

Sunday 13th September 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

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TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	12 th	6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Private Intention
Sun	13 th	9:30am 11:15am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year	Franciszek Kotara RIP Mgr. Louis McRaye RIP
Mon	14 th	9:30am	St Anne's	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Feast Jackie Fong RIP
Tue	15 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Our Lady of Sorrows	Memoria Private Intention
Wed	16 th	No Mass		Ss Cornelius and Cyprian	Memoria
Thu	17 th	6:30pm	St Patrick's		Feria Teresa Lennon RIP 2ndAnn
Fri	18 th	6:30pm	St Anne's		Feria The Pupils & Staff of St Patrick's & St Anne's
Sat	19 th	6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	People of the Parish
Sun	20 th	9:30am 11:15am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year	Eddie & Bridie Hunt & Franciszek Kotara RIP Peggy Toner RIP

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM By Appointment

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: *[St. Patrick's]* Rose Mottram, Agnes Kirkland, Paul Rourke, Thomas Kavanagh, Geoffrey Gallagher, Eileen Burghall, Lilian Hussey, Raymond Treharne, Francis Hussey, Stanislaw Poraczek, Teresa Lennon, Dorothy McLynn, Thomas Harahan, Dominic Harvey, Jean Durkin, Bridie Hunt and June McConnell. *St. Anne's* Agnes Ilsley, Sheila Barnett, Margaret Deavall, John Edwards, Martin Salvin, Gertrude Walker, Marian Brown, Clifford Hammond, Paul Mooney, Martin Read, Mary Dale, Robert O'Hanlon, Ivy Connelly and Ellen Winch.

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 30 Aug	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£55.00	£142.00	£283.84	£480.84	87
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£71.00	£58.10	£146.23	£275.33	40

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 August Winners £100 M Harwood – 104, £50 K Owen – 82, £20 E Reck – 42, £10 T Lawrance – 129, £10 K Johnson – 70, £10 P Harland – 96, £10 F Russell – 127, £10 A Rutledge – 135, £10 A Russell – 52, £10 Fr Bob – 72, £10 M Massey – 154.

Thank you for your support. We are now up to date with the draws. A lot of numbers are 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)



Leaking church roofs sound like a cliché, don't they? But certainly in our case, the situation was a reality. For quite a time we pondered how best to solve St Anne's leaking roof problem, from various 'patching' solutions to full re-roofing! However, it was decided that the best and most cost-effective way forward was to undertake a comprehensive 'remedial' repair project on the lower tier roof. ***I can let you know that the 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 generously 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. There will be two special baskets 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

Letter to All Catholic Stafford Parishioners: Please make sure you pick up, take away and read through carefully, the letter from Fr Michael and Fr. Bob. Although it is self-explanatory, we intend to present the background and intention behind these changes during this weekend's Masses, in lieu of a homily. They are very significant and will demand a shift in the way we see 'parish' and what the celebration of Mass really means. [This letter will be available physically at all Masses, but you will see it as an addition at the end of this bulletin on the websites].

MASSES

SATURDAY 12th September 6:00pm St Anne's

**SUNDAY 13th September 9:30am St Patrick's
11:15am St Anne's**

MONDAY 14th September 9:30am St Anne's

TUESDAY 15th September 9:30am St Patrick's

THURSDAY 17th September 6:30pm St Patrick's

FRIDAY 18th September 6:30pm St Anne's

FOLLOWING WEEK:

SATURDAY 19th September 6:00pm St Anne's

**SUNDAY 20th September 9:30am St Patrick's
11:15am St Anne's**

MONDAY 21st September 9:30am St Anne's

TUESDAY 22nd September 9:30am St Patrick's

THURSDAY 24th September 6:30pm St Patrick's

FRIDAY 25th September 6:30pm St Anne's

[St Austin's Parish](#) [Masses]

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 10:30am

WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 7:00pm

FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 7:00pm

(FOLLOWING WEEK)

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 10:30am

WEDNESDAY 23TH SEPTEMBER 7:00pm

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 7:00pm

[Fr. Michael will be streaming his Masses on the other days also.]

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 50, 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 as a church venue need to have a safe cleaning regime.

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. 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. 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. There will be a Mass on another day of the week that will be able to accommodate.

HOMILY FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

'Revenge is a desert best served cold'. I'm sure you've heard of this famous saying and its 'unforgiving' meaning. In fact the sentiment that it points to is utterly cold and verging on psychopathic, because it's really telling us that if someone deliberately hurts us very deeply we shouldn't react and try to get our own back immediately. If we react in a state of rage we're out of control and might very well make a mess of it and end up even worse. Far better to wait until the offender thinks they've seen you off and imagines

they won't get any 'come back'. Then, you strike after cool deliberate calculation when they least expect it.

