

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 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**

<b>ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987 Email: <a href="mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk">office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk</a> Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen	<b>ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> Marston Road, ST16 3BT Telephone: 01785 413275 Email: <a href="mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk">office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk</a> Principal: Mr. M. Brandon
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### **TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK**

#### **THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF YEAR**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	14 <sup>th</sup>	pm		Vigil	No Congregation Alfred & Kay Turner RIP
Sun	15 <sup>th</sup>	am		Thirty-Third Sunday of Year	Marilyn Meehan RIP " " "
Mon	16 <sup>th</sup>	am			Fr. Des Power " " "
Tue	17 <sup>th</sup>	am			Teresa Healy RIP " " "
Wed	18 <sup>th</sup>	am			Fr Brian Doolan RIP " " "
Thu	19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10:45am</b>	<b>St Patrick's</b>	<b>Requiem Mass for Kitty Daly</b>	(Number Cap)
Fri	20 <sup>th</sup>	am			The Lloyd Family RIP " " "
		<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>St Anne's</b>	<b>Exposition Hour</b>	
Sat	21 <sup>st</sup>	pm		Vigil	Jean Shearer&Kath Sanford " " "
Sun	22 <sup>nd</sup>	am		<b>Solemnity of Christ The King</b>	People of the Parish " " "
		<b>11:00am</b>	<b>St Austin's</b>	<b>Mass of Remembrance for the three parishes</b>	The Dead of the three Stafford parishes

#### **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 **St Anne's:** Michael Glover, Patricia Walters, Thomas McCormick, Mary Terry, Bernard Lundberg, Cath Miles, Walter Rogers, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Colin Wise.

**Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time:** *[St. Patrick's]* William Hainey, Sarah McTigne, Eileen Buckley, Gerard Rooney, James Williams, Eileen Baker, Elizabeth Jackson, William Delaney, Mary Cleary, Margaret Sheridan, Bridie Blakemore, Henry Orfila, Antonia Orfila, Patrick Lavelle, John Smith, Florence Woolams, Lucy Pate, Peter Bamber, Maureen Barlow, Francesco Panzera Nancy Crossan, Charles Follows and Lucy Hannah Yeomans. *[St Anne's]* Marilyn Meehan, Iris Thomas, Albert Mulcahy, Jim Pritchard, Arthur Tropiejko, Andrew Curran, Edward Walker, Peter Bamber, Mary Bamber, Emile Bernier, Violet Campbell, Charles Goulding, James Sharple, Andrea Shufflebotham, Ellen Kaine, Lucy Pate and William Pownall.

Income 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£	£	<b>£283.84</b>	£	<b>Sat</b> <b>Sun</b>
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£	£	<b>£146.23</b>	£	<b>Sat</b> <b>Sun</b>

*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](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish Tote 150 Club October 2020 Winners.** Thank you for your support. There are a lot of numbers 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. (Once we come out of this present 'lockdown').***

### **St Anne's Roof Appeal (Update)**



***The remedial work has now been completed.** We are appealing for any donations St Anne's community can donate to this work; my humble appreciation to those who have already given so generously; we are gradually on our way - looking at a sum approaching £10,000. (We are well over a third of the way there). Two special baskets are 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

### **NOVEMBER (Month of Remembering our Dead)**

At the back of St Anne's and St Patrick's churches you will find brown envelopes into which you may place the names of those you wish to be remembered during the month of November. These can then be put in the basket. If you wish to make a donation then please place donations in the smaller 'Mass intention' envelopes, found nearby, and also place in the basket. Before each Mass the basket will be placed before the altar.

*During this second long period of 'Lockdown' during which Mass cannot be celebrated in public except as a requiem funeral, I shall continue to say Mass daily on my own and offer the intentions received. The difference will be that I shall be celebrating only one Mass per day. So on Sundays I shall be remembering those for whom the Mass is offered (both St Patrick's and St Anne's) during the one Mass. I shall also be remembering all our dead during every Mass especially those in the brown envelopes. If you wish to have the names of your deceased loved ones at the altar*

either email the names to the parish or push a brown envelope through the presbytery door. (envelopes can be found on the small table under the Hall Porch at St Anne's).

**PARISH MASS OF REMEMBRANCE:** This Mass will take place at St Austin's next Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 11:00am where Myself, Fr Michael and Fr Simon will concelebrate. This Mass will be streamed and the names of those who have died through the last year (from Nov 2019) will be read out.

**STATEMENT FROM BISHOPS CONFERENCE:** On each parish website you will find a copy of the statement from the Conference on the Prime Minister's Pronouncement.

**Church Opening:** Unfortunately, due to the practical difficulties of having our two churches (St Anne's & St Patrick's) open during set periods during each day of the week (since there would be a need for stewards and cleaners) they will not be open for private prayer, but **St Anne's will be open for an hour's Exposition every Friday evening at 6pm beginning next Friday 13<sup>th</sup>.** Also, on the vigil of **Christ The King Sunday (Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November)** there will be **Exposition for an hour starting at 6pm** as conclusion of the universal day of prayer for ending the pandemic.

