

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 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](http://www.st-annes-st.org.uk)

### **St. Patrick's Catholic Church**

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Email: [stannestpatrick.stafford@gmail.com](mailto:stannestpatrick.stafford@gmail.com)

**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**

### **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	11 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	(50 spaces max) Celebrant's Intention
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am 11:15am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Fifteenth Sunday of the Year	“ “ John & Elizabeth Galvin People of the Parish
Mon	13 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Anne's	Feria	“ “ Carmel Price (Birthday Thanksgiving)
Tue	14 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Patrick's	Feria	“ “ Bob & Damian RIP
Wed	15 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass		St Bonaventure	Memoria “ “
Thu	16 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	St Patrick's	Feria	“ “ For the Sick & Their Carers
Fri	17 <sup>th</sup>	12:Noon 6:30pm	St Anne's St Anne's	Requiem Mass for Colin Wilkinson (capped numbers) Feria	“ “ Anne Wilk's Good Health
Sat	18 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	“ “ Stephen Bayliffe RIP
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am 11:15am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Sixteenth Sunday of Year	“ “ Kathleen Read RIP Ann Gormley RIP

### **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** By Appointment

**Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time:** *[St. Patrick's] Stella Corrin, Herbert Smith, John Davies, David Ernest Bryant, Annie Quinn, Gerard Costello, Angela Collins, Ronald Clancy, Michael Thurgood, Bill Johnston, Eileen Barclay, Eileen McHugh, Sheila Scifo, Thomas Kimmins, Marjorie Williams. [St. Anne's] Stanley Elms, Isobel Keegan, Ben Olverson, Hannah Woollaston, Thomas Holmes, Kate Gormley, Daniel Morris, Hilda Hammond, Norbert Sandy, Fr Arthur Warburton.*

**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, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Colin Wise.

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

### **ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987  
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### **ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**Parish Tote 150 Club:** In order to catch up with the months missed, once we return, each of the missing months will **Parish Tote 150 Club March 2020 Drawn on 9<sup>th</sup> July** £100 M Badger – 53, £50 M S Wright – 107, £20 P Boucher – 41, £10 J Heath – 79, £10 K Price – 29, £10 F Petrini – 27, £10 J Collins – 118, £10 R O'Toole – 81, £10 M Simpson – 36, £10 M Massey – 154, £10 L Cyples – 44, £10 A Rudledge – 135, £10 G Bermingham – 99, £10 J Pettit – 97, £10 J Palmer – 145. Thank you for your support. Numbers are available at only £4 per number per month.

**\*\*\*\* Important message: please go to paragraph just before the homily\*\*\*\***

**\*Please note that those who would like to pay their subscriptions to the 150 Club by STANDING ORDER can let Fr Bob know and he will pass on the name to Mary Owen. It would help immensely during this time. Many thanks**

**Our Recently Deceased:** Please pray for **Shaun Gilbride**, and **Colin Wilkinson**, both of **St Anne's**, and **Kathleen Read**, of **St Patrick's**, who have died recently. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. We also remember their families at this time.

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 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>*

**\*This email is from the diocese (Steve Roche):** 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)

*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*

*The Archdiocese of Birmingham have allowed parishes to open for 'MASS' since 4<sup>th</sup> July. We have recently received guidance information underpinning the strict conditions for celebrating Mass. The guidance includes issues such as volunteer 'stewards', cleaning materials / routines, signage, one-way systems, safety contingencies, safe distancing, etc. **For us to enable parish Masses to function it must be stressed that we shall need a healthy cohort of "volunteers". Do please offer, and rest assured that myself, together with Peter, Lyn and Geraldine, will happily go through preliminary guidance with you. It is the only way to allow Masses to go ahead. Many Thanks in advance.***  
**Fr. Bob**

Please bear with me as I mention here just a few details we need to be aware of. At the start of each Mass I shall explain a lot more of how we proceed, so no problems. What I can let you know, in terms of looking ahead, is that Masses will be celebrated within the (1metre + guidelines) This will entail the wearing of some form of face covering within the church.

*An important and interesting point for us to understand is that 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, I will publish the times of Masses weekly since there will be occasional alterations and gaps. E.g. because I had planned a few days*

***break in late July and mid-August, the days of Mass will alter. Below are the times and venues: (Looking two weeks ahead) You will notice that I intend to include the schedule of Masses for St Austin's which perhaps reflects the way we need to think in terms of the future.***

**MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> July 9:30am St Anne's**  
**TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> July 9:30am St Patrick's**  
**THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> July 6:30pm St Patrick's**  
**FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> July 6:30pm St Anne's**  
**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> July 6:00pm St Anne's**  
**SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> July 9:30am St Patrick's**  
**SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> July 11:15am St Anne's**

**FOLLOWING WEEK**

**MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> July 9:30am St Anne's**  
**TUESDAY (No Mass)**  
**THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> July 6:30pm St Patrick's**  
**FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> July 6:30pm St Anne's**  
**SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> July 6:00pm St Anne's**  
**SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> July 9:30am St Patrick's**  
**SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> July 11:15am St Anne's**

<u>St Austin's Parish</u> [Masses]		
SUNDAY	12 <sup>TH</sup> JULY	10:30 am
WEDNESDAY	15 <sup>TH</sup> JULY	7:00 pm
FRIDAY	17 <sup>TH</sup> JULY	7:00pm
<b>(FOLLOWING WEEK)</b>		
SUNDAY	19 <sup>TH</sup> JULY	10:30am
WEDNESDAY	22 <sup>ND</sup> JULY	7:00pm
FRIDAY	24 <sup>TH</sup> JULY	7:00pm
[Fr. Michael will be streaming his usual Masses on the other days also.]		

