

Weekly Newsletter

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St. Anne's Catholic ChurchLynton 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.ukEmail: 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**

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TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	15 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	50 th Birthday Intentions of S. Jacob
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	John Pettit
Sun	16 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Wedding Anniversary of Angela & Philip
		10:00am	St Anne's		Ann Gormley RIP
Mon	17 th	9:30am	St Anne's	Easter Feria	Celebrant's Intention
Tue	18 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Easter Feria	John Pettit RIP
Wed	19 th	No Mass	St Anne's	Easter Feria	
Thu	20 th	6:30am	St Patrick's	Easter Feria	Vivian Pritchard RIP
Fri	21 st	6:30pm	St Anne's	Easter Feria	well being of Nick Harrison
Sat	22 nd	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	John Pettit RIP
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	People of the Parish
Sun	23 rd	9:00am	St Patrick's	Pentecost Sunday	Veronica Rice
		10:00am	St Anne's		Eamon Gormley RIP

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]* 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, Daniel Hynds and Arthur Harborne. *[St Anne's]* David Scriven, John Ferguson, Mary Hatfield, Anthony Nealon, Sian Stacey, Colin Walmsley, Edward Bailey, Catherine Marden, Ada Miller, Mary Palmer, William Woodcock, Frank Woollaston, Maurice Harvey, Natalie Procter, Hilda Gough, Jack Lally, Honor Kirk and David Williams.

Income 9/5/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£109.00	£149.01	£283.84	£541.85	Sat 48 Sun 55
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£102.00	£90.05	£146.23	£338.28	Sat 44 Sun 32

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:

***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 April 2021 Winners

£100 M Ross – 45, £50 P Turner - 75, £20 A Reck - 25, £10 T Kelly – 126, £10 S Freckleton – 60, £10 E Turner – 137, £10 J Stamyard – 64, £10 R Fletcher – 88, £10 A Eaton – 19, £10 M walker – 33, £10 A Kelly – 128, £10 C McHugh – 46, £10 I Coghlan – 144.

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

Gift Aid At this critical time, 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. 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*

Without such donations, 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 been reduced. A significant amount of unavoidable work is also planned shortly for both parishes, 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 please help in any way. Very many thanks

St Anne's: At present all Masses celebrated at St Anne's are web streamed. (Our grateful thanks to Peter) [Please go to the front web page and click on Mass Live at the top and you should be able to follow the Mass]. Fr. Bob

Places of Worship are open for Mass, but we were reminded of the need and importance for us all to be extra careful and diligent with social distancing and hygiene. All our parishes have been grateful for the help and dedication of our stewards/ cleaners, ensuring that all guidelines are followed and that we can safely celebrate Mass.

Second Collection: This weekend 15th/16th May, there is a second collection for Catholic Communications

Our Deceased: Please pray for **Roy Burton**, husband of Sheila and **Gordon Lee**, husband of Irene, who have died recently, both of St Anne's. We remember their families at this time. *May Roy and Gordon rest in peace and rise in glory.*

School Governors: St Patrick's School is in need of **Foundation Governors**, which is why we are making this appeal. If any parishioner might feel they could fulfil this important role please approach/phone Fr. Bob (**parish phone or email**). Alternatively, contact St Patrick's School (413275). Many thanks in anticipation.

The Month of May: Archbishop Bernard has asked that we include this message from him: *The Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation has called for a universal daily prayer to be offered for the end of the Covid-19 Pandemic during the month of May and that each day during the month will focus upon one of the international Marian Shrines. This includes Our Lady of Walsingham. We have been asked to note that Saturday 1st May has been assigned for Our Lady of Walsingham with the prayer intention in favour of the Holy Souls. A list of the Marian Shrines can be found (in Italian) by clicking the link on the home page.*

Honouring Mary in May: During this month of May we are honouring Our Lady in St Anne's and St Patrick's by saying the 'Regina Caeli' followed by the Memorare at the start of each Mass. You will find copies of these prayers on small pieces of paper in each church porch. Please take them with you so may be familiar with the anthem and prayer.

***Concluding the month of May: On Sunday 30th May at 5:00pm** there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary and Benediction at **St Austin's**. Monday 31st May is the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so it will be a lovely way to conclude this month dedicated to Our Lady. We would traditionally have our Day of Prayer for Vocations in May but are combining this with these Marian Devotions. Please do try to come along.

St Anne's Church maintenance: The remedial work to the lower roof was completed last year. Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously. Upcoming tasks this year include **decorating the interior of the Hall** this summer and **comprehensive remedial tree surgery** to satisfy Health and Safety. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. F.Bob

Sacrament of Reconciliation: [Easter Duties and Confession at this time]. Please be assured that the Church's communication on this is still valid from the beginning of last year's lockdown, and that provided we are fully contrite in our hearts, we can confess our sins to the Lord within our own 'private prayer space'. According to the teaching of the Church, the present ongoing situation would not warrant the 'Rite of General Absolution'. If notice is given, and at convenient times, before or after Mass, I have been hearing confessions and this will continue. God Bless. Fr. Bob

