



Sunday 12th December 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

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 Principal: 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

Third (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	11 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	People of the Parish
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Anne Harvey RIP
Sun	12 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)	David Simpson RIP
		10:00am	St Anne's		Bridie Toner RIP
Mon	13 th	9:30am	St Anne's	St Lucy	Memoria The Deceased of the Walsh Family
Tue	14 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	St John of the Cross	Memoria The Walsh Family Deceased
Wed	15 th	10:00am	St Anne's	Communion Service	Advent Feria
		7:30pm	St Anne's	Belong & Believe: Our Advent DVD course (in the Hall)	
Thu	16 th	9:15am	St Patrick's		Advent Feria Celebrant's Intention
Fri	17 th	9:15am	St Anne's		Advent Feria Cathie Miles RIP
Sat	18 th	10:00am	St Patrick's	Exposition, Holy Hour & Confession	
		4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Pat Shortt RIP & Sr. Sabina RIP
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	People of the Parish
Sun	19 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Patty Tiernan RIP
		10:00am	St Anne's		Patrick Toner 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, Rebecca Kilkenny. St Anne's: Michael Glover, Patricia Walters, Thomas McCormick, Mary Terry, Bernard Lundberg, Walter Rogers, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Colin Wise, Hal Lindop, Andrea Hulse, Winifred Meehan, Ian Burnside, Pat McDonnell.

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's] Stanislaw Gizynski, John Moore, Julia Brody, James Monaghan, Carmela Notarianni, Dorothy Faulkner, Florence Preston, Winifred Cliff, Alice Sheehan, Jacobus Ashun, Mary Harding, Jean Taylor, James Crossan and Joyce Wynter. [St Anne's.] Crisanto Delgado, John Kelly, George Kenny, Eric Nixon, Monica Orton, Gertrude Rice Pauline Sandy, Peggy Giles, Mary Chatterley, Alec Gourley, John Grennan, John Helks and Patrick McMahon.

Income 5/12/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£135.00	£92.00	£391.45	£618.45	Sat 58 Sun 68
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£93.00	£64.60	£149.69	£307.29	Sat 47 Sun 43

Second Collection last weekend for Poor Parishes Fund St Anne's £164.29 St Patrick's £30 Thank You

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 Winners of draw on 30 November 2021

£100 K Webb - 93, £50 D Greatbatch - 35, £20 R Ayiresy - 4, £10 C Whitehall - 100, £10 A Cheetham - 32, £10 I Hird - 5, £10 L Cyples - 44, £10 J Leese - 83, £10 K Clews -10, £10 T Kelly - 126, £10 C Price - 29, £10 W Meehan - 58, £10 M S Wright - 107.

Thank you for your support. A lot of numbers are available at only £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. Switching your giving via Standing Order mandate would be a great help also. 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

The Year of St Joseph. This year we honour 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 and we will endeavour to say the short prayer before each Mass.

St Anne's and St Patrick's Church maintenance: Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously. Upcoming tasks coming soon include remedial H&S work required for making St Patrick's old boiler house safe. **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: 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'. **If notice is given, and at convenient times, before or after Mass, we priests of Catholic Stafford will hear confessions and this will continue.** Fr. Bob

Our Deceased: Please remember in your prayers **Cathie Miles**, a parishioner of St Anne's, who died last Wednesday. *May Cathie rest in peace and rise in glory.*

Gift Aid Envelopes: There are still 2021/22 GA boxes available at the back of each parish church. They are numbered and named and began way back on 11th April (many thanks to Margaret [SP] and Mark [SA] for preparing these). If anyone would like more information concerning this method of giving (or, indeed, concerning donation by Standing Order) please see Fr. Bob

Bible Study continues fortnightly at St Anne's 10 am – 11 am. Welcome to those wishing to join us.

Drop in at St Anne's on Wednesday mornings: All are welcome (from around 10:25am) in St Anne's Church Hall.