So, what do we make of this perverse advice? Could we really see ourselves carrying through a calculating action like that? To do so we'd have to have completely emptied ourselves of any empathy or feeling for the other person, wouldn't we? And, in a way, it would involve 'de-humanisation and a degree of de-sensitising. It's a far cry from instinctively lashing out immediately; I think most of us have given way to anger in the spur of the moment when we haven't had chance to think coolly. But the crucial point or defining moment is how we handle that hurt and where we take it, isn't it? As Christians we're defined by the way of Christ, but we're not Christ -- at least, not quite yet. Jesus is the very definition of forgiveness and love, and His teaching in today's Gospel proves to be a massive challenge to even His closest followers. It's Peter who asks Jesus about forgiveness, and Jewish tradition limited forgiveness to three times. So Peter thought that his willingness to forgive seven times would be regarded as generous. But Jesus' reply showed that Peter wasn't quite there yet because he still wanted to count how many times he should forgive. The lesson here for all of us is not to keep count, in regard to other people's offences, since we can't expect mercy from God if there hasn't been the same generosity of spirit shown towards others. And Jesus' parable about the unmerciful servant drives it home by 'hammer and nail'.

You know, when we say the Lord's Prayer – the way it's phrased can almost make it sound like: "forgive us our trespasses, just like we forgive those who trespass against us". But if we really meant it this way we'd be in trouble, wouldn't we? When Jesus talks about forgiving seventy-seven times, He's not into the mathematics of it; He's describing something vast and cosmic. This is because Jesus' forgiveness permeates the whole of our creation. The problem we have, though, is that what Jesus is proposing is just too hard! We know this, don't we? In all our lives, on the emotional and visceral level, we can simply find it almost impossible even though we can see the logic of the philosophers of the past and great religious prophets, who seem to agree that forgiveness is essential in the end. The Roman philosopher Seneca wrote that: 'the sins of others are before our eyes, our own are behind our backs'. The Indian politician and supporter of non-violent resistance, Gandhi, said: 'an eye for an eye will make the whole world blind'. In the end, I suppose, we're left with what we're always left with: that nothing is impossible with God. The grace and power of Jesus allows us to see others in a different light. If we see those who have hurt us as powerful and 'successful' then we can't do it. But if we see them as weak and fragile (which they are) then we begin to pity their mortality, and mortal they are. As C. S. Lewis said 'to be Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in us'. But we must always remember that it isn't us who forgive but Christ within us, and Christ within us grows through our eating of His flesh and blood.

On 26-27 September weekend, the second collection bin will be for Father Hudson's Care to support their mission of supporting vulnerable people across the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Father Hudson's reaches out to people of all ages who need support at times of adversity. Please Call 01675 434000 if you would like to donate outside of Mass this year. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

St. Anne's, St. Austin's & St. Patrick's Parishes, Stafford
12th / 13th September 2020

Dear Parishioners of our Three Parishes,

Firstly, we want to thank you for the wonderful support you have given us during these most unusual times. We write now to reflect with you on the present weekend Mass times provision for our three Parishes. It is six years since the present schedule was introduced, and we feel now is a good and appropriate time to revisit and reflect on them. We would also like to suggest ways to improve them.

We start with the following observations:

- 1) Awareness of the large number of housing developments in Stafford.
- 2) Recognising that Sunday work is a reality and necessity for many people.
- 3) Acknowledging the very good interaction between the three parishes.
- 4) There is need for priests to support and cover for each other within the Deanery along with their various chaplaincy and pastoral commitments.
- 5) The need to think creatively post Covid-19.
- 6) The need for weekend Mass times to be well spread out to suit people's various work and family commitments at weekends.
- 7) The recent appointment of Fr. Simon Baker to St. Austin's to work in the Deanery.

With these in mind we propose that from the weekend beginning 3rd / 4th October 2020 we have **TWO MASSES** in each Church over the weekend, well spread out over a variety of times. We suggest the following:

Saturday1.00 p.m. at St. Patrick's

Saturday5.00 p.m. at St. Austin's

Saturday6.30 p.m. at St. Anne's

Sunday.....8.00 a.m. at St. Patrick's

Sunday.....9.30 a.m. at St. Anne's

Sunday.....11.00 a.m. at St. Austin's

We understand that any change to Mass times may cause some of you additional problems. However, this schedule gives us greater opportunities to work together. It will mean the priests from St. Austin's helping at St. Anne's & St. Patrick's every weekend, and will also enable us to help in other parishes of the Deanery if and when needed. In extreme situations, one priest will be able to cover all the weekend Masses in Stafford.

This letter is being distributed at all Masses this weekend and is also being published in both Parish Websites. We will review the situation with you at the end of the year.

We thank you in anticipation.

Fr. Bob Devaney

Fr. Michael Neylon