***The most important and pressing and absolutely vital 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. I can't emphasise enough how the church needs you! Because the sensible (distancing) capacity of each church is 50, it will be 'first come, first served', but, between the two parishes there should be 7 Masses during one week, potentially allowing for a total of 350 parishioners. 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 know that the hospitality sector has opened up and cleaning regimes are expected on their premises, so we as a church venue need to have a cleaning regime also.***

***This is why it is very important for sufficient volunteers to be able to cover Masses. 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. There will be no bidding prayers and no offertory procession, and 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. But worry not if this all sounds daunting and strange because once you are seated comfortably in the Mass of your choice I shall, with the help of the stewards we have already, explain exactly how Mass will unfold and how we will all benefit from the experience. From the outset, I offer my humblest apology for potential situations that may arise through the 'first come, first served' policy. Remember, a family group may sit together on one bench or in neighbouring chairs. Once our maximum capacity has entered either church, a notice will be placed outside the door to that effect. The consolation remains that there will be a Mass on another day of the week that will be able to accommodate. If anyone would like further clarity then contact Fr. Bob on 01785661012.

**But, to parishioners of both parishes: do be aware of our pressing need for volunteers.**

### HOMILY FOR THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

If I mentioned ONE word, here, that's relevant to our world today it'd be the word WASTE, wouldn't it? I don't think any of us would have any difficulty imagining how waste affects every facet of our lives – we waste food, we waste money, we waste fuel, we waste resources, we waste time and most importantly, I think, we waste opportunity. Why is it that we're so waste conscious but so unable to escape from it? *Sadly, we even use waste as a term of abuse when someone is referred to as a "waste of space"*. We're in an age of carbon footprints and ever increasing household disposal. The ever-increasing mess of the world shows that we certainly don't have a truly blessed "Midas Touch".

In our Gospel parable today, even JESUS seems to talk about waste. Now He always spoke in terms that simple folk could understand, and His audience would have been well-aware of the importance of sowing seed – the implication of this parable is that only 25% of the seed bears any fruit. So, we've got a wastage of 75%. Is Jesus really telling us that only a quarter of us are going to produce a worthwhile life? Is this really what we think of Jesus? The clue is in the first reading when we're told that the rain and snow are not given for nothing, and that God's word doesn't return to Him without having some influence on us. Clearly, God wastes NOTHING – everything has its purpose.

Jesus is well aware of our weak and fragile natures (the whole point of him speaking in parables is to emphasise how our false ways of thinking stop us understanding about the things that really matter in life). So often, we can't or won't understand the blindingly obvious.

There are 4 types of person Jesus is describing when He explains this parable:

The first just doesn't understand the word; it's totally lost on them, while the second person thinks that they understand but soon lose faith when life starts throwing them around. The third probably wants to live a good life and do the right things but finds it too difficult with so many distractions around. (For him or her, life's full of compromises. The

fourth believer's faith is so deep and their understanding is so clear that they can live fully in the Lord. How many people like that do we know?

But maybe we can recognise ourselves in each one of these 4 cases.

1. *Sometimes we're on the edge or the fringes of things that really matter. We don't understand how others are feeling or we're blind to their immediate needs. "Oh, is that why you're angry? I never realised." – "I never knew you felt like that."*
2. *At other times we promise so much to our friends and others we care about but often seem to let them down when they really need us. Instead of being the solid rocks for them to lean on we're patchy support – "not worth getting in too deep."*
3. *Then again I'm sure we recognise when our loyalties have been divided. "I know I need to spend this time with my family but this business opportunity is too good to pass by." Perhaps I ought to go to my kid's parents evening but the big match is going to clash."*
4. *Finally, there may be the odd occasions when we really feel good because we just know we've made someone happy. The trouble is they don't last long, do they? We always sink back into the 75% mode. We're almost but not quite.*

This parable of the sower could be a picture of our progress through life. From where we stand we only see so much waste of good seed, but God sees only our brokenness and our need. Waste doesn't exist in God's 'eyes' – everything is used for His purpose. The sweepings, the off-cuts the carelessness and the spillage of our lives are all valuable beyond our imagination. They make us what we are – our waste is our weakness and this is the 'clay' the Lord uses to build and create us. And Jesus is encouraging here; He talks about not only sixty or thirty percent, but one hundred percent outcome. As we pray for the grace to be more like the fourth person of the parable, let's try to see the wasted opportunities and wrong turnings of our individual histories as divine materials for our completion.



