

Sunday 11th October 2020

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

48 Sandon Road, Stafford ST16 3HF. Telephone 01785 661012 - Website www.stpatricksstafford.co.uk

Email: 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 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 Principal: Mr. M. Brandon
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TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	10 th	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	The Horsnall Family
		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	John Harland RIP
Sun	11 th	8:00am	St Patrick's	Twenty-Eighth Sunday of the Year	Bridget Flood RIP
		9:30am	St Anne's		People of the Parish
Mon	12 th	9:30am	St Anne's	Feria	Peggy Toner RIP
Tue	13 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Feria	Fr. John Dewis RIP
Wed	14 th	No Mass		Feria	
Thu	15 th	6:30pm	St Patrick's	St Teresa of Avila	Memoria Celebrant's Intention
Fri	16 th	6:30pm	St Anne's		Feria Private Intention
Sat	17 th	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	People of the Parish
		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	John Harland RIP
Sun	18 th	8:00am	St Patrick's	Twenty-Ninth Sunday of the Year	Colin Atherton
		9:30am	St Anne's		Canon Gerry Breen RIP

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM By Appointment

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: *[St. Patrick's]* Jan Myszkowski, John O'Brien, Arthur Smith, Annie Ball, Martin Muldowney, Lucy Steadman, Cyril Wilkinson, Mary Hagan, Thomas Menamon, Elen Blamire, Bridget Charleton, Claude Bromley, Dorothy Perry and William Jones. *[St. Anne's]* Mary Mitchinson, Harold Osbaldiston, Joseph Loran, Brigid Byrne, William Lewis and Agnes Devoy.

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 13 th Sept	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£119.50	£130.00	£283.84	£533.34	Sat 52
						Sun 33
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£181.00	£108.20	£146.23	£435.43	Sat 36
						Sun 28

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 September Winners. £100 Fr Bob – 72, £50 J Corr- 77, £20 J Porter – 9, £10 A Lyons – 22, £10 M Massey – 154, £10 A Rutledge – 135, £10 C Salt – 155, £10 T Green – 147, £10 C McHugh – 28, £10 J Peck – 153, £10 D Greatbatch – 35.

Thank you for your support. There are a lot of numbers available at only £4 per number per month. Further details from Marie on 01785 661012.

*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

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, the times of Masses will be published weekly due to possible occasional alterations. Below are the times and venues: (Looking two weeks ahead) including the schedule of Masses for St Austin's.

St Anne's Roof Appeal (Update)



The remedial work has now been completed so we wait in heightened anticipation for a downpour that will test it out! I am appealing for any donations St Anne's community can donate to this work; my humble appreciation to those who have already given so generously over the last few weeks; we are gradually on our way - looking at a sum approaching £10,000. (We are nearly a third of the way there). Two special baskets are at the entrance and exit of the church dedicated to this special fund. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. I am very conscious of the straitened times we are living through at present.

F. Bob

**** Important Appeal:** *Because the Mass Times have changed, it is important that we have some stewards and cleaners for the new times. Some of our existing ones may well wish to continue whilst attending a new Mass time. But the revised timed Masses, including the 1:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass will need helpers. If you can help please let Fr. Bob and Fr Michael Know the Mass time you would be available. Very many thanks.*

Our Deceased: Please remember in your prayers Ann O'Hara (St Austin's) who died last week. We pray also for Ann's family at this time. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

MASSES

**SATURDAY 10th October 1:00pm St Patrick's
6:30pm St Anne's**

**SUNDAY 11th October 8:00am St Patrick's
9:30am St Anne's**

MONDAY 12th October 9:30am St Anne's

TUESDAY 13th October 9:30am St Patrick's

THURSDAY 15th October 6:30pm St Patrick's

FRIDAY 16th October 6:30pm St Anne's

FOLLOWING WEEK:

**SATURDAY 17th October 1:00pm St Patrick's
6:30pm St Anne's**

**SUNDAY 18th October 8:00am St Patrick's
9:30am St Anne's**

MONDAY 19th October 9:30am St Anne's

TUESDAY 20th October 9:30am St Patrick's

THURSDAY 22nd October 6:30pm St Patrick's

FRIDAY 23rd October 6:30pm St Anne's

The most important 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. The sensible (distancing) capacity of each church is about 50, but Remember, a family group may sit together on one bench or in neighbouring chairs. Between the two parishes there should be 8 Masses during one week. 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.

