

CHRIST HAS RISEN

Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 15th May 2022

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Parish Mass Book Pg.271

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	14 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	For Parish (Johnson)
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Sheila Hird RIP
Sun	15 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Fifth Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish
		10:00am	St Anne's		Irene Bartolo RIP
Mon	16 th	9:30am	St Anne's	Easter Feria	Margaret & Roy Kiberd RIP
Tue	17 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Easter Feria	Deacon Jack Foxall RIP
Wed	18 th	10:00am	St Anne's	Communion Service	Easter Feria
Thu	19 th	9:15am	St Patrick's		Easter Feria Private Intention
Fri	20 th	9:15am	St Anne's		Easter Feria Cecil Paul RIP
Sat	21 st	11:00am	St Austin's	Walsingham Association Mass	
		4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	People of the Parish
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Gabriel Geadah RIP
Sun	22 nd	9:00am	St Patrick's	Sixth Sunday of Easter	In Thanksgiving (KT)
		10:00am	St Anne's		Kathleen & John Walsh RIP

Prayers for the sick: St Patrick's: Phylis Bowers, Susan Prince, Tim Tiernan, Gregory McKinlay, Linda Reavy, Martha Porter, Cecylia Kotara, Rebecca Kilkenny, Jacqueline Simpson, Graham Burningham. **St Anne's:** Patricia Walters, Thomas McCormick, Bernard Lundberg, Walter Rogers, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Colin Wise, Hal Lindop, Andrea Hulse, Winifred Meehan, Ian Burnside, Pat McDonnell, Georgina Copp.

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's] Gerard McCann, Julia Jones, Mary Ward, Maria Nicholls, Ernest Bridgewood, Mary Byrne, John Galvin, Shaun Byrne, Teresa Newbold, Baden Arnold, Lottie Hards, Ellen Follows, James Lake, Teresa O'Brien and Daniel Hynds. **[St Anne's]** Sian Stacey, Gordon Lee, Colin Walmsley, Edward Bailey, Catherine Marden, Ada Miller, Mary Palmer, William Woodcock, Frank Woollaston, Maurice Harvey, Natalie Procter, Hilda Gough and Jack Lally.

Income 8/5/22	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£189.00	£200.00	£391.45	£780.45	Sat 67 Sun 82
St Patrick's	Offertory	£77.30	£184.37	£149.69	£411.36	Sat 54 Sun 63

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

Second Collection last weekend for the Clergy Training Fund St Anne's £136.92 St Patrick's £22.00.
Thank You.

The Extraordinary Second Collection this weekend (14th/15th) is for the Diocesan Ukrainian Appeal (co-ordinated by Fr. Hudson's)

Parish Tote 150 Club

Thank you for your support. A lot of numbers are available at £4 per number per month. Further details from Marie (parish secretary) on 01785 661012.

Gift Aid *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*

St Anne's and St Patrick's Church maintenance: Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously. Upcoming tasks include remedial H&S work required for making St Patrick's old boiler house safe. **Important remedial work is also needed on St Patrick's upper front roof.** My grateful thanks for any donations.
Fr. Bob

Our Deceased: Please remember in your prayers **Mary Terry, of St Anne's Parish** and lately resident in Dora Rose Home, who died last Tuesday. Our thoughts are also with Mary's family at this time. May Mary rest in peace and rise in glory.

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

***Quiz – Quiz Master Thomas Kelly. Next Saturday 21st May at 7.30 pm in St Anne's Church Hall.**

Teams of 4 or come on the night and make up a team. £5 per person, bring your own food and drink.

Refreshments after Mass: Do join us after the 10:00am Sunday Morning Mass for tea and coffee in St Anne's Hall. Many thanks to those who prepare this welcome facility.

The "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."

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. Even if you can just come now and then for the pleasure of singing 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. I thank those who have volunteered already, so if others could come forward and begin to form a rota it would be great. I will explain it all. Just phone/email Fr. Bob. With gratitude.

St Patrick's: Now that we are back in, what we would hope is, 'pre-2020 mode', there is a need for consolidating and building up our parish teams. Some may remember the effort made in creating rotas and supporting those who already put so much into various areas of parish life. It is with this in mind (together with the Bishops' Statement) that I am calling for more help in the following areas: the **Sacristy team, Music/hymns in Mass, Health and Safety, Cleaning Team, Counting teams, Gardening and Environment and Catechesis.** Please email or phone Fr. Bob who will be delighted to hear from you. [stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk] or 01785 661012

Finance Committee Meetings: **St Patrick's: Monday 30th May 7:00pm in school Hall/Church**
St Anne's: Tuesday 24th May 7:00pm in St Anne's Presbytery

BIBLE STUDY: Our parish Bible Study now meets on a regular **fortnightly** programme. The next meeting is on **Tuesday 24th May in St Anne's parish hall meeting room from 10 am – 11 am.** Welcome to those wishing to join us.

Receiving Holy Communion: Recently occasions have been noted when one or two, who have come to receive the Host, have walked away with it in their hand. Please could we all understand that when the Lord is received in Mass the Host must be consumed as soon as it is placed in the hand. Thank you.

