

**CHRIST HAS RISEN** **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

# Weekly Newsletter

## **St. Anne's Catholic Church**

Lynton Avenue Weeping Cross Stafford, ST17 0EA. Telephone: 01785 661012 - Website [www.st-anne-st.org.uk](http://www.st-anne-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**

<b>ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL</b>	<b>ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL</b>
Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987 Email: <a href="mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk">office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk</a> Principal: Mr. M. Killeen	Marston Road, ST16 3BT Telephone: 01785 413275 Email: <a href="mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk">office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk</a> Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

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

### **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Mass Time</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Liturgical Day</b>	<b>Mass Intention</b>
Sat	8 <sup>th</sup>	4:00pm 6:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil	ET Elliott & MC Elliott RIP People of the Parish
Sun	9 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Private Intention Margaret & Roy Kiberd RIP
Mon	10 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Anne's		Easter Feria People of the Parish
Tue	11 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Patrick's		Easter Feria Peggy Toner RIP & Thanksgiving for S. Jacob's Mother's birthday.
Wed	12 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil of the Ascension	Fr Kevin Alban RIP
Thu	13 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am 6:30pm	St Anne's St Patrick's	The Ascension of the Lord	Solemnity Dawn Streeton's Intentions Kitty Daly, Pat Daly & Mary Daly RIP
Fri	14 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Anne's	St Matthias	Feast Teresa Walsh RIP
Sat	15 <sup>th</sup>	4:00pm 6:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil	50 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Intentions of S. Jacob John Pettit RIP
Sun	16 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Wedding Anniversary of Angela & Philip Ann Gormley 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, Cecilia 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] William Blackburn, William Paish, John Greer, Mary Horsley, Norah Cooper, William Hardy, Raymond O'Rourke, Mary Clarke, Barry Johnston, Amelia Narcisi and Gerard McCann.

[St Anne's] Pat Bayliffe, Evelyn Gundersen, Henry James, Annie Kay, Hilda Scandrett, Terry Smith, John Carter and Eric Parsons.

<b>Income 2/5/21</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>Non-Gift Aid</b>	<b>Standing Order</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
St Anne's	Offertory	£116.00	£393.18	£283.84	£793.02	Sat 50 Sun 44
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£76.00	£223.19	£146.23	£445.42	Sat 37 Sun 47

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 April 2021 Winners

£100 M Ross – 45, £50 P Turner - 75, £20 A Reck - 25, £10 T Kelly – 126, £10 S Freckleton – 60, £10 E Turner – 137, £10 J Stamyard – 64, £10 R Fletcher – 88, £10 A Eaton – 19, £10 M walker – 33, £10 A Kelly – 128, £10 C McHugh – 46, £10 I Coghlan – 144.

Thank you for your support. A lot of numbers are available at only £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**

**St Anne's:** At present all Masses celebrated at St Anne's are web streamed. (Our grateful thanks to Peter) [Please go to the front web page and click on Mass Live at the top and you should be able to follow the Mass]. **Fr. Bob**

**Places of Worship are open for Mass**, 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.

**Second Collection: Next weekend 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> May, there will be a second collection for Catholic Communications**

**Our Deceased:** Please pray for **John Pettit**, husband of Jean, St Patrick's, who died recently, also, **Roy Burton**, husband of Sheila, St Anne's, who died last week. We remember their families at this time. *May John and Roy rest in peace and rise in glory.*

**School Governors:** St Patrick's School is in need of **Foundation Governors**, which is why we are making this appeal. If any parishioner might feel they could fulfil this important role please approach/phone Fr. Bob (**parish phone or email**). Alternatively, contact St Patrick's School (413275). Many thanks in anticipation.

**The Month of May:** Archbishop Bernard has asked that we include this message from him: *The Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation has called for a universal daily prayer to be offered for the end of the Covid-19 Pandemic during the month of May and that each day during the month will focus upon one of the international Marian Shrines. This includes Our Lady of Walsingham. We have been asked to note that Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May has been assigned for Our Lady of Walsingham with the prayer intention in favour of the Holy Souls. A list of the Marian Shrines can be found (in Italian) by clicking the link on the home page.*

**Honouring Mary in May:** During this month of May we shall be honouring Our Lady in St Anne's and St Patrick's by saying the 'Regina Caeli' followed by the Memorare at the start of each Mass. You will find copies of these prayers on small pieces of paper in each church porch. Please take them with you so may be familiar with the anthem and prayer.