Meanwhile, do try to find time for tuning in to various Masses that are streamed from across the globe, and importantly, find time for some silent moments in personal prayer. Blessings Fr. Bob

*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 (1m+ guideline so all those coming to Mass must wear a face covering) means we don't have to be 2m apart. Capacity of each church is about 50, but Remember, a family group may sit together on one bench or in neighbouring chairs. Between the two parishes there should be 8 Masses during one week. 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. Many Thanks for your patience and understanding.*

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.. 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.

**MISSIO:** (St Patrick's) At the back of St Patrick's parishioners will find the latest Autumn edition of Missio's magazine. Please help yourself to a copy. There are many interesting articles included. Many thanks to Graham for his help in liaising with the charity. If parishioners who have RED BOXES could continue to donate their boxes using either the online donations page at [www.missio.org.uk](http://www.missio.org.uk), by phone, cheque or text that would be great. If you use your postcode as requested, you will be able to be matched to Missio's database and the totals will be attributed to the parish totals. Many thanks.

**Deceased:** Please pray for **Kitty Daly**, parishioner of St Patrick's, who died last week. We remember in our prayers also Kitty's family at this time. Her Requiem Mass will be at **St Patrick's Church (family) at 10:45am next Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November.** May Kitty rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Friends of the Holy Land:** In two week's time we shall be entering the season of **Advent** during which we usually have Crib Donations for **Friends of the Holy Land**. This year has been particularly 'ruthless' for them in terms of lack of pilgrims (especially during this coming Christmas period when Bethlehem would normally be packed) and lack of sales for their wonderful artefacts etc. We will be arranging for this year's Crib donations from the First Sunday of Advent, through to the Christmas period, but of course our lockdown may interfere with this. However, you can donate through their website (where our Christian brothers and sisters' desperate situation is made evident). It is: <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk> . Any amount of assistance would be very welcome. Many thanks

**End Note:** I will leave a few copies of this newsletter on the table under St Anne's Hall porch and pin a copy inside St Patrick's notice board.

## HOMILY FOR THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY

I've heard there's an old saying within the farming community of Australia that if your neighbour starts quoting scripture at you, start branding your cattle. And, to be honest, I can see the wisdom in that. Holy Scripture can be a lot less than HOLY when it's in the wrong hands. Scripture can be used by anyone to justify anything when it's taken out of context, or just lifted from the pages because it sounds useful. The tragic history of Christianity is marked by the violence of groups using and quoting scripture for their own ends.

Today's readings probably wouldn't be famous for the battles the Church has had with heretical groups, but how many of us were cringing at the first reading from Proverbs? How many of us thought it was 'slightly' sexist to say the least? If we took this passage literally as we read it we'd think it was all about the qualities a man needed to find in his wife. No mention here about what a woman might need to find in a good husband. You can imagine an ignorant chauvinist using passages of scripture like this to criticise his wife if she didn't measure up to the standards and quality required.

What we need to remember, though, is this: as followers of Christ we put our faith and belief in a PERSON, not pieces of scripture taken on their own. So, faith in a person gives us knowledge of what he or she is about; what they mean for us. And, because we know Jesus and His basic essential message for us, we're able to see through the language of the scripture readings at what it really is saying to us. The "perfect wife" in the first reading is WISDOM; it's a metaphor for describing how wisdom is so dear to us.

We're assured of how happy and 'wealthy' we are if we have wisdom as our closest companion. We want for nothing because wisdom, if you like, does everything for us. So this passage isn't meant to patronise women but to use a wife (or a husband) as comparison to WISDOM itself.

The Gospel reading can also lend itself to misuse if it's understood in a shallow way. When I used to hear this parable I felt rather sorry for the third servant. He started off with the least ability, he feared his master and all he wanted to do was to keep his master's property safe. He didn't gamble with his master's money, yet he's harshly treated. Just imagine what some might make of this passage and how they might use it; the old Victorian idea about the poor deserving to be poor because they didn't work hard enough – or they're not enterprising enough. A businessman could use the passage to prove that 'you have to speculate to accumulate'.

Now, obviously, if we read this parable on its own, completely divorced from the rest of the Gospel, we might wonder about what Jesus was trying to tell us in it. But, because our act of faith is in JESUS the person, we know Him deep enough not to let a parable disturb us. Every parable of Jesus helps us know Him more completely. What this parable is not about is *making more wealth*; it's not even about initiative and enterprise. It is essentially telling us that fear is death and that faith in God alone is the wealth producer. Our trust in God and our knowledge of His ways (these are our talents). And, in fact, the depth of our trust in God is in direct proportion to the knowledge of our weaknesses. So, in this sense, our talents are really our weaknesses.

The first reading suggests we marry ourselves to WISDOM and if we do, then we'll find our true wealth increasing and our talents bearing fruit.

Then, when people start quoting scripture to us we'll be more aware of how easy it is to mistake the wrappings and decoration for the gift itself.