Advent Holy Hour: The Great Advent Antiphons, known as the 'O' antiphons are traditionally prayed before the Magnificat at Evening Prayer. Each antiphon is based on a different title for Jesus taken from the Old Testament. Today most people know them from the Advent Carol, 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel.' During this Holy Hour we listen to the scripture passages and meditate on the seven different titles of Christ as we prepare for his coming at Christmas. All are invited to come to this **Holy Hour at 5.00pm on Sunday 19th December in St Austin's.**

St Anne's RAFFLE: There will be a raffle for a **Traidcraft Christmas Food Box**. Tickets for the raffle will be on sale after this Sunday's Mass and after the Masses next weekend. Proceeds will go towards Parish Funds. **£1 per ticket.** Thanks

The recent "Bishops' Statement: Honouring Sunday" is published. Given that there remains a degree of caution within society, our bishops are nevertheless fundamentally asking us to consider the central importance of the meaning of Mass and the central place that Sunday -- the Eighth Day / Resurrection Day has in our Catholic Faith. So, although the obligation to attend Sunday Mass may not yet have been re-imposed, we are asked seriously about our priorities for Sunday, this special and unique day for us. Giving serious consideration as to where we place Mass attendance in the hierarchy of other Sunday activities, whether sporting, leisure, entertainment, shopping and so on should impact on the coming synodal experience and our Diocesan Vision: "Behold I am making all things new."

In the Advent season, the prophet Isaiah calls us to 'prepare a way for the Lord,' but with the busyness of our daily lives, this can often be difficult and before we know it, Advent has gone, and Christmas is upon us. This Advent we would like to invite you to be part of two events happening in our parishes, that will enable us all to make time and space in the season and truly prepare ourselves for Christmas.

**BELONG & BELIEVE is a CaFE Film Resource which looks at our Celtic past and how it can help us today. It provides simple ways of refreshing communion three consecutive Wednesday evenings at St Anne's Parish Hall starting at 7.30pm. Tea and coffee will be available from 7.00pm.*

*There will also be a time of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at these churches during Advent weeks. During these times, the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession will be available:
SAT 11TH DEC. 10am till 11am St Anne's / SAT 18TH DEC. 10am till 11am St Patrick's*

Our 'Advent Giving/Christmas' trees are  **now splendidly adorned on the sanctuaries of both churches.**

This Advent, our focus for 'gifts for the tree'  **is on HOUSE OF BREAD.** They would be delighted to be our charity this year. The things they suggest for donating include the following: socks both m&f, pants both m&f, men's boxers and briefs in packs if possible, bath towels (as they have a shower fitted), flannels. Toiletries such as . Anything else is welcome but not essential at the moment. If they have extra they share with other charities.

Our Crib Appeal in both parishes is for the **FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND**

St Anne's Choir: Do you like to sing? We would love you to come and see if it would interest you to be "one in the Spirit" here @ St Anne's. Our very small choir could do with a "little support" to be "one in the Lord". Male and female voices provide such harmony. Do come along to our meeting in church 7pm Tuesday. You will be most welcome.

St Patrick's Music: May I ask for volunteers who attend regular Mass at St Patrick's (Sat or Sun) to operate our phone/Bluetooth system so that our parish may once more sing hymns at Mass. It would be great to have a team taking care of this. Christmas in TWO weeks, so would anyone like to come forward and give it a go? Just phone/email Fr. Bob Many thanks.

St Patrick's MISSIO: Because of the difficulties of transferring and handling the traditional 'Red Boxes' during this time it is recommended that donations should be transferred in the following ways:

By Phone – 02078219755 / By bank transfer -- Sort Code 16 – 00 – 16 Acct. No. 10824230

Reference – Donators or Parish Postcode (Missio use Nat West Bank)

By Cheque -- Missio 23 Eccleston Square, London SWE1V 1NU (Many Thanks)

Missio Calendars for 2022 are now available at the back of church in St Patrick's.

