

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Parish Mass Book page: 152

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	17 th	4:00pm 6:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil		Private Intention Brandon Harland RIP & Leanne Butler RIP	
Sun	18 th	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	First Sunday of Lent		People of the Parish Daniel France RIP	
Mon	19 th	10:00am	St Anne's	Communion Service		Lent Feria	
Tue	20 th	9.30am	St Patrick's	Communion Service		Lent Feria	
Wed	21 st	10:00am	St Anne's	Communion Service		Lent Feria	
Thu	22 nd	No Mass	St Patrick's	The Chair of St Peter		Feast	
Fri	23 rd	9:15am 6:30pm	St Anne's St Anne's	Communion Service Stations of the Cross		Lent Feria	
Sat	24 th	4:00pm 6:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil		Peggy & Harry Watts & Marie & Laurie Hawkins Laurine Abayakoon RIP	
Sun	25 th	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Second Sunday of Lent		Hugh Christopher Cotton & Winifred Cotton Joan Collins RIP	
<p>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, Walter Rogers, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Andrea Hulse, Winifred Meehan, Pat McDonnell, Georgina Copp, Marie Geal, Molly Hukin,</p>							
<p>Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's.] Mary [Managhan, Zofia Myskowski, Mary Rattigan, Jean Shearer, Dorothy Gittins, Dorothy Shelley, Margaret Lawson, Michael Goater, Hilda Riley, Tom Park, Thomas Devine, Peter Farrell, Edward