

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 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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**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**

### **CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day		Mass Intention
Sat	13 <sup>th</sup>	pm	St Anne's	Vigil	<i>No Congregation</i>	Celia & Gerald Jelfs RIP
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “	<b>Solemnity of The Most Holy Body &amp; Blood of Christ</b>	<i>No Congregation</i>	Eddie & Bridie Hunt
Mon	15 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “		Feria <i>No Congregation</i>	Fr. David Duggan RIP
Tue	16 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “		Feria <i>No Congregation</i>	The Daoud Family
Wed	17 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “		Feria <i>No Congregation</i>	Geoff Owen RIP
Thu	18 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “	<b>Dedication of the Cathedral</b>	Feast <i>No Congregation</i>	Alastair Arthur RIP
Fri	19 <sup>th</sup>	am	“ “	<b>Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</b>	Solemnity <i>No Congregation</i>	Intentions of the Arthur Family
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup>	pm	“ “	Vigil	<i>No Congregation</i>	Intentions of Sheila Burton
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>	am	“ “	<b>Twelfth Sunday of the Year</b>	<i>No Congregation</i>	Bridie & Paddy Toner RIP

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

**Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time:** [St. Patrick's] Henry Hussey, Margaret Hewitt, Gerard Costello, Ann Lavelle, Edna McCaffery, Betty Gage, Francis Day, Dolly Podmore, Florence Ames, Peter Nycz [St. Anne's] Mrs Collins, Peter Turner, James Alcock, Pat Southern, Sidney Whorton, Polly Richards, Harriett Ruscoe, Mary Regan, Eileen Cartlitch, Pat Connelly, Edward Connors.

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

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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:** In order to catch up with the months missed, once we return, each of the missing months will be drawn separately. In this way, there will be no gaps. Many thanks for your support.

**\*\* Important message: please go to paragraph following the homily**

Hello Parishioners on this Corpus Christi Sunday. So, although we resume 'Ordinary Time' from experiencing the great Paschal Mystery, we can see how fundamental tenets of our faith follow from it. Our celebration of Corpus Christi is when we give thanks for the continuing Real Presence of Christ sacramentally with us until the end of time; His Body and Blood nourishing us and sustaining us throughout our earthly pilgrimage on our fraught and difficult journey home to our heavenly Father.

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, 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 plague.

To parish practical matters:

The bulletin continues to 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, is furloughed; I am available in the presbytery for point of phone contact. The bulletin will continue to be uploaded to the parish websites and a few hard copies printed and left under the Hall porch at St Anne's.

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, there is a request from St Austin's, in regard to the charity BRUSHSTROKES. They are desperate for all supplies. If people wanted to drop off donations at St Anne's a regular pick-up can be arranged, but, since the church will be locked, just phone me first. Many thanks.

As the year progresses we will reflect upon this extraordinary mystery of faith 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.

**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 received this communication from the head of Finance form 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/FAQS/category/finance-resources>

**\*This email is 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](http://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*

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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 many websites you can access if you wish to follow Mass. A good start would be our own Archdiocese of Birmingham website. 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 CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY

Food for thought, food for the journey, food for life. Are there many periods of the day when we don't think of food? Whatever we do, wherever we are, we'll be looking ahead to either lunch time, tea time, dinner time, and breakfast. Never mind whether the appetite's communicating with us, any planned day needs to have planned meal times. Just consider those three aspects, food for thought – it speaks for itself (it's continually in the mind). Food for the journey – well, there's no shortage of motorway services. And, food for life – means if we're going to live long and healthily we'd better watch the type of food we eat. And we won't even mention the countless T.V. programs. We won't go there.