**St Anne's Church maintenance:** *The remedial work to the lower roof was completed last year.* Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously. This year we plan to try to monitor and possibly remedy any ongoing problems to the upper roof. Upcoming tasks this year include **decorating the interior of the Hall** this summer and **remedial tree surgery** to satisfy Health and Safety. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. F.Bob

**End Note:** If anyone who thinks they might enjoy painting/touching up a few of our church statues in St Patrick's, do please let me know. You may even be aware of someone who could be willing to help. It would be greatly and humbly appreciated.                   F. Bob

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** [Easter Duties and Confession at this time]. Please be assured that the Church's communication on this is still valid from the beginning of last year's lockdown, and that provided we are fully contrite in our hearts, we can confess our sins to the Lord within our own 'private prayer space'. According to the teaching of the Church, the present ongoing situation would not warrant the 'Rite of General Absolution'. If notice is given, and at convenient times, before or after Mass, I have been hearing confessions and this will continue. God Bless. Fr. Bob

**Gift Aid Envelopes:** Please be aware that the new 2021/22 GA boxes are available at the back of each parish church. They are numbered and named and begin on 11<sup>th</sup> April (many thanks to Margaret [SP] and Mark [SA] for preparing these). They are ready for collection. If anyone would like more information concerning this method of giving (or, indeed, concerning donation by Standing Order) please see Fr. Bob

**Appeal for Readers:** *In order to grow and develop our pool of readers in both parishes, we are appealing for anyone from St Anne's or St Patrick's parishes to help by becoming a reader. Reading the scriptures at Mass encourages personal contemplation of the Word of God and allows the word to dwell more richly in our hearts. We need more parishioners willing to read occasionally at Mass.* **A training session for Readers will take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June from 7 – 8.30 pm in St Anne's Church.** *Please text Deacon Mike 07706077124 or leave a message at the parish office if you would like to take part. If you are already a reader please make contact as well to indicate your continued availability for this service. Many Thanks.*

### **HOMILY SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Whenever conversations arise, that involve Christianity or Jesus, within groups of people who may or may not be religious, we might very well hear a suggestion like this: "I believe there was probably historically a man called Jesus who went around and did many good things, and I think most of his teachings are full of wisdom, but I don't believe he was God". Or something like: "I like his sayings and a good number of the world's population follow his teachings, but his claim to be son of God or divine is far-fetched". Now we could counter these types of opinion in various ways, couldn't we; and the most obvious route for me would be to point to the fact that even after two thousand years countless Christians have laid down their lives for Jesus, and still do. There's no way 'under heaven' that such a faith and absolute commitment could be sustained if the man Jesus was just a man – mortal flesh and blood, who was killed and died and never rose from the dead. It just wouldn't happen, would it. So many wise thinkers and historical 'good' leaders have passed, and their followers dispersed, and all their sayings, deeds and claims have been consigned to the history books.

In reality, people don't put themselves through torture and death for some wise thoughts and ideas. We believe in the person of Jesus Christ (God become human) and the word 'believe' itself isn't powerful enough or deep enough to explain what gives us life and meaning and the courage to walk through a dangerous, insecure and hostile world. For us, 'belief' is an inadequate term for an energy or power that comes beyond us; beyond anything we can imagine or conceive. And we get a glimpse of that energy and power in Jesus' long conversation with His disciples, don't we. In today's passage Jesus spares nothing in explaining what true love is and how it can only be found in its purest form within God. This isn't just an emotional, sentimental love that we know, from experience, lets us down in its unreliable, fleeting and passing illusion. The love Jesus emphasises with His disciples is a love that can only come from God, because He loved us first. And if, as we know, God loved us into existence from nothing, then that love that unites Father and Son must also run through us. This goes far beyond our thoughts or concepts or ideas or imagination even. Divine love actually holds us in being. When people speak about Jesus' sayings and wisdom as being a good framework for promoting justice in our world, they've missed the point.

They mistakenly imagine 'justice' as the end point – their goal for humanity. Now, obviously, none of us would disagree with a just world being our goal as well, but our faith in Jesus Christ means that justice can never come through human peace-making or legislation, can it. Human civilisation has always struggled to promote justice; and at its best, justice knows that it only has a negative function. That function is, if

you like, to “clear the decks” and leave the world open for people to love each other, and we can’t legislate for love. It is through Jesus, and only through Jesus, that God commands us to love, and it’s here that we, being Christian and human, learn the difference between what law can achieve and what God can and does achieve. Jesus ‘commands’ us to love, but doesn’t the word command sound odd in terms of loving? Well, it certainly does if we’re talking about our relationship with God. But if any of us have read the famous George Orwell’s ‘Nineteen Eighty-Four’ the totalitarian ruler orders his terrified subjects to ‘love’ him, and the book’s appalling climax shows Winston the hero, in a sense happy, finally ‘loving’ Big Brother. But, and this is the crux, the hero has ceased to be human. Jesus’ command, though, is made because He has acted out, and will always act out, the greatest thing that love can do. Jesus has come to make us more human, not less; to give us freedom and joy, not slavery. Authentic love is like a ‘falling’ back into the origins of where we came from; when our minds are spent and broken and when we see our total helplessness for what it is. Love is sustained by eucharistic unity with someone who has love us more than we can ever imagine. “You didn’t choose me; I chose you” says the Lord.