

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Sunday 9th March 2025

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

Times of Holy Mass and Liturgies this week

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987 Email: office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk Executive Head: Mrs K Bennett		ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL Marston Road, ST16 3BT Telephone: 01785 413275 Email: office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk Principal: Mr. M. Brandon	
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Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	8 th	4:00 pm 6:00 pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil	People of the Parish Deceased Families (Marie-Louise Duke)
Sun	9 th	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	First Sunday of Lent	The McHugh & Middleton Families Personal Intention & Thanksgiving
Mon	10 th	9:30 am	St Anne's	Lent Feria	Holy Souls
Tue	11 th	9:30 am	St Patrick's	Lent Feria	Private Intention
Wed	12 th	10.00 am	St Anne's	Communion Service Lent Feria	
Thu	13 th	9.30 am	St Patrick's	Lent Feria	Holy Souls
Fri	14 th	9.15 am 6:30pm	St Anne's St Anne's	Lent Feria Stations of the Cross	Private Intention
Sat	15 th	10.00 am 4:00 pm 6:00 pm	St Anne's St Patrick's St Anne's	Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham Vigil Vigil	Expectant Mothers Marie Hawkins RIP & Marjorie Cowley RIP Sally Hughes - Good Health
Sun	16 th	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Second Sunday of Lent	Thomas Flood Sheila Hird RIP

Prayers for the sick: St Patrick's: Susan Prince, Gregory McKinlay, Linda Reavy, Cecylia Kotara, Rebecca Kilkenny, Graham Burningham, Mary Kilkenny, Matty Fury, Mark Douglas. **St Anne's:** Patricia Walters, Thomas McCormick, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Andrea Hulse, Winifred Meehan, Pat McDonnell, Georgina Copp, Marie Geal, Molly Hukin, Joan O'Dowd, Nick Harrison, Annette Plant, Neve Collins, Matthew Connelly Smith, Stan Curwen.

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's] 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, Anthony O'Reilly, Bernard McLynn, Sheila Amor, Slavoljub Ristic, Kathleen Tyson, Giovanni Sansa. **[St Anne's]** Brian McCann, Jeremiah O'Leary, Jack Thomas, Cathleen Baxter, Ellen Bromley, John Bromley, Cecile Chevallier, Thomas Clarke, Patrick Coffey, Maisie Murtagh, Frank Sweeney.

Income 2/03/25	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£199.00	£233.49	£408.25	£870.74	Sat 62 Sun 75
St Patrick's	Offertory	£85.30	£364.10	£152.16	£601.56	Sat 68 Sun 118

On the Archdiocese website there is a standing order and Gift Aid form for parishioners so they can transform the way they donate. Please direct any such enquiries to: [Donate | Birmingham Diocesan Trust](https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk) (birminghamdiocese.org.uk) / <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work>

Parish Tote 150 Club Winners February 2025

£100 M Picking - 15, £50 M Ross - 146, £20 M Walker - 33, £10 A Kelly - 128, £10 L Cyples - 44, £10 J Ryan - 66, £10 A Russell - 52, £10 K Ronan - 59, £10 R Ayirebi - 4, £10 P Walters - 15, £10 J Hackett - 15.

Thank you for your support. A lot of numbers are available at £4 per number per month. Further details from Marie (parish secretary) on 01785 661012.

Gift Aid *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. Switching your giving via Standing Order mandate would be a great help also.*

Information cards [*gift-aid it*] can be found at the back of the churches for any parishioners who are not in the gift aid scheme. The cards explain how the system works (at no extra expense for the doner) and provide information as to how you can be part of the scheme. It is a simple, free and effective way to help our parishes increase our funds. Do consider this if you are not already gift-aiding. Many Thanks

SECOND COLLECTION

Last Weekend 's collection for Cathedral Maintenance

St Anne's £207.26 St Patrick's £156.60 Thank You.

Weekend of 15th /16th March CAFOD Lent Fast Day (*Fast Day envelopes are available at the back of church*)

The Drop in Group Do Come and join us on Wednesdays in the Meeting Room after the St Anne's 10 am Communion Service. All Welcome.

Wool donations – If anyone has any spare wool it can be left in St Anne's Church porch. It will be used for knitting hats and scarves for the homeless. Thank you.

Refreshments after Mass: Join us after the **10:00am** Sunday Morning Mass for tea and coffee in **St Anne's Hall**. Many thanks to those who prepare this valuable facility. **More volunteers always welcome.**

St Anne's Choir

At present we have no formal choir and lack a choir leader and an organist. Music plays an important part in our liturgy and enhances our worship. If you would be able to help with the music in any way please would you contact Fr Bob. [*The choir meets in church at 7pm (Tue) on particular dates so keep an eye out for the next one. If anyone would like to pop in we will be going through the hymns for the next few weeks*].

Parish Library St Anne's The parish library is in the parish meeting room. You may borrow any of the bibles, books, or CTS booklets.

Bible Alive. The Lent editions have arrived and are in St Anne's Church porch for those who have ordered them. The cost is £2.97 per quarter. Money can be put in the envelopes marked Bible Alive in St Anne's Church porch. Thank You.

St Anne's and St Patrick's: In both parishes, **CHILDREN'S LITURGY** runs every Sunday. This is due to our volunteers/leaders who generously assist our youngsters in their understanding. Please do come forward to help if you would like to become involved. All necessary safeguarding procedures are taken care of. Many thanks. [Those interested in helping please see Fr. Bob]

+BIBLE STUDY: St Anne's Bible Study Group will meet on Tuesday 18th March 10-11 am in the hall parish room. We meet fortnightly to look at the bible readings for the coming Sunday. We dig into the background of the readings and draw out their relevance for today. It's a good way to deepen your interest in scripture and join in what can be wide ranging chats about faith. All are welcome, just turn up on the day.