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.. 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.

Second collection on 26/27 September for Father Hudson's Care St Anne's £329.68 St Patrick's £117.55. Thank You.

Last weekend's Harvest Time Collection for CAFOD St Anne's £210.71. Thank You.

Thank you to The Wednesday Drop In for donations of £234.53. The members wish for half to go towards St Anne's Church Roof Fund and the other half to Macmillan Cancer Care. We have received a thank you letter from Macmillan Cancer Care for the donation of £117.27.

St Patrick's and St Anne's each have a QR CODE displayed for church goers to scan if you have downloaded the NHS Covid-19 APP. It might help 'speed things up' as queues can develop on entry through the porches as you provide contact details. We will make sure there are sufficient codes on the doors and walls. Many thanks.

St Austin's Parish [Masses]

SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER 11:00am
WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 7:00pm
FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER 7:00pm
SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER 5:00pm

(FOLLOWING WEEK)

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER 11:00am
WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 7:00pm
FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 7:00pm
SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER 5:00pm
[St Austin's will be streaming Masses on the other days also.]

HOMILY FOR THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

I read an article on the net about how parents can be embarrassed about invitations sent out for children's birthday parties. One such example involved the invite stipulating that those invited shouldn't bring gifts for the birthday child, but if they wished, they could donate to their future college fund. For those who

can afford it, there even professional party organisers to take away parents' burden. (This particular example was from the States) but it further emphasises how complicated contemporary life can be, even concerning something like party invitations. Invitations can be fraught with complications, can't they? Take weddings: -- who's to be invited, who's to be excluded. Modern weddings in the Western world can be expensive and very demanding of all involved. There are also lists of desired presents sent out on behalf of the bride and groom.

Now, against such a background as this it's somewhat reassuring to know that Jesus Himself had problems with invitations. It wasn't that He disliked or refused them; in the Gospels Jesus accepts invitations whenever offered and is even accused by the leaders of dining with public sinners. Regarding Zacchaeus, if you remember, He even engineers an invitation – inviting Himself. But it is in His parables that Jesus brings out and emphasises the true meaning of invitation – in fact, the only invitation that matters to us. God's invitation for us all to become a part of His Dream – His life with us in His kingdom. The thing is, Jesus' audience would have known very well the context of the story – about a king throwing a wedding party for his son and this story of course is about the coming of God's kingdom and in particular, the arrival of the Messiah.

In our Gospel passage today Matthew has actually combined the stories of the wedding feast and the wedding garment as a lesson in salvation history for the Christian Church of his time. So, how has he done this? Well, the first part of this history as we know concerns the Jews as the Chosen People, and they're represented by the people who first received the invitation to the Royal Banquet. But they wouldn't come; some were more interested in their own affairs (and we need to realise that these affairs would have been actually quite legitimate, but took first place to God's affairs!) Others, however, not content with ignoring the invite, actually persecuted and murdered the messengers – the Prophets.

Now what follows next is the second part of salvation history, where the wedding represents the marriage of God with humanity which took place when the Son of God took on our human flesh. "The wedding is ready – go to the crossroads" of the world to invite everybody! So, no longer is the invitation confined to one chosen nation, nor is it restricted to uncontaminated and the ritually pure. Everybody, good and bad, is invited. Which now brings us to the final part of Jesus' parable; the guest without a 'wedding suit'. This is puzzling because it begs the question as to 'where did the other guests who were herded in obtain their wedding suits? Sounds a bit arbitrary doesn't it? Why should this one person be thrown out because he didn't have the right thing to wear? This is how parables work: there is the unexpected which almost seems like a paradox. Yes, God loves every one of us where we are, where He finds us with all our chronic faults and sinfulness, but God does not want to leave us where we are. He wants us to change because, ultimately, if He's a good God and won't allow us to remain in the 'state' that He finds us, then if we don't change we can't remain for ever in the party God's throwing for His Son. And that's the point of the end of the story.

For all of us, wherever we are, it's realising that what gives us life, true life, is to live in a state of love, justice, truth, mercy and holiness and such a state can't come from us alone. Rather, it is given to us by God through faith in His Son, and by living out such a life, we are truly wearing what we need for the 'wedding'.
