



## Weekly Newsletter

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

### 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

#### THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF YEAR

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	7 <sup>th</sup>	pm		Vigil	No Congregation Keith Price RIP & Audrey Mitchell RIP
Sun	8 <sup>th</sup>	am		Thirty-Second Sunday of Year (Mass of Remembrance)	“ “ “ Colin Wilkinson RIP
Mon	9 <sup>th</sup>	am		Dedication of Lateran Basilica	“ “ “ John Karlson RIP
Tue	10 <sup>th</sup>	am		St Leo The Great	“ “ “ Charles Biluan RIP
Wed	11 <sup>th</sup>	am		St Martin of Tours	“ “ “ Alex Waterson RIP
Thu	12 <sup>th</sup>	am		St Josaphat	“ “ “ Manus McDermott (Healing)
Fri	13 <sup>th</sup>	am 6:00pm	St Anne's	Exposition Hour	Feria “ “ “ The Lloyd Family RIP
Sat	14 <sup>th</sup>	pm		Vigil	“ “ “ Alfred & Kay Turner RIP
Sun	15 <sup>th</sup>	am		Thirty-Third Sunday of Year	Marilyn Meehan 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]** Michael Parton, Audrey Mitchell, Alfred Tyler, Keith Price, John Hagan, Hugh Porter, Melvyn Whitlock, William Martin, Noleen Hodgkinson, Ethel Millward, Albert Chell, Dom Richardson, James Dunlavey, Mary Thomas, Kathleen McEwan, Catherine Gaul, Julia Chebsey, Mona Lynch, Monica Brookes, Catherine Small, Florence Heslin, Zygmunt Grabarek, Marian Nowakowski, Mabel Jones, William O'Kane and Alexander Baker. **[St Anne's]** Basil Bullock, Annie Freeman, Honora Lawler, Philip Murphy, Samuel Stott, Patrick McHugh, Daniel McKellar, Ernest Gooch, Rita Price, James Ruscoe, Kay Turner, Gordon Lloyd, Albert Brown, Rachel Connelly Smith, Mary Owen, John Stanley and Eric Vanner.

Income 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£70.00	£62.00	£283.84	£415.84	Sat 38 Sun 32
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£46.00	£137.20	£146.23	£329.43	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:*

<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 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*

***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, the times of Masses will be published weekly due to possible occasional alterations.***

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



***The remedial work 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). 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 times we are living through at present.*

F.Bob

### **NOVEMBER (Month of Remembering our Dead)**

At the back of St Anne's and St Patrick's churches you will find brown envelopes into which you may place the names of those you wish to be remembered during the month of November. These can then be put in the basket. If you wish to make a donation then please place donations in the smaller 'Mass intention' envelopes, found nearby, and also place in the basket. Before each Mass the basket will be placed before the altar.

**Garden help?** If anyone is able to help out an elderly parishioner of St Anne's with her garden please contact Fr. Bob. Thanks

*As you cannot fail to have heard, we are all in a second month long period of 'Lockdown' during which Mass cannot be celebrated in public except as a requiem funeral. Similar to our previous experience, I shall continue to say Mass daily on my own and offer the intentions received. The difference will be that I Shall be celebrating only one Mass per day. So on Sundays I shall be*

remembering those for whom the Mass is offered (both St Patrick's and St Anne's) during the one Mass. I shall also be remembering all our dead during every Mass especially those in the brown envelopes. If you wish to have the names of your deceased loved ones at the altar either email the names to the parish or push a brown envelope through the presbytery door. (envelopes can be found on the small table under the Hall Porch at St Anne's).

**PARISH MASS OF REMEMBRANCE:** This Mass will take place at St Austin's on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 11:00am where Myself, Fr Michael and Fr Simon will concelebrate. This Mass will be streamed and the names of those who have died through the last year (from Nov 2019) will be read out.

**STATEMENT FROM BISHOPS CONFERENCE:** On each parish website you will find a copy of the statement from the President and Vice-President of the Conference on the Prime Minister's Statement.

**Church Opening:** Unfortunately, due to the practical difficulties of having our two churches (St Anne's & St Patrick's) open during set periods during each day of the week (since there would be a need for stewards and cleaners) they will not be open for private prayer, but **St Anne's will be open for an hour's Exposition every Friday evening at 6pm beginning next Friday 13<sup>th</sup>.** Also, on the vigil of Christ The King Sunday (Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November) there will be Exposition for an hour starting at 6pm as conclusion of the universal day of prayer for ending the pandemic.

