



**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

# 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

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

### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Peggy Toner RIP
		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Colin Wilkinson (Ann. of marriage)
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	St Patrick's	The Baptism of the Lord	Patty Tiernan RIP
		9:30am	St Anne's		Bernard Massey (Ann.)
Mon	11 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Anne's	Feria	Patrick Toner RIP
Tue	12 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Patrick's	Feria	Ann. Mass for Benefactors of the Johnson Assn.
Wed	13 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass		Feria	
Thu	14 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Patrick's	Feria	Celebrant's Intention
Fri	15 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Anne's	Feria	Paul Toner RIP
Sat	16 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	People of the Parish
		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	The health of Fr Davis Catterall
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	St Patrick's	Second Sunday of the Year	Linda Concannon
		9:30am	St Anne's		Eamon 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, 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] Ada Beeston, Ann Burghall, Christopher Dibb, Bernard Massey, Lilian Moore, Joseph Maguire, Joseph Meehan, Bernard Ryan, Bertram Burne, Thomas Concar, Frederick Millward, Mary O'Donnell, Winifred Parnell, Mary Williams, Neil King, Derek Sammut, John Towey, Charles Durkin, Walter Kelly, Basil Cooke, Lioriel Vasselin, Maureen Askey, Nicola Caruso, Michael Dooley, Hugh McCabe [St Anne's] Bernard Massey, Charles Carmedy, Roger Frow, Mary Gammon, Imelda Hall, Margaret Hunt, Nell Peck, Trevor Clarkson, Audrey George, Jennifer Billington, Alban Loran, Walter Kelly .*

Income	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£	£	£283.84	£	Sat 24 Sun 24
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£	£	£146.23	£	Sat 18 Sun 15

*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**

Thank you for your support during 2020. Hopefully we can count on your support again in 2021. Those who pay yearly please can you put your monies in a sealed envelope with your name on the outside marked for 150 Club and put into the collection bins. Cheques should be made payable to St Patrick's. Further details from Marie on 01785 661012.

*at this critical time. If anyone wishes to make such 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 Roof Appeal (Update)**

*The remedial work to the lower roof has now been completed.* We are appealing for any donations St Anne's community can donate to this work; my thanks and appreciation to those who have already given so generously; we are gradually on our way - looking at a sum approaching £10,000. (We are nearly half of the way there). This year we hope to remedy ongoing problems to the upper roof. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. F.Bob

**Friends of the Holy Land:** This is the final weekend for Crib Donations for Friends of the Holy Land. This year has been particularly 'ruthless' for them in terms of lack of pilgrims (especially during this coming Christmas period when Bethlehem would normally be packed) and lack of sales for their wonderful artefacts etc. This year's Crib donations run throughout the Christmas period. You can donate through their website (where our Christian brothers and sisters' desperate situation is made evident). It is: <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk> They also take donations via internet banking. Their bank details are Friends of the Holy Land Sort Code 600541 Account Number 24591211 Gift Aid forms are available in the porch. Any amount of assistance would be very welcome. Many thanks

**Our Recently Deceased:** Please remember in your prayers **Thelma Taylor, St Patrick's**, who died on 30<sup>th</sup> December and **Deirdre Wilkinson, St Anne's** who died on 29<sup>th</sup>. We pray also for their families. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Women's Refuge (gifts for the Christmas Tree): Donations cease this weekend.** Rather than bulky gifts [such as bedding, towels etc.] the Refuge really appreciate vouchers because it eliminates the need for storage, which becomes more problematic in these times. Vouchers or cash in envelopes can always be left at the presbytery and they will be passed on. Mark them either St Anne or St Patrick. Many Thanks

\*\* St Anne's parish is now live-streaming Masses, so please go to the front web page and click on Mass Live at the top and you should be able to follow the Mass.

**Now, as we reach the conclusion of Christmastide on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, let us find time to reflect and take in the mystery we have celebrated.**

Last Monday evening (4 Jan) the Prime Minister outlined the new restrictions for a third national lockdown. It was good to hear that **Places of Worship are able to remain open**, but we were reminded of the need and importance for us all to be extra careful and diligent with social distancing and hygiene. Since the church re-opened back in July we have been grateful for the help and dedication of our stewards/cleaners. They have ensured, and continue to ensure, that all guidelines are followed and that the church is thoroughly cleaned after each service.

**Please remember that the obligation to attend Holy Mass is still suspended.** All our Masses from St Anne's will continue to be live streamed through YouTube, details of which can be found on our website. Let us all seek the intercession of St Anne, St Patrick and St Austin our parish patrons, and the intercession of Our Blessed Lady and St Roch at this time.

## HOMILY FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

History teaches us that the world of politics inevitably becomes a 'graveyard' strewn with the would be ambitions of politicians of all persuasions. It was ever thus. I would think that there'd be general agreement that good, authentic, and more respected political leaders have an empathy and feeling for the citizens of the country they lead. In fact, great leaders have never shied away from experiencing similar dangers to the general populace. The Prime Minister Winston Churchill would be one such example, during the Second World War years.

For us Christians our 'leader' is Jesus Christ, but the very word leader is totally inadequate. We might follow a political leader or support him or her, but we would never 'put our faith' in them. But when we say that we follow Christ as our leader it means infinitely more. He is our Lord and God; our master, our everything. He is, in fact, God become man and it is this very description of Him which defines how He expresses Himself in this world. In other words, how is 'God become man' to live among humans whilst He walks on this earth? Well, Mark's Gospel in chapter 1 gives us a good idea how Jesus is to relate to those of us He was sent to redeem. This passage, in fact, is the one I always read when I am officiating at an infant baptism. Although it's only short, I always put it to those present that it raises more questions than it answers. Here was the author of all existence, master and creator of the Universe and everything beyond anything we could imagine, offering Himself to be immersed under the Jordan's waters by a creature. John's baptism was one of repentance, so what exactly is Jesus repenting of here? Well, the only way we are going to understand His action is to think of His passion, death, and resurrection.

Jesus' whole Paschal Mystery is nothing other than God entering into and becoming part of our physical and spiritual humanity and raising that humanity to perfection. However, for this reality to come about, Jesus has to be the Messiah and the Messiah represents His people. What is true of Him is true of them; Messiah means the 'anointed one' and this story tells how Jesus was anointed with the HOLY SPIRIT, marked out as God's Son. For all of us, the most powerful voice heard as Jesus rises from the water was that of His heavenly Father: "You are my wonderful son; you make me very glad". And, because this was spoken to His Son, God the Father speaks it to us also. It reinforces our hope, as Jesus Himself does in His Gospel teachings, that our Father is not some distant frightening deity far removed from the messy struggles of His wayward creatures. Just as Jesus took on Himself humanity's sinfulness through His passion, the first sign of this is when He takes our 'repentance' down into the Jordan's waters so that He could walk with us through His earthly ministry. We see Jesus accepting baptism by John, mingling with those who have come to confess their sins. He joins the queue of people, wanting to share their joys and sorrows. In doing this Jesus shows that He intends to engage with humanity in all its struggles, its limitations, and its problems.

The wonderful message for all of us today is that, when Jesus went down and waded in the water with John, He absorbed in that water the sins of everyone who would ever enter baptismal water; He took them on Himself. There is no darkness that can overcome the true light. So, let's be reminded of this reality as we celebrate the mercy of God who becomes one with us, and as we reflect on the beautiful image of Jesus, the voice of God the Father and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove of peace revealing themselves at the Jordan.