

CHRIST HAS RISEN

Sunday 11th April 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

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

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TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Second Sunday of Easter

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	10 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Ned & Thelma Taylor RIP
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Ferdie O'Haloran
Sun	11 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Second Sunday of Easter	Patrick & Bridget Collins RIP
		10:00am	St Anne's		& John Rennie RIP Peggy Toner RIP
Mon	12 th	9:30am	St Anne's	Easter Feria	Tony Duke RIP (Ann.)
Tue	13 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Easter Feria	Philomena McCarron RIP
Wed	14 th	No Mass		Easter Feria	
Thu	15 th	6:30pm	St Patrick's	Easter Feria	Kathleen Boulton RIP
Fri	16 th	6:30pm	St Anne's	Easter Feria	People of the Parish
Sat	17 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Bob & Damian
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	The Reynolds & McMahon Families Deceased
Sun	18 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Third Sunday of Easter	Dan Ryan RIP (Ann)
		10:00am	St Anne's		Fr. Michael Crumpton 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] Edward Heslin, Patrick Dolphin, George Batkin, Lawrence Coghlan, Felicity Adamson, The Victims of the Hillsborough Football Disaster, Bridie Mansell, Kathleen Harahan, Thomas Burke, Martin Regan, Edward Humphries and Albert Lees. [St Anne's] Paul Graham, Peter Wright, Mary Carmichael, Sally Duffy, William Murtagh, James Polding, Basil Sandy, Fred Unsworth, Edith Blissett, Susanna Helks, Imelda O'Sullivan, Mildred Hulme, Patrick Kennelly, Violet Chant, Ethel Fenton, Hubert Flecher and Kevin O'Sullivan.

Income 4/4/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£72.00	£255.69	£283.84	£611.53	Thu 45 Fri 72 Sat 38 Sun 80
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£152.00	£263.78	£146.23	£562.01	Thu 54 Fri 70 Sat 65 Sun 66

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

Parish Tote 150 Club March 2021 Winners

£100 J Walsh – 20, £50 C McHugh – 28, £20 F Russell – 156, £10 R Fletcher – 88, £10 B Walton- 148, £10 G Leese – 83, £10 J Hunt – 114, £10 G Thickett – 18, £10 W Meehan – 58, £10 B Roberts – 69, £10 K Ronan – 59, £10 T Lawrence – 26

Thank you for your support. Numbers are available at £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 still 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. 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.

HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh: We pray for HRH Prince Philip on the sad occasion of his death and we remember also Her Majesty The Queen and her family. May the Lord comfort them in their grief. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

St Anne's Church Roof: *The remedial work to the lower roof was completed last year.* Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously; we are gradually on our way – over £6,000 has been raised so far. This year we plan to try to monitor and possibly remedy any 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**

Sacrament of Reconciliation: A number of parishioners have asked about 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**

Holy Thursday Gifts: (In each of our three churches)**From Maundy Thursday** and throughout the Triduum, in the spirit of sharing you were invited to bring an appropriate food item for Christian Food Help and Brushstrokes. These can be left at the back of the churches. Although we have concluded the Easter Octave, nevertheless, please do continue (when and as you are able) to bring in contributions to this worthy ongoing cause. All bags of groceries will be regularly transferred to St Austin's Hall from where teams distribute them. **Many thanks.**

Holy Places St Anne's £272.16 St Patrick's £120.09 Thank You.

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 11th 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 please see **Fr. Bob**

Appeal for Readers: After a long period of 'lockdown' and reduced Mass attendance, we are beginning to see a return to 'regular' congregations and increasing numbers. We also need to re-introduce rotas. 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 soon (date to be decided). 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 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

As we now enter the Easter period following Christ's paschal Mystery, our readings follow the events and experiences of Jesus' disciples, both in the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel. And if we try to put ourselves in the place of the Apostles during the immediate aftermath of the death and resurrection of Jesus, we might just have an understanding of how they must have felt and how fearful they would have been. Remember, they had been through a dreadful trauma in which they'd come to realise the full horror of their weakness and failure to stand by the one who called them and showed them all the signs they needed. Those men were truly 'sifted', weren't they? Although some had seen the empty tomb and had been given the message by Mary Magdalene, their minds and ability to reason would have been buried beneath all sorts of doubt and confusion, as well as them being frightened. They desperately needed the full and total reality of Jesus in their presence, didn't they, and they certainly experienced it.

It was also the 'physical' reality that the disciples needed; Jesus showing His wounds in His hands and side. Of course, Thomas, who we know from scripture, was someone who would need more evidence than the testimony of his companions, needed to be able to actually touch the Lord for him to be satisfied that He was actually risen. And we know, don't we, that touch is the most powerful and intimate gesture humans can share with each other. And the last year has seen people suffer so much from the social isolation and family distancing that ultimately goes against every aspect of being human. We're also very aware that the sacraments have been scarce because of restrictions, and they rely on touch and physical presence which mediate the presence of Christ. So, when Jesus does appear again, a week later, that intimate scene of encounter between the risen Christ and Thomas is everything sacramental, isn't it. It shows the mercy of Jesus in sparing nothing to bring in Thomas from his sceptical pride. The mercy of Jesus is so powerful that He does not abandon him but finds another way to reach Thomas' heart. And just listen to Thomas' response to this contact: "My Lord and my God". Although Thomas was cautious, he was also loyal, as we hear from other parts of the Gospel and Jesus knew about his loyalty. So, it is interesting that we hear from Thomas' lips the purest act of faith of anyone in the Gospel. Thomas proclaimed Jesus as the one true God of Israel. But, at the same time, just notice what Jesus says to Thomas: "Blessed are those who have not seen, yet believe". So, in a way, the evangelist John is using the story of Thomas to emphasise the transition from the days of the physical life of Jesus to the age of the risen Lord. And of course, we are living in this age aren't we. We haven't come to faith on the physical contact and the signs of Jesus as He walked on earth, but on hearing the word that's preached by His disciples and their descendants and the sacraments that accompany this word.

Now, clearly, if the Lord Jesus ascended to His Father two thousand years ago He certainly didn't leave His Mystical Body on earth empty of His presence. In John's account Jesus breathed on His disciples and gave them the Holy Spirit. And we know, through Pentecost that It is the Holy Spirit that keeps us alive; both individually and as church. The Holy Spirit

allows us to be born anew, into a life above this world, and it reminds us of the world's original creation when God breathed life into the bodies of clay which He had fashioned. The vital role of the third member of the Godhead in the whole of God's creation is absolute. God creates as one and spirit and matter are bound together uniquely and inseparably.

Just as Jesus' Apostles were called on that day of resurrection, so we are also called to new supernatural life. Jesus has left us His life and presence in a real and tangible way. And the sources of this new life are three: -- the water, the blood and the Spirit. We can identify these in the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist (Holy Communion) and Confirmation; the sacraments of Christian initiation. In the end, it is through our faith that we can trust in divine forgiveness, that we believe in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. And it is this new life that puts the sense of touch and the material, physical relationships in their true place. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and we are invited to see others with wonder and respect. Just as touch caused Thomas to 'fall to his knees' in awe, the power of touch is a God-given gift to renew creation and God's holy people.