St Anne's Reading Rota If anyone is interested in reading at Mass there is a list in the church porch for you to add your name. Full training will be given.

* **SAFEGUARDING** The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our St Anne's Parish Safeguarding Representative is Ann Kelly and can be contacted at sg.stanne.stafford@rcaob.org.uk. Our St Patrick's Safeguarding Representative is Geraldine Thickett and can be contacted at sg.stpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Exposition and Holy Hour: There is Exposition and Holy Hour, including opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation, at St Anne's: From 10:00am until 11:00am. This is offered every Saturday, except the third Saturday of the month, upon which the Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham will be celebrated.

St Patrick's Eucharistic Minister Rota: St. Patrick's Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: this covers both Saturday Evening and Sunday Morning. If you are an extraordinary minister and would like to be included in the rota, please contact Angela Russell (07765560153) or Fr Bob; please confirm which weekend mass you would be able to assist at. Also, if you are not yet a Eucharistic minister and may have thought of becoming one, please do give it thought and have a word with Fr. Bob. Full training would be given. **[The new rota for 2024 is now complete]**

LIVING SIMPLY: Parishioners are invited to purchase Fair traded goods and to buy world gifts from CAFOD <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk>

We are developing a wildflower meadow at the side of St Anne's Church to help support biodiversity. We are inviting parishioners to donate wildflower seeds, plants or peat free compost. If you would like to look at the area, Liz and Ann will be available to show you the area on Sunday after Mass.+

CHRISTIAN FOOD HELP: Due to the ever increasing problem of food poverty, nationally and locally within many families, there is a continual need for donations. At the back of each church we have clearly marked boxes for your donations of food items. Please deposit them there so that they can be taken regularly to St Austin's, where the CFH team can arrange for their distribution. **Many Thanks**

New to the Parish? If you are new to either of the parishes of St Anne or St Patrick you are very welcome. Please let Fr Bob know (on 01785 661012 OR stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk) There are numerous aspects of our parish life that might be of interest to you. We hope that you will feel 'at home' within our parish community.

YOUTH CONNECT

A regular youth activity is held at St Anne's; Mondays [6:30PM TO 8:30PM] (for school years 5 – 9) FREE PIZZA, SPORTS AND GAMES, FRIENDSHIP, BELONG, PRAYER, WORSHIP. So if anyone would like to become involved in any way or wishes to join our Youth Ministry Team please contact Fr. Bob on 01785 661012 [PLEASE SEE POSTER IN THE CHURCH PORCH] *[Please note that letters to parents, together with consent forms are in the parish office – just contact Fr. Bob or the secretary Marie in order to take one]*

* (The activity is now open to those from Year 5 to Year 9)

ST ANNE'S PLAYGROUP

Our playgroup is now up and running in St Anne's Church Hall every Friday morning (school terms) 9:15 am -11:00am, [for ages 0 – 5 years old].

It is a chance to connect with other parents and bring your little one for nursery rhymes, sensory play, books and more. £1 per child, snack included and tea or coffee for carers.

Volunteers to support us would be most welcome (where the usual application procedures apply). This is a Catholic Stafford initiative so it's for all parishes. Please contact: stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk 01785661012 OR Letalya 07848893395

The New Archdiocese Directories are available in the church porch priced at £3 each.

The Archdiocese is recruiting for the following four positions, which will all be closing for applications shortly: Operations Director, IT Manager, Finance Manager and Gift Aid Officer. Full details and closing dates can be found at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs. If you think you have the skills, please do apply.

CATHOLIC STAFFORD CELEBRATION OF ST PATRICK'S DAY

Monday 17th March held at St Anne's Church and Hall.

Mass will be at 11 am after which everyone is invited into the hall for drinks and chat.

At 12 noon the children will be singing for us.

At 12.30 Fish and Chips Lunch £7.

To reserve your place please contact Liz on 07305 936716

Music/Raffle/Quiz/Heads and Tails.

3 pm Goodbyes.



There are more 'Walk with Me' booklets available at the back of church. We had run out last week. Please use them daily; they are a great resource (donations can be placed in the Church Maintenance basket) Thanks



Please note this message from Fr. Philip Newbold. (many of you will remember Fr Philip from his Hednesford days, as well as his supply work in Catholic Stafford)

"I am undertaking a Sponsored Walk of 10,000 paces for the 40 days of Lent. It is to support the work of "Aid to the Church in Need" & a project on the border area between Lebanon/Syria. The project provides a hot meal each weekday for 1500 people. Many are refugees from Syria & displaced Lebanese, after their own country was bombed. You may like to sponsor me? If so, there are sponsor sheets at the back of church, so include your address & postcode if you wish to Gift Aid your donation. You may prefer to donate online at

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/fr-philip-newbold-2>

Monies will be collected AFTER Easter. Thank you for your prayerful & financial offerings" Fr. Philip .

SAINT AUSTIN'S LENT LUNCHEES (Every Friday in the Meeting Room, following the 12 Noon Mass)

We raise money for our ongoing support of community outreach projects that were initiated by the Loreto Day School in Sealdah, Kolkata. They focus in different ways on the care of children, as well as helping marginalised communities in West Bengal. Many thanks, Maggie Brocklebank