

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 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**

<b>ST. ANNE'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	<b>ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> 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
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### **TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK**

#### **Fifteenth Sunday of the Year**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	10 <sup>th</sup>	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Fr. Oliver Keenan OP (Ann of ordination)
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	People of the parish
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	St Patrick's	<b>Fifteenth Sunday of the Year</b>	Intentions of Claire&Simon Josephine & John Ard RIP
		10:00am	St Anne's		
Mon	12 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Anne's	Feria	Fr. Oliver Kemp RIP
Tue	13 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Patrick's	Feria	Oshia Von Zakzewska RIP
Wed	14 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass	St Anne's	Feria	
Thu	15 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Patrick's	St Bonaventure	Memoria Fr O. Keenan & Family
Fri	16 <sup>th</sup>	11:30am	St Anne's	<b>Funeral Mass for Michael Fleming</b>	Feria
		6:30pm	St Anne's		
Sat	17 <sup>th</sup>	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	People of the Parish
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Stephen Bayliffe RIP
Sun	18 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	St Patrick's	<b>Sixteenth Sunday of the Year</b>	The McHugh& Middleton Families
		10:00am	St Anne's		

**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, Rebecca Kilkenny. 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] Robert Whitlock, Stella Corrin, Herbert Smith, John Davies, David Ernest Bryant, Annie Quinn, Gerard Costello, Angela Collins, Ronald Clancy, Michael Thurgood, Bill Johnston, Eileen Barclay and Eileen McHugh. [St Anne's.] Charles Shackle, Stanley Elms, Isobel Keegan, Ben Olverson, Hannah Woollaston, Thomas Holmes, Kate Gormley, Daniel Morris, Hilda Hammond, Norbert Sandy and Fr Arthur Warburton.

Income 20/6/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£344.40	£243.03	£283.84	£871.27	Sat 51 Sun 41
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£107.00	£216.35	£146.23	£469.58	Sat 38 Sun 53

*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 June 2021**

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**\* Expenses (maintenance, consumables, utilities and fabric upkeep, not to mention health and safety) are ongoing. 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 are 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.

#### **Dates to Note:**

**MASS TO COMMEMORATE THE LOCAL MARTYR, BLESSED ROBERT SUTTON:** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 11:00am at St Thomas Mill.

**Second Collection:** Please note that there will be a second collection **this weekend 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> July for Apostleship of the Sea.**

**Last weekend's collection for Peter's Pence St Anne's £94.70 St Patrick's £25.32 Thank You.**

**The Year of St Joseph.** For the remainder of the year we shall be honouring St Joseph (as this is the Year of St Joseph, initiated by Pope Francis). In St Anne's and St Patrick's churches the statue of St Joseph is prominent.

**St Anne's and St Patrick's Church maintenance:** Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously. Upcoming tasks this year include **decorating the interior of St Anne's Hall** this summer and **comprehensive remedial tree surgery for both parishes** to satisfy Health and Safety. **Important and involved remedial work is also needed on St Patrick's upper front roof.** Please accept my grateful thanks for any donations. 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 began 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

**Visits to the sick and housebound** are now possible if parishioners feel comfortable for them to happen. If you know of anyone (St Patrick's or St Anne's) who might like to receive the Sacraments at home, please do speak to Fr. Bob

**THANK YOU:** We give thanks for all those involved in the sacraments of **Confirmation** and **First Holy Communion** celebrated in **St Patrick's** and **St Anne's** over the last few weeks. School staff, parishioners and parents all helped to allow these important sacramental celebrations to proceed. We pray these events become new 'gateways' to commitment and community on behalf of the children and their parents. May they be especially blessed.

**RCIA:** This stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and the course is now up and running for those residing within St Anne's or St Patrick's parishes. Anyone wishing to become Roman Catholic and including relatives, friends or acquaintances of regular parishioners who may have expressed interest but don't know where to start are very welcome. Please approach Deacon Mike or Fr. Bob if you would like more information on the program.

