

Weekly Newsletter



Sunday 15 December

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

Times of Holy Mass and Liturgies this week

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(Gaudete Sunday)

ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL		ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL				
Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987 Email: office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk Executive Head: Mrs K Bennett		Marston Road, ST16 3BT Telephone: 01785 413275 Email: office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk Principal: Mr. M. Brandon				
Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention	
Sat	14 th	4.00 pm 6.00 pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil	Joye Simpson RIP Geoff Owen RIP	
Sun	15 th	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)	People of the Parish Joye Simpson RIP	
Mon	16 th	9.30 am	St Anne's	Advent Feria	Sally Hughes Good health	
Tue	17 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Advent Feria	Alina Lotysz RIP	
Wed	18 th	10:00am	St Anne's	Communion Service Advent Feria		
Thu	19 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Advent Feria	Wise, Gough, Webster Families Deceased	
Fri	20 th	9:15 am	St Anne's	Advent Feria	Fr David Catterall	
Sat	21 st	10:00am 4.00 pm 6.00pm	St Anne's St Patrick's St Anne's	Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham Vigil Vigil	Winifred Mary Cotton & Hugh Christopher Cotton RIP Eamon Gormley RIP	
Sun	22 nd	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Fourth Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish Pam Knowles RIP	
Prayers for the sick: St Patrick's: Susan Prince, Gregory McKinlay, Linda Reavy, Cecylia Kotara, Rebecca Kilkenny, Graham Burningham, Mary Kilkenny. St Anne's: Patricia Walters, Thomas McCormick, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Andrea Hulse, Winifred Meehan, Pat McDonnell, Georgina Copp, Marie Geal, Molly Hukin, Joan O'Dowd, Nick Harrison, Annette Plant, Neve Collins, Matthew Connelly Smith.						
Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's] Florence Preston, Winifred Cliff, Alice Sheehan, Jacobus Ashun, Mary Harding, Jean Taylor, James Crossan, Joyce Wynter, Simon Collins, Bertram Shotton, Stanislaw Gackowski, Winifred Cotton, Dom Krsul, Francis Ackland, Clifford Hewitt, Violet Melvin. [St. Anne's] Mary Chatterley, Alec Gourley, John Grennan, John Helks, Patrick McMahon, John Bamber, Monica Beardmore, Kathleen McMahon, Lottie Riley, Elizabeth (Bea) Gallow, Vincent Eardsley, Noel Joret, Esther Martin, Peter Rice.						
Income 8/12/24	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£112.00	£219.41	£408.25	£739.66	Sat 42 Sun 102
St Patrick's	Offertory	£46.20	£258.73	£152.16	£457.09	Sat 37 Sun 100

On the Archdiocese website there is a standing order and Gift Aid form for parishioners so they can transform the way they donate. Please direct any such enquiries to: [Donate | Birmingham Diocesan Trust](https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk) (birminghamdiocese.org.uk) / <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work>

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. Switching your giving via Standing Order mandate would be a great help also.*

Information cards [*gift-aid it*] can be found at the back of the churches for any parishioners who are not in the gift aid scheme. The cards explain how the system works (at no extra expense for the doner) and provide information as to how you can be part of the scheme. It is a simple, free and effective way to help our parishes increase our funds. Do consider this if you are not already gift-aiding. Many Thanks

Last weekend's Second Collection for Poor Parishes Fund St Anne's £196.74. St Patrick's £130.95
Thank You.

Our Deceased: Please pray for the souls of **Terry Mellor** and **Bernard Fulton** of **St Anne's**, who died recently. We remember their families at this time. *May Terry and Bernard rest in peace and rise in glory.*

The Drop in Group Do Come and join us on Wednesdays in the Meeting Room after the St Anne's 10 am Communion Service. All Welcome.

Wool donations – If anyone has any spare wool it can be left in St Anne's Church porch. It will be used for knitting hats and scarves for the homeless. Thank you.

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 valuable facility. **More volunteers always welcome.**

St Anne's Choir

At present we have no formal choir and lack a choir leader and an organist. Music plays an important part in our liturgy and enhances our worship. If you would be able to help with the music in any way please would you contact Fr Bob. [*The choir meets in church at 7pm (Tue) on particular dates so keep an eye out for the next one. If anyone would like to pop in we will be going through the hymns for the next few weeks*].

