

Sunday 9th August 2020

Weekly Newsletter

St. Anne's Catholic Church

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St. Patrick's Catholic Church

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

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TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR						
Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day		Mass Intention
Sat	8 th	6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil		People of the Parish
Sun	9 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Nineteenth Sunday of the Year		Jean Rennie RIP and Bob & Damian
		11:15am	St Anne's			Shaun Gilbride RIP
Mon	10 th	10:00am	St Anne's	Communion Service	St Lawrence	Feast
Tue	11 th	No Mass	St Patrick's	St Clare		Memoria
Wed	12 th	No Mass	St Anne's			Feria
Thu	13 th	No Mass	St Patrick's			Feria
Fri	14 th	10:00am	St Anne's	Communion Service	St Maximilian Kolbe	Memoria
Sat	15 th	6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil		Peter Turner's Intentions
Sun	16 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Solemnity: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary		Dorothy Rowe RIP
		11:15am	St Anne's			Peggy Toner RIP

Our Recently Deceased: Please pray for **Phyllis Walker**, a St Patrick's parishioner, who dies recently. Her Funeral Mass is on **Monday 10th August at 1.00 p.m. at St Austin's**. We remember Phyllis' family also at this time.

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's] Jean Rennie, Bernard Gunn Snr, Edith Hodgkinson, Maud Carthy, Joseph Roe, Veronica Vance-Cotsford, Thomas Knight, Jane Petrini, Frederick Wood, Sadie Cannon, Louis McCaffery, Eulalia Casadesus, Alfred Godwin. [St. Anne's] Jonathan Blacka, Owen Wood, Vera Ruscoe, John Ilsley, Margaret Sandy, Mollie Gourley, Theresa Minton, Frank Murray, Min Goulding, Felix Pooler.

Prayers for the sick: St Patrick's Phylis Bowers, 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, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Colin Wise.

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

Parish Tote 150 Club May winners:- £100 W Meehan – 54, £50 M.S. Wright – 107, £20 E Turner – 137, £10 B Roberts – 69, £10 A Lyons – 22, £10 S Freckleton – 60. **June winners:-** £100 M Harwood – 104, £50 A Heath – 138, £20 P Rennie – 3, £10 C Price – 13, £10 Lennon Family – 57, £10 J Stamyard – 64, £10 A Lawrence – 26, £10 C McHugh – 2, £10 A Lyons – 22, £10 C McHugh – 46, £10 W Meehan- 54

***Please note that those who would like to pay their subscriptions to the 150 Club by *STANDING ORDER* can let Fr Bob know and he will pass on the name to Mary Owen. It would help immensely during this time. Many thanks**

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 diocese (Steve Roche):** Just to let you know, there is a donate **BUTTON (TOP RIGHT)** on the home page of the diocesan website – www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

*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

Please bear with me as I mention here just a few details we need to be aware of. At the start of each Mass I shall explain a lot more of how we proceed, so no problems. Masses will be celebrated within the (1metre + guidelines) This will entail the wearing of some form of face covering within the church.

An important and interesting point for us to understand is that 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, I will publish the times of Masses weekly since there will be occasional alterations and gaps. E.g. because I had planned a few days break in late July and mid-August, the days of Mass will alter. Below are the times and venues: (Looking two weeks ahead) You will notice that I have included the schedule of Masses for St Austin's which perhaps also reflects the way we need to think in terms of the future.

MASSES

No Masses during weekdays, BUT:

**MONDAY 10th August Communion Service
10am St Anne's**

**FRIDAY 14th August Communion Service
10am at St Anne's**

SATURDAY 15th August 6:00pm St Anne's

**SUNDAY 16th August 9:30am St Patrick's
11:15am St Anne's**

FOLLOWING WEEK:

MONDAY 17th August 9:30am St Anne's

TUESDAY 18th August 9:30am St Patrick's

THURSDAY 20th August 6:30pm St Patrick's

FRIDAY 21st August 6:30pm St Anne's

St Austin's Parish [Masses]

SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST 10:30am

WEDNESDAY 11TH AUGUST 7:00pm

FRIDAY 13TH AUGUST 7:00pm

(FOLLOWING WEEK)

SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 10:30am

WEDNESDAY 19TH AUGUST 7:00pm

FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST 7:0pm

[Fr. Michael will be streaming his usual Masses on the other days also.]