And we won't escape food in scripture or the Gospels. The evangelists are fascinated by food, aren't they? Many chapters of the gospels mention food or eating. Jesus is either going to a table, at a table or coming from a table. Wherever we look we can see this evidence. Just a few examples: Mary's Magnificat – the starving are filled with good things; Jesus is born in Bethlehem (house of bread); His first cot was a feeding trough; Jesus showed His solidarity with the poor by fasting forty days. There were all the meals Jesus had with so

many different people and much of Jesus' teaching was given at the table. Do you remember the story Jesus told about God as the master who puts on an apron to serve the faithful servant? All this, really, was to get us to anticipate and look forward to that great Messianic Banquet we're all hoping to be part of. In fact, it was the behaviour of Jesus at table that so challenged those pious traditions around Him and, in a sense, we could even say that Jesus got Himself crucified by the way He ate. Telling the Jews that they would have to eat His body and drink His blood, as we hear in John's Gospel, could have been the turning point.

Jesus knew He would not be with His disciples long. He knew (though they did not) that He'd shortly meet with a terrible fate. So, how vital it was that Jesus share His life and work with His closest followers. Bit by bit, as we know through Jesus' ministry, He began to share His vocation with them. We also have a share in Jesus' vocation in our time and place today. The disciples needed to learn to do what Jesus was doing, to trust God like He trusted God. – travelling around and relying on God's providence. But, you know, this can only be done within the closest relationships – what we'd call, if you like, family relationships. Now, I know that there are many families where the negative emotions can rule (whether it's envy, sibling rivalry or members just getting on each other's nerves) but universally, families are 'crucibles' where there's no hiding place and that, hopefully, we tell each other 'how it really is'. And this is how God communicates with His chosen, errant people. The first reading from Deuteronomy really sums up the peoples' relationship with the God who rescued them. In a strange way it was a 'love hate' relationship (from the part of the Jews of course). They were never satisfied, were they? They moaned and groaned at every little difficulty encountered but God never tires of them – He disciplines them and brings them back to reality – just as parents would in a family situation. As Deuteronomy tells us, they were tested so that the Lord would know their inmost heart. Often in life tremendously strong bonds are forged between people who have shared dramatic times and Israel's time in the wilderness was pretty awful wasn't it? And it's within this 'family relationship' Jesus has with His disciples that the Eucharist is born. The disciples had to be first to understand that feeding on the Body of Christ draws eternal life into them. Ordinary food just becomes an analogy.

The Eucharist is the food for our deepest and ultimate need, and it's proof and assurance that Jesus really does want us to share His vocation – to share Him and the food of life to the world. Because He IS that food. He is the 'Corpus Christi' we receive at communion at every Mass.

**LATEST: The Archdiocese of Birmingham have now allowed parishes to open for 'Private Prayer' from next Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. We have received, over the last couple of weeks, a plethora of guidance information underpinning the strict conditions for opening the churches. The guidance includes issues such as volunteer 'stewards', cleaning materials / routines, signage, one-way systems, safety contingencies, 2m distancing, how many 'hours per day' opening etc. Myself, together with our Health and Safety representatives from both parishes, have communicated seriously in the light of such guidance and I would like to make the following suggestion:**

**In order to provide us with sufficient 'organising' time during which to plan, set out, implement rotas, instruct etc. I am aiming at a trial opening for 'private prayer' from 1<sup>st</sup> July (Wednesday). To see how we go, may I suggest each church opening for 3 hours [from 10 - 1] on the Wednesday and Friday. For us to enable this it must be stressed that we shall need a healthy cohort of "volunteers". So, please just email me (parish email address) or phone if you feel you would like to help. Opening for 'private prayer' really does wholly depend upon the offers of help we receive (more people who are able to steward or clean after visits) and how we can follow our own risk assessments for each parish. The archdiocese does stress that they do not expect all or even most parishes to open for 'private prayer' because of the logistics involved, but I personally thought that, rather than "forget" it and wait for the mid-July!? opening for Masses, it might be beneficial for us to get used to going into the churches and following guidelines of safety and care [in advance of Sunday and weekday Masses].**

**So, in summary, do please offer if you feel able, and rest assured that myself, together with Peter, Lyn and Geraldine, will happily go through preliminary guidance with you. It should also prepare us for the organising of 'teams' that we will definitely need when the Government allow Masses to go ahead.**

**Many Thanks in advance.**

**Fr. Bob**