

Sunday 12th April 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

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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

TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

EASTER SUNDAY-THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day		Mass Intention
Sat	11 th	8:00 pm	St Anne's	Easter Vigil Mass		<i>No Congregation</i> For all those suffering from the World's pandemic
Sun	12 th	10:00 am	“ “	Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord		John Rennie (3 rd Ann.)
				<i>No Congregation</i>		
Mon	13 th	am	“ “	Easter Monday	Solemnity	<i>No Congregation</i> Bridget & Eddie McAweeney RIP
Tue	14 th	am	“ “	Easter Tuesday	Solemnity	<i>No Congregation</i> Peggy Toner RIP
Wed	15 th	am	“ “	Easter Wednesday	Solemnity	<i>No Congregation</i> People of the Parish
Thu	16 th	am	“ “	Easter Thursday	Solemnity	<i>No Congregation</i> Eddie, Teresa & Patrick Lennon RIP
Fri	17 th	am	“ “	Easter Friday	Solemnity	<i>No Congregation</i> Bob & Damian McKinlay
Sat	18 th	pm	“ “	Easter Saturday	Solemnity	<i>No Congregation</i> Fr D Standen
Sun	19 th	am	“ “	Second Sunday of Easter		Dan Ryan RIP

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM By Appointment

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, Bridie Mansell, Kathleen Harahan, Thomas Burke, Martin Regan, Edward Humphries, Albert Lees, John Wagstaff, Bill Thew, Marjorie Hinton, Jonathan Cummins, Lily Foster, John Ryan. [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, Kevin O'Sullivan, Bryan Barretto, Albert Bognor, Helen Hammond, Marjorie Densem, Andrew Martin, Phoebe Taylor.

Prayers for the sick: St Patrick's Phylis Bowers, Kath Read, 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, Colin Wilkinson, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Colin Wise and Shaun Gilbride.

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

ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA
Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987
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ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Marston Road, ST16 3BT
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Parishes Social (Fundraising Events) DATES UP TO SUMMER: Due to our present emergency situation all such events

Parish Tote 150 Club. Thank you all for your support. Numbers are available at £4 per number per month. Further

Our recently deceased: Please remember in your prayers **Ray Brough**, of **St Anne's** who has died recently. We pray also for his family at this sad time. **May Ray rest in peace and rise in glory.**

St Patricks: We have received the figures from **Missio** for the Red Box collections and other donations from St. Patrick's Parish in 2019. We raised £390.16. **Missio** would like to thank everyone for their donations in the past year.

Hello Parishioners of St Patrick's and St Anne's. A Blessed, Happy and Holy Easter to you all from



Deacon Mike and myself

I hope and pray that we have become aware of our new mode of living lives as Eucharistic faithful. For all of us, such a significant change in how we worship as Catholics is unprecedented. But, like every experience thrown to us in life, we take it as it comes. As our faith keeps telling us, and as we keep reminding ourselves, God's creation, God's universe, God's world and God's people fit in with His 'blueprint' for the kingdom He has prepared for us, no matter what turmoil or disaster afflicts our precarious lives. If we keep steadfast and, most importantly, take advantage of the prayer time we will be offered, our Church will come through this 'crisis' humbled and with greater awareness of our utter dependency on God. Meanwhile, during our time of 'waiting' upon the Lord, we offer our prayers for all who have been, are, and will be affected by this pandemic.

So, to parish practical matters:

The bulletin will appear on the websites of both parishes weekly and this space will give me a chance to share with you all sorts of concerns, from how we might keep in touch with the housebound, to how we might continue to provide food etc for those in great need. All church buildings remain locked. This is mainly to discourage folk from venturing out and potentially coming into proximity with others unnecessarily. But, the parish presbytery will be open and I shall, **in so far as I am able**, be a source of information for any who wish to know what is happening in regard to our two parishes. Marie, as you will understand, like many of you, no doubt, will be furloughed; I shall be available in the presbytery for point of phone contact. There is also little excuse now for me not uploading the bulletin earlier, at least by Friday at the latest (I'll see how I get on).

As you notice above, the Mass intentions are inserted and will be honoured as I celebrate Mass each day; but sometimes I will need to combine intentions from both parishes because I am only saying one Mass a day.

Regarding the **Drop-in** at St Anne's, some may need help now that it is closed. If any need help on Wednesday morning, for example shopping or collecting medication, please contact Liz Harrison between 10:30am and 12 Noon on 07802694580. Many thanks, Liz.

I know that all three Stafford parishes will work as closely as we can, and on that point, I received a request from Joe McCormack from St Austin's. He had returned from the charity BRUSHSTROKES and they are desperate for all supplies. If people wanted to drop donations off at St Anne's Joe can do a regular pick-up, but, since the church will be locked, just phone me first. Many thanks.

This Sunday is Easter Sunday - our greatest cause for celebration in our calendar. On Sunday and as the year progresses we will reflect upon this extraordinary moment and realise that the Lord Jesus Christ's resurrected glorified reality reaches across obstacles, walls, buildings, 'situations', difficulties, anxieties and pain to take us with Him back to our origins and beyond our imagination.

It is obviously a disappointment for us that the planned social events have had to be cancelled, but I am sure we will make up for it when more settled times return.