Ukrainian Refugees: We have received an email from the diocese related precisely to this urgent issue and you will find all useful details on our diocesan website. Please see just how offers of help will be co-ordinated through **Caritas** and **Father Hudson's Care.** Our Catholic parishes will be in regular communication with the diocese in regard to this matter.

***Stafford Walsingham Association** Our first Mass will be at St Austin's next Saturday (21st) at 11:00am
For many years the Stafford Walsingham Association arranged a yearly pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. We are hoping to revive this in 2022 and invite anyone in our three parishes to become a member. Every third Saturday, a Votive Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham will be held. We hope to begin this from May. During the Mass, we shall offer the Litany of OLW, praying that Our Lady will, as the prayer says, '*look down in mercy upon England thy Dowry and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee.*' As membership of the Association is open to anyone within our three parishes, the Mass will alternate between the three churches. If you would like to be a member of the Walsingham Association, please fill in one of the forms at the back of church and return it to the Presbytery.

Hednesford Diocesan Pilgrimage is taking place on Sunday 3rd July. Any singers who would like to join the choir for the Mass are asked to contact Anne Tibke at tibkes@talk21.com or by phoning 07850 459563. Rehearsals will be held in Hednesford at 7.30pm on May 10th and 24th, June 14th and 28th.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES Please be aware that the new financial year is imminent. New boxes of envelopes used by parishioners who gift aid their donations can be found in the porches of both St Anne's and St Patrick's. They are already named and ready for collection. If any parishioner would prefer to donate through STANDING ORDER please let Fr Bob or Marie (in the office) know so that the relevant form may be completed. Many thanks to all of you who support our parishes so generously; the material upkeep of the churches is ever increasing. Thanks to Mark and Margaret for their efforts in administering the Gift Aid facility

Stafford Choral Society are holding their 75th Anniversary Concert on Saturday 11th June at 7.30pm in Lichfield Cathedral. The performance will be Requiem by Verdi, conducted by Ellie Slorach.

LIVE SIMPLY

"The 3 parishes LIVE SIMPLY met on 27th April and it was a great meeting encouraging many practical suggestions. We are meeting again on Wednesday **25th May at 7.30 pm in St Anne's hall**. Our **Live Simply** award needs to involve as many people in the community as possible. From the youngest to the oldest, each person's different strengths and interests contribute to making it a success. So do try and come to the meeting. We discussed living in solidarity with the poor and this beautiful Easter prayer is very apt.

*** Committees/groups Returning**

We are now at that stage where "touching base" with our parish committees and groups will be essential. I would hope that all of us would wish to see both parishes operating as we were in the early months of 2020 when Finance committees and Social committees and Health and Safety committees met periodically. These existed to enable each parish to function more completely and to keep parishioners informed of various requirements and opportunities for involvement in broader parish 'life'. Some may feel that a new 'model' is needed in order for parishes to continue maintaining themselves and evangelising. I would welcome ideas and particular insights/ vision as to how the parishes of St Patrick's and St Anne's might go forward. According to Canon Law, the bare minimum is for us to have Finance Committees. As mentioned, if anyone has ideas for re-establishing some form of social/fund-raising group etc please let me know. We are holding a Quiz Night at St Anne's on Saturday 21st May at 7:30pm.

PS: It would help greatly if St Patrick's re-established our regular counting teams. These used to carry out this important contribution following the Sunday Mass. If any parishioners could offer their time by becoming one of a counting team it would be much appreciated. As part of a team the counting task would not take long.

Also, if 'Refreshment' teams would like to be formed then let me know or sign up at the back of church. This would enable an important social facility following our Sunday Masses. Do give it some thought. Fr. Bob

Returning to Mass at Pentecost



Following the Spring Plenary, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have made an announcement on the "Sunday Obligation":

See our parish home-page for the link to the complete article.

"Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed.

"The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

"We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation."

To my mind, this statement from the Bishops' Conference makes it clear that, in the present situation we find ourselves in, there is more need than ever to put our weekly celebration of Mass as central to our lives if we are to truly live out our calling as baptised members of the 'Body of Christ'. As we have all received the three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist, there lies within us a need for the nourishment that will sustain us through life's ever-deepening challenges. Sadly, there has persisted the perception that the Sunday Obligation to attend Mass limits our 'freedom' and constrains us. Nothing could be further from the truth. By nourishing ourselves through the Eucharist, we live ever closer to the presence of Christ Himself; the redeemer who grounds our true freedom in His love and who guides us through every obstacle. Let us look ahead to the great feast of Pentecost and give thanks for the original 'birth' of the Church when the "imprisoned" disciples were empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring the freedom of Love to the world.

Today in Rome, Pope Francis will raise Blessed Charles de Foucauld, and six others to be numbered among the saints of the church. Among the writings of Charles de Foucauld's is his Prayer of Abandonment: *'Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures - I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands I commend my soul: I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father. Amen.'*

