeared overnight in early March. For many they have no government support nor even a health service which can handle this crisis.*

*So, FHL launched an appeal in March for those impacted in Bethlehem and widened it on 3 April as a Pentecost Challenge to cover the whole of the region. They secured match funding for the first £100,000 and, now with Pentecost upon us, are so close to reaching the target but are still seeking help from us to get over the line. Please consider supporting this appeal. It is so desperately needed at this time.*

*[www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/pentecost-challenge](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/pentecost-challenge) will direct parishioners to the FHL website where more information is available. You may also wish to view the news story on our diocesan website <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/fhl-launch-pentecost-challenge>.*