Parish Library St Anne's The parish library is in the parish meeting room. You may borrow any of the bibles, books, or CTS booklets.

St Anne's Christmas Cards: Please would you place any Christmas cards on the table in the Hall entrance, as there is limited space in the church porch. Many thanks.

Bible Alive. The January editions have arrived and are in St Anne's Church porch for those who have ordered them. The cost is £2.97 per quarter. Money can be put in the envelopes marked Bible Alive in St Anne's Church porch. Thank You.

MISSIO: The Autumn edition of 'Mission Today' is found at the back of church. Please help yourself to a copy. ALSO, THERE ARE MANY 2025 CALENDARS – JUST TAKE ONE.

St Anne's and St Patrick's: In both parishes, CHILDREN'S LITURGY is up and running every Sunday. This is due to our volunteers/leaders who generously assist our youngsters in their understanding. Please do come forward to help if you would like to become involved. All necessary safeguarding procedures are taken care of. Many thanks. [Those interested in helping please see Fr. Bob]

A Penitential Service will be held at St Austin's on this Monday 16th December at 7pm. This will be an opportunity for individual confessions in preparation for our Christmas celebration. Other priests should be able to assist us.

+BIBLE STUDY: St Anne's parish Bible Study usually meets on a regular fortnightly programme, in St Anne's parish hall meeting room from 10 am – 11 am. **The next meeting will be in January. Pope Francis has declared this coming year to be a Year of Prayer and so all are very welcome to join in!!**

The Advent 'Walk with Me' books are available at the back of church. Please take one and follow the daily prayers and reflections, as we journey through this period of expectation. If you wish to donate towards the books then just use the basket.

* **SAFEGUARDING** *The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our St Anne's Parish Safeguarding Representative is Ann Kelly and can be contacted at sg.stanne.stafford@rcaob.org.uk. Our St Patrick's Safeguarding Representative is Geraldine Thickett and can be contacted at sg.stpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.*

Exposition and Holy Hour: There is Exposition and Holy Hour, including opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation, at St Anne's: From 10:00am until 11:00am. This is offered every Saturday, except the third Saturday of the month, upon which the Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham will be celebrated.

St Patrick's Eucharistic Minister Rota: St. Patrick's Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: this covers both Saturday Evening and Sunday Morning. If you are an extraordinary minister and would like to be included in the rota, please contact Angela Russell (07765560153) or Fr Bob; please confirm which weekend mass you would be able to assist at. Also, if you are not yet a Eucharistic minister and may have thought of becoming one, please do give it thought and have a word with Fr. Bob. Full training would be given. **[The new rota for 2024 is now complete]**

LIVING SIMPLY: Parishioners are invited to purchase Fair traded goods and to buy world gifts from CAFOD <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk>

We are developing a wildflower meadow at the side of St Anne's Church to help support biodiversity. We are inviting parishioners to donate wildflower seeds, plants or peat free compost. If you would like to look at the area, Liz and Ann will be available to show you the area on Sunday after Mass.+

CHRISTIAN FOOD HELP: Due to the ever increasing problem of food poverty, nationally and locally within many families, there is a continual need for donations. At the back of each church we have clearly marked boxes for your donations of food items. Please deposit them there so that they can be taken regularly to St Austin's, where the CFH team can arrange for their distribution. **Many Thanks**

New to the Parish? If you are new to either of the parishes of St Anne or St Patrick you are very welcome. Please let Fr Bob know (on 01785 661012 OR stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk) There are numerous aspects of our parish life that might be of interest to you. We hope that you will feel 'at home' within our parish community.