The most important and pressing and absolutely vital 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. I can't emphasise enough how the church needs you! Because the sensible (distancing) capacity of each church is 50, it will be 'first come, first served', but, between the two parishes there should be 7 Masses during one week, potentially allowing for a total of 350 parishioners. 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.

This is why it is very important for sufficient volunteers to be able to cover Masses. Many Thanks for your patience and understanding. Regarding safety and distancing, we have been told to operate the 1m+ guideline so all those coming to Mass must wear a face covering, but it means we don't have to be 2m apart. Holy Communion will be distributed as parishioners leave church. There will be stewards to guide people to seats and to help with communion arrangements. 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 through the 'first come, first served' policy. Remember, a family group may sit together on one bench or in neighbouring chairs. 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.

HOMILY FOR NINETEENTH WEEK OF YEAR 2020

I turned on the news on T.V. last night and heard that: [the majority of Britain's population were very happy and most satisfied with the country and its political leaders. That the housing situation was coping well with the demand of the population and that world athletics was on course to be clean, smoothly run and controversy-free. The majority of nations would soon be out of debt. Now, does this sort of news sound likely? – Of course not, it's nonsense. We know from experience that when we read the headlines, turn on the T.V. or radio we're going to be faced with BAD news. We expect it to be bad. It always has been and always will be. It's as if we have a built-in programme that always imagines news to be negative. What little good news may arise is usually added at the tail end of the news broadcast. Why do we seem to expect (and, somehow perversely) almost will the worst to happen? – It's almost as if we're doom-laden.

When the prophet Elijah fled to the mountain in our first reading he was full of fear, depressed and actually prayed to die. Where did he really expect he was going to find the Lord? – in the wind? the earthquake? the fire? This was traditionally how God 'showed' Himself to those He was communicating with.

And, it was always accompanied by FEAR and foreboding – remember Moses meeting Yahweh on Mount Sinai – it was always accompanied by clouds and thunder. But, here, Elijah discovers God in a gentle breeze – nothing violent, nothing fearful. A gentle breeze reminds us more of loving intimacy rather than terrifying authority.

We see a similar contrast in today's Gospel of Matthew also. Notice that gentleness and intimacy are the 'order of the day' for Jesus and His disciples. Jesus goes off on His own to have close, peaceful conversation with His Father. The disciples, meanwhile, go off in their boat to do battle with a rough sea. They're probably used to it and expect the sea to treat them badly. Like us, they're used to dealing with a violent, hostile world (and expect the worst). But, Jesus, just after He's prayed to His Father, calmly walks across a rough sea towards the boat. What a difference calm 'words' of encouragement make to a situation. Even when the disciples see Jesus they see a terrifying apparition instead of the leader they know and love. So, what's going on here?

The disciples' whole attitude can be summed up in one word – FEAR. And it's fear which links both our readings today. Once Jesus starts to invite Peter to walk across the stormy water towards Him LOVE and TRUST begin to drive out fear. The trouble is it doesn't last long. Doubt and mistrust rear their ugly heads and Peter starts sinking.

So much doubt, mistrust and fear fill our daily lives that we're not surprised to hear of war murder and tragedy. We wouldn't expect anything different if we're surrounded by this sort of dark hostile attitude. But, what a difference genuine love makes if we take the trouble to look at it un-cynically. God isn't fearful or terrifying. He's in our closest, gentlest most intimate encounters. God speaks to us in our 'pillow-talk'. This is where our hearts are touched. The wind, the earthquake and the fire on the other hand, represent the daily nightmare of our news stories. – And those so often play on our fears instead of allowing us to see them through the eyes of Christ.