Parishioners of St Anne's and St Patrick's are now encouraged to use our alternative email account which is: stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk (Also at the top of the bulletin)

Ecumenical Carol Singing

This year, instead of there being thousands of Christmas cards to deliver, the churches in the area have decided to carol sing at different locations on different dates during December. At these events cards and Christmas service details will be handed to shoppers. In addition, cards will be distributed through the schools and shops (that allow us to) and the library. Each church will be given a small number of cards for their congregations to take and distribute to their friends and neighbours. Each church cordially invites members from the other churches to join them for carol singing. In doing so the churches will be seen to come together to spread the joy and hope of Christmas. Here are the dates, times and venues for public carol signing. Please lend your voice (no matter how ropy you think it is) to swell the choirs of the other churches. Thank you.

Saturday 11th Bodmin Shops 3 p.m. St Anne's.



Wednesday 15th The Gateway (next to Wildwood pub) 3.30 p.m. Wildwood Fellowship.

Thursday 16th Berkswich Methodist Church car park 6p.m

[The cards have now arrived at St Anne's -- some in the porch, some outside the hall]

Blessed William Howard School are looking for retired teachers/tutors/instructors or people who have the skills to teach one or more students on a 1:1 basis to GCSE level. This is an exciting paid opportunity for those who have some free time to help us as school to start to recover. We need to support in the following areas: Maths, English, Science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology), RE, French, Spanish. You do not need to be a graduate or hold QTS, but would need relevant understanding, skills and knowledge (maybe from your employment/technical qualifications). Fully paid online training is available and we have the flexibility to work around your current commitments to secure the best for our students. This role would suit someone who is retired or works part time who could offer their talents to support our students. All 1:1 tutoring is paid at £25 per hour which covers planning time too. Application forms, available at <https://www.bwh.staffs.sch.uk/Jobs/> need to be returned by 26th November 2021 to Kerry Collins at kec@bwh.staffs.sch.uk

BOOKING CHRISTMAS MASSES: Please collect the sheet explaining how to book one of our Christmas Masses (Christmas Eve or Christmas Day). This sheet really does explain everything. Many thanks.

*Booking Number for Christmas Masses is: * **07856918465** * available from Monday 13th December until Friday 17th December, between 5:00pm and 7pm. This is for all three parishes.

Live More Simply this Advent and Christmas

All are welcome to join the next online meeting of the Diocesan Climate Group on Tuesday 14 December at 7pm via Zoom.

Inspired by COP26 even more parishes and schools across the Archdiocese have signed up to CAFOD's live simply award, as we look to reduce our carbon footprints.

In this webinar we will ask what decarbonisation actually means and how parishes can support a carbon reduction.

Please register here: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Event/living-more-simply-this-advent-and-christmas

Sandra Satchell, Interim Chair & Caroline Bletso, Co-ordinator

Archdiocese of Birmingham Climate Action Group

Email: climateaction@rcaob.org.uk Web: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/RCBirmingham](https://twitter.com/RCBirmingham) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Archdiocese-of-Birmingham-166194176857632/>
Instagram: www.instagram.com/birminghamarchdiocese

Situation Vacant: The Archdiocese of Birmingham is seeking to appoint a **SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISOR** Permanent / Part-Time (21 hrs per week). Please see the church noticeboards for further information.

St Anne's School PTFA have put together a Family Cookbook, packed full of recipes from parents, family and friends of the school. It makes a great Christmas present and every penny will go back into giving the school children those little extras. The cookbooks are £6 or 2 for £10 and can be bought from Baswich Library, the Bod, or the Chippy throughout December. You can also call Isobel on 07854 261492 and we can arrange to get a book to you.

Thanks for all your support.

St Anne's

P.S. There are plenty of ecumenical Christmas cards for you to take and pass on to neighbours/friends/relations etc. (In St Anne's Church porch)