Meanwhile, do try to find time for tuning in to various Masses that are streamed from across the globe, and importantly, find time for some silent moments in personal prayer. Blessings Fr. Bob

***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 (1m+ guideline so all those coming to Mass must wear a face covering) means we don't have to be 2m apart. Capacity of each church is about 50, but Remember, a family group may sit together on one bench or in neighbouring chairs. Between the two parishes there should be 8 Masses during one week. 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. Many Thanks for your patience and understanding.***

**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.. 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.**

**MISSIO:** (St Patrick's) At the back of St Patrick's parishioners will find the latest Autumn edition of Missio's magazine. Please help yourself to a copy. There are many interesting articles included. Many thanks to Graham for his help in liaising with the charity. If parishioners who have RED BOXES could continue to donate their boxes using either the online donations page at [www.missio.org.uk](http://www.missio.org.uk), by phone, cheque or text that would be great. If you use your postcode as requested, you will be able to be matched to Missio's database and the totals will be attributed to the parish totals. Many thanks.

St Patrick's and St Anne's each have a QR CODE displayed for church goers to scan if you have downloaded the NHS Covid-19 APP. It might help 'speed things up' as queues can develop on entry through the porches as you provide contact details. We will make sure there are sufficient codes on the doors and walls. Many thanks.

**End Note:** I will leave a few copies of this newsletter on the table under St Anne's Hall porch and pin a copy inside St Patrick's notice board.

## HOMILY FOR THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY

One of the facts of life these days, I think you might agree, is the HARD SELL. Whether it's in the form of email, knock on the door or telephone, there's someone somewhere enticing you to part with your hard-earned cash. We know that what's on offer is something we don't need most of the time and we say no. But it's when what's on offer just happens to be something we were after that we have to be careful, and that's the big risk. Usually, it is when we actually go and seek out a service or tradesperson for ourselves that we feel more confident. It doesn't guarantee a perfect result but at least we are in control of the search. There can be no doubt that the most important qualities we need as decision makers are experience and wisdom and perhaps wisdom is the most important. This is because it underpins everything else.

The priceless value of wisdom is emphasised so strongly in scripture. We think about King Solomon praying for it as his one request, and it is referred to in Ecclesiastes and Proverbs also. Today, the Book of Wisdom provides us with a few lines of hope; and those few lines demonstrate how Wisdom is truly our friend and guide – her light never grows dim and she constantly looks for those who are worthy of her. But of course, who is worthy of Wisdom? Well, we are assured that even to think about her puts us on the right path – understanding fully grown. Often as we know, it is when we are at our lowest, when we are almost in despair and can see nothing but darkness that we grope for a way out (a light at the end of the tunnel). She is found by those who look for her and we will even find her sitting at our gates. I think that the key word in this passage of Wisdom is LIGHT, because it provides us with the clue for understanding Jesus' parable in Matthew.

Like all of Jesus' parables, we have to take care not to attempt analysing every part of it trying to find analogies for each phrase. The parable of the bridesmaids needs to be understood as a whole and a good part of that understanding relies on the undisputed fact that Jesus, as God, entered our physical real tangible world as human. The divine fully immersed in the material. And if this is the case then we are missing the point if we seek and watch for the Lord only in what we might think of as 'holy' places. In our world God is everywhere, in every time and place and person and situation and, importantly, in every sense. Human life isn't divided into the sacred and secular fields – God doesn't just inhabit the holy sphere. Our parable now takes on another aspect because its main message of the foolish and wise bridesmaids is not just about being alert to the coming of Christ on judgement day, or even on the day of our own death. It is about having the 'senses' of our soul finely tuned so that we can detect God's presence in all aspects of our human living. In that sense any and every moment is the one in which the bridegroom announces his arrival. And it's for us to be awake and alert enough to notice and recognise him. I think most of us do realise this when we come to the end of a day and reflect on what's happened to us during the previous twelve hours. The opportunities missed, the human interactions passed by, the pleas and needs of others ignored because we've been in a hurry. All these 'prick' our conscience and could make us despondent.

But we've just mentioned wisdom and the parable's focus is on light so we can take these two and unite them. In praying for wisdom (which would never be refused) we are also praying for the light and this light is never far from us. This is because the light is seen through our own soul when we make our souls fully transparent. This can be seen as the true meaning of the oil in the parable. Lamps are useless without oil – they don't function, so our souls are dysfunctional when they're opaque, without God's light passing through them. Our souls are wounded and so, by allowing God in to heal them through Christ His Son, we hide nothing but rather let Him be the flame in our lives. We need to nurture the habit of asking God for wisdom so that our capacity for detecting and responding to Christ's daily invitations allows us to hear that "still, small voice calling us.