Gift Aid Envelopes: Please be aware that the new 2021/22 GA boxes are available at the back of each parish church. They are numbered and named and begin on 11th April (many thanks to Margaret [SP] and Mark [SA] for preparing these). They are ready for collection. If anyone would like more information concerning this method of giving (or, indeed, concerning donation by Standing Order) please see Fr. Bob

Appeal for Readers: *In order to grow and develop our pool of readers in both parishes, we are appealing for anyone from St Anne's or St Patrick's parishes to help by becoming a reader. Reading the scriptures at Mass encourages personal contemplation of the Word of God and allows the word to dwell more richly in our hearts. We need more parishioners willing to read occasionally at Mass. A training session for Readers will take place on Wednesday 2nd June from 7 – 8.30 pm in St Anne's Church. Please text Deacon Mike 07706077124 or leave a message at the parish office if you would like to take part. If you are already a reader please make contact as well to indicate your continued availability for this service. Many Thanks.*

Hednesford Pilgrimage 2021: Sadly, the *normal* pilgrimage will not be able to be held again this year, with pilgrims from the Archdiocese and beyond, but there will be two events involving parishioners from Hednesford and surrounding area: **1. Mass for the Diocesan Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage.** The Archbishop will say Mass at the shrine on **Saturday May 22nd at 12 Noon.** It will be filmed and posted online on Monday May 31st as part of the Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage. If you would like to actually come to the shrine, book a place by ringing 01543 422576 or emailing lol.hednesford@rcaob.org.uk **2. Mass for the Diocesan Pilgrimage.** Bishop Stephen Wright will say Mass at the shrine on **Sunday June 20th at 3pm.** The Mass will be filmed and posted online on Sunday July 4th in place of the Diocesan Pilgrimage Mass.

End Note: If anyone who thinks they might enjoy painting/touching up a few of our church statues in St Patrick's, do please let me know. You may even be aware of someone who could be willing to help. It would be greatly and humbly appreciated. F. Bob

HOMILY SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Over the last couple of weeks we have been following not only the Acts of the Apostles, but also the Gospel of John. They complement each other wonderfully, because whilst in Acts (and also John) we see the early followers becoming more united in their faith within the leadership of the Apostles, the conversation Jesus has with His closest followers in John's Gospel emphasises God's love. And it's the love of the Father that is so powerfully real, not only between Him and the Son, but also for the disciples of Jesus who are being prepared for manifesting and sharing that unique love to the whole world. As always, in the Acts of the Apostles, there is reference to the Scripture that Jesus' followers would have been brought up on. So much prophesy and the psalms point towards the 'future' Messiah and His kingdom and Peter admits this, doesn't he, when the gathering of about a hundred and twenty listen to his suggestion of how to make up the twelve now Judas Iscariot has left a gap. Peter quotes from psalms 69 and 109 in explaining the removal and replacement of Judas. "Let someone else take his office"; and from relying upon the Holy Spirit, Matthias is chosen. So, again, we see how the old and new testaments are intertwined and united as being an ongoing and historical act of the Holy Spirit.

What we should take notice of here is that these disciples couldn't have possibly replaced Judas unless they were united. They'd just witnessed the Ascension and returned to the city in expectation of the promised gift of the Spirit. So, this unity between each of them was essential for making a united decision. In the Gospel passage from John the two themes of unity and love are central to Jesus' long conversation with His closest followers. This is obviously more than a conversation; what we're hearing is Jesus' prayer to His Father, and what a powerful prayer it is. "Keep those you have given me true to your name so that they may be one like us". For those apostles recalling this prayer of Jesus, they must have felt

powerfully protected for the mission they had been given, mustn't they. And for us listening to this prayer, we should feel encouraged as well because it applies to us, since we are baptised into the Body of Christ. Jesus doesn't hold back in describing our relationship with the world either. "They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world". Now, a very significant and important statement of Jesus' prayer is when He declines to ask the Father to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the evil one.

Christ has referred to Satan as being the 'prince of this world' so the message is clear, isn't it. The apostles (and we) have work to do and we are all called to bear witness to the faith we believe in a world that's hostile and indifferent at best, and downright violent and dangerous at its worst! It couldn't be clearer really. Jesus is not taking us up to heaven on a cloud so we can escape the danger and mess; essentially because His mission is given to us in a unique way and fear is our greatest enemy. Consecration is a sacred act and, just as Jesus is consecrating Himself, so He's consecrating His disciples in truth and truth is nothing but the Father's Word. We need to look upon this amazing prayer as our security and shield and defence as we journey through our up and down lives. When we hear Jesus' prayer in John today we could be excused for thinking: 'this isn't me, my life's a messy disaster; I'm a living contradiction'. And it's true, isn't it. It takes every last 'drop' of our faith to know that God is with us and in us wherever we are and in whatever chaos we have fallen into. In truth, our life is a book of many pages of contradictions and it can be hard to see any relationship between one page and another. We all long for that inner unity in our lives, don't we, where all the various parts of our lives seem integrated. Because, in the final analysis, the more we see of our 'burning, self-destructive' world, the more we realise that authentic, true and genuine peace can only flow out of people at "soul peace". And, as the Gospel of John never tires of informing us, this can only come from us being united in body and soul with the Father and the Son, in the Holy Spirit. Let us pray this week to invoke the continual coming of the Holy Spirit to give unity to our lives and the joy of being 'at-one' with God.