Finally, I am very aware that our usual routine, as parish communities, will undergo a considerable change, and we do not know for how long, but nevertheless our parishes will still need supporting as best we can for the foreseeable future. The sustaining and maintenance of the buildings and parish administration has to continue. For those of you who use gift aid envelopes, the new ones for the coming financial year have arrived and Mark (St Anne's) and Margaret (St Patrick's) are labelling them and for those who contribute this way. There are a number who regularly use

standing order (this is the most efficient way of giving) and if 'gift-aiders' could set up standing orders it would be a great help. Such a crisis as the present one shows the advantage of this method. However parishioners wish to donate, be assured of our grateful thanks and know that the parish office (St Anne's) can always be used as a 'drop-off' for envelopes. * I have just received this communication from the head of Finance from Cathedral House:

You may like to know that we've made available on the Archdiocese website 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/FAOS/category/finance-resources>

We are also working on an online giving option for parishes which don't already have this option on their parish website. This is proving challenging due to all parishes sharing one charity number but I hope to have an update for you next week.

***I have just received this email from the diocese (Steve Roche):** Dear Fathers, Just to let you know, there is a donate button (top right) on the home page of the diocesan website – www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk From there donations which can also be gift aided can be made to any parish via credit or debit card. Funds will initially be passed to the diocese but we will have reports available to allow us to pass them on to each parish, we will work the process out over the next week or 2 and much will depend on how much it is used. There are transaction charges levied by the card processing company which amount to 20p + 1.9% of the value of the donation – so for a £10 donation this will amount to £0.39 which will be deducted from the amount we receive. Please do note therefore that standing order remains the most cost effective way for our parishioners to donate.

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. 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. 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

I shall be remembering you all in my prayers during this most unprecedented of times and have faith that the Lord will be looking after us in a way only He can offer.

Blessings Fr Bob

PS: Don't forget the plethora of websites you can access if you wish to follow Mass. A good start would be our own Archdiocese of Birmingham website. The Liturgy for the **Easter Week and Easter season** will be able to be accessed from there also (the beautiful focus of our whole liturgical year). I, like so many other priests, will be continuing to celebrate Mass on my own. I know you will be with me in Spirit, celebrating the ONE sacrifice made by Christ for all time; a truly universal and real remembrance, uniting our sisters and brothers across the face of the earth.

HOMILY FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Periodically, depending on what papers or internet sites we inhabit, we come across a headline that might run something like: 'patient dies on the operating table and returns to describe what it was like' or 'people who have clinically died reveal their stories about life after death', or 'woman describes what heaven is like after she dies and is brought back to life'. These 'revelations' do have a fascination for us; people are either drawn into finding a bit more about the account, or they're put off by the very thought of death. And death, of course, is the 'crux' of what this topic is all about. Because, whatever these folk have been through, whatever experience they've come out of, one thing is certain – they haven't died.

Death in this earthly life is final and no-one comes back to 'tell the tale' but being pronounced clinically dead is only a term to satisfy medical criteria.

The very point of Jesus Christ's Passover, that we've been a real part of the last three days, literally hangs on the fact that death is real, it's absolute and no human can escape it. Jesus was the only one who could annihilate death because He really died. Jesus Christ was not a fake (like an increasing amount of our news today). He wasn't some divine being who wore a human appearance simply pretending to be one of us. Just as He wasn't and could not have been a man only but a super holy one, a prophet blessed by God. Neither of these ways of looking at Jesus could have transformed our fallen sinful condition, and more importantly destroyed our death. But Jesus is fully human and fully God, so the Son who is immortal entered dying humanity in order to give immortality to mortal flesh. In other words, a human only wouldn't have the power to raise us; and God, if He hadn't entered us, would have no human beings to raise. End of.

I think the most neglected day of our Paschal Triduum is Holy Saturday. And the reason why is because it poses more questions than answers. Where exactly was Jesus, and with whom, on that day between Crucifixion Friday and Resurrection Sunday? Many Christian writers have given us some insights, but one of the most powerful and moving writings we have concerning Holy Saturday is actually in our morning prayer for that day. (and it's an ancient homily by an unknown preacher) Look it up and try reading it to yourself and stay dry-eyed. I challenge you. This is just a part of it: *"What is happening? Today there is a great silence over the earth, a great silence, and stillness, a great silence because the King sleeps; the earth was in terror and was still, because God slept in the flesh and raised up those who were sleeping from the ages. God has died in the flesh, and the underworld has trembled. Truly he goes to seek out our first parent like a lost sheep; he wishes to visit those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. He goes to free the prisoners Adam and Eve from their pains, he who is God, and Adam's son.*

The Lord goes in to them holding his victorious weapon, his cross. When Adam sees him, he strikes his breast in terror and calls out: 'My Lord be with you.' And Christ, grasping his hand raises him up, saying:

'I am your God, who for your sake became your son:

'I command you: Awake, sleeper, I have not made you to be held a prisoner in the underworld. Arise from the dead; Arise, work of my hands, arise, you who were fashioned in my image. Rise, let us go hence; for you in me and I in you, together we are one undivided person.

'For you, I your God became your son; for you, I the Master took on your form; for you, who left a garden, I was handed over from a garden and crucified in a garden.

'Arise, let us go. The enemy brought you out of the land of paradise; I will reinstate you on the throne of heaven.

As this day dawns now we rise with Adam and leave behind the underworld, leave behind the spoilt Eden and the wilderness of pain. Today our chains have been broken forever.

Alleluiah!