YOUTH CONNECT

A regular youth activity is held at St Anne's; Mondays [6:30PM TO 8:30PM] (for school years 6 – 13) FREE PIZZA, SPORTS AND GAMES, FRIENDSHIP, BELONG, PRAYER, WORSHIP. So if anyone would like to become involved in any way or wishes to join our Youth Ministry Team please contact Fr. Bob on 01785 661012 [PLEASE SEE POSTER IN THE CHURCH PORCH] *[Please note that letters to parents, together with consent forms are in the parish office – just contact Fr. Bob or the secretary Marie in order to take one]*

* (From 6th January the activity will be open to those from Year 5 to Year 9)

Please take a card from the back of church "ASSIST US TO LIVE, NOT TO DIE" and send it to our MP [Leigh Ingham]. Although the Bill managed to get through the first round, the fight goes on; since there will be a later second reading and further challenges. Arguments FOR life can and will be put forward and political minds can be changed. Our prayers are needed more than ever.

St Anne's Reading Rota If anyone is interested in reading at Mass there is a list in the church porch for you to add your name. Full training will be given in January.

ST ANNE'S PLAYGROUP

We are planning to hold a playgroup in St Anne's Church Hall every Friday morning (school terms) 9:15 am -11:00am. It will be for ages 0 - 5 years old.

It is a chance to connect with other parents and bring your little one for nursery rhymes, sensory play, books and more. £1 per child, snack included and tea or coffee for carers.

The group will start on Friday 10th January 2025 and we would love to have volunteers to support us (where the usual application procedures apply). This is a Catholic Stafford initiative so it's for all parishes. Please contact: stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk 01785661012 OR Letalya 07848893395

New Missal! Hodder & Stroughton have published a brand-new edition of the Sunday Missal for use with the new ESV-CE lectionary from Advent this year. It is available from all good bookshops and online, priced at just £18.99.

NB ALL the missals ordered by parishioners, for St Anne's and St Patrick's, have now arrived. There are, at the moment, still nine missals left that parishioners have ordered. If you could collect them soon it would be a great help. If possible, please could you have the exact amount £13 in cash or, of course, a cheque (made payable to St Anne's). You can buy yours after Mass or call in at the presbytery during the weekday mornings (except Wednesdays).

St Anne's parishioners please note that from Advent we are using the Jerusalem missalettes every week, just like St Patrick's. They are clear and the whole Mass can be followed and they will, of course, contain the new translation. However, if you would prefer your own missal then please see above.

St Anne's & St Patrick's: The destination, for our Advent Tree Gifts, as last year, include the 'House of Bread' and 'Womens' Refuge'; Crib donations are for Friends of the Holy Land.

House of Bread would be very grateful for socks, pants, sanitary products, shampoo and conditioner, shaving cream and razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes and soap.

The Women's Refuge would be very grateful for baby wipes, laundry detergent, toilet rolls, cleaning products, boxed tissues, long life milk, coffee, sugar, juice, ketchup, mayonnaise, crisps, ladies pants sizes 8 and 10.

Christmas Flowers at St Patrick's

We would like to invite you to donate a poinsettia for Christmas. There will be a tray at the back of church near to the font the weekend before Christmas for you to leave your plant.

If you would like to have the plant back after the festivities, please put your name on the bottom of the plant pot. Thank you as always for your contributions.

CHRISTMAS MASSES IN CATHOLIC STAFFORD:

Christmas Eve	6pm	St Patrick's	8pm	St Austin's	10pm	St Anne's
Christmas Day	9am	St Patrick's	10am	St Anne's	11am	St Austin's

After two and a half years of ministry in St Austin's parish, Fr Steven Fleming will be leaving us this week. He will be moving temporarily to Oscott College before moving to another parish residency in early 2025.

We know you will want to pray for him and the next stage of his priestly ministry. Fr. Steven will be invited to return to the parish early next year to celebrate Mass and for the parish to express our thanks and good wishes to him.

Early in the New year, Fr. Robert Carey will be coming to reside at St Austin's until Easter. He will support the work of the parish with his priestly ministry during this time here.

Joan Collins would like to thank you all very much for the masses, flowers, cards and good wishes on the occasion of her 80th Birthday.

End Note: Peter Harland, a parishioner of St Anne's, is planning to visit Paris next February 6th 2025 in order to see the re-opened Notre Dame Cathedral. It would be for a couple of days. If anyone would like join him please contact Peter on 0785554125