**Diocesan Vision:** “Unfolding God’s Plan”. The Diocesan Evangelisation Team are inviting parishes to host **‘Something Greater’** which takes place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July. This event will help parishes extend a hand of friendship to their local community. This online gathering will include a welcome, a short film and a personal invitation to come to church. A pack is being created which will have everything we need to host **‘Something Greater’**. It will include a step-by-step guide and different ways for parishes to reach out to invite their community and ideas on how we may extend a personal invitation to church. If any parishioners are interested in coming together to form a group who would help lead this then the Evangelisation sub group would be pleased to make contact. They can be contacted at: [something.greater@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:something.greater@rcaob.org.uk) More information on the Diocesan Vision will be released. We are all asked to pray for this event and also encouraged to think how we might begin to reach out to:

(1) *Those who have lost the habit of coming to church and who may be anxious about doing so.*  
(2) *Those who may not want to re-establish a pattern of Catholic worship – who may have seen a gap widen between the spiritual dimension of their lives and communal expression of that spiritual quest.*  
(3) *Those ‘Covid curious’ who may have encountered the Catholic Church for the first time during the pandemic*

### HOMILY FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF YEAR

It’s great to be free, isn’t it? Freedom is one of, if not the most, important characteristics of our humanity. It liberates us, energises us and we’ve all heard the phrase ‘to breathe freedom’. But, in a strange sense, freedom is also strongly related to fear. Oddly, we can be fearful of losing our freedom and we can be fearful of having what we’d call total freedom. I think the only way we as Christians can understand this paradox is from within our faith perspective, because, although we crave freedom, we essentially crave the security that goes with it. “Put your faith in Jesus” as traditional evangelists would say, and “He will set you free”. And this is true; Jesus does give us freedom but it is a freedom that enables us to become what we were always meant to be. It is the freedom to fully live the way Jesus wants us to; to live in the way we were created to live. The superficial, immature concept of freedom can be reduced to just our freedom to choose which, as we know, often leads to disaster. Once Adam and Eve ‘ate of the forbidden fruit’ they were free to choose right and wrong.

Let’s now try to put ourselves in the ‘persons’ of Amos, in our first reading, and the twelve disciples in Mark’s Gospel, shall we, and maybe we can understand the interplay between freedom and fear. Amos must have felt himself totally unqualified to be a prophet of any kind – he looked after sheep and sycamore trees. Amos is ill-prepared and hesitant. And I wonder how many of us here today feel that God may be calling us to fulfil a role we’re not qualified for. But when we hear today’s second reading from Ephesians, we see signs of hope, don’t we. Paul gives us the affirmation that we’ve been blessed with “all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ”. And what this does is to demonstrate to us that there is a path from hesitation (and we know that hesitation always follows the so-called freedom we THINK we have) to affirmation. This is the path from uncertainty to real freedom, and it lets us know that we have been chosen in Christ to live “through love in His presence”. This gift can only come from Christ Himself and it’s the gift that will enable each one of us to be transformed, to leave our doubts and fears behind, and be able to say “yes” to what seems impossible.

As baptised Christians, we are all partakers in the mystery of God’s plan; to bear God’s Good News to our world of today. And God’s Good News is nothing less than His love. Our faith history shows us that God’s love becomes transformative for us because it changes the lives of not only ourselves, but the lives of those we reach out to. Just think about those disciples in Mark’s Gospel who were sent out to all the surrounding areas to heal and drive out evil spirits. Would they have felt confident and fully qualified to do what they did ‘off their own backs’ with only their human knowledge and courage? No way. It could only be transformative love that enabled those disciples to go out and preach, to anoint and to heal. This is because they had already experienced Jesus’ love, a love so powerful that it had caused some of them to drop their nets and follow Him. This same love saw their own humanity and neediness and loved them unconditionally no matter what their background or past. And this love is exactly what takes away the fear and the bogus ‘freedom’ of choice; of indecision and hesitancy. Jesus gave these disciples His authority and this would have given them all the freedom they ever needed or wanted. And for us today, this same transformative love is found in the depths of our own faith, even though we may very well ‘look’

at that scene in Marks' Gospel and think: no way could I have go out to villages and towns proclaiming repentance and the Good News of Christ. But, in that context, the twelve would not have thought in such a way. While it is very understandable that we may hesitate in the face of some of today's challenges, we can try not to let fear paralyse us and prevent us from achieving what we are called to, and capable of. Although it's a struggle to believe, in our often hostile world, God's love does conquer all and will transform our fear into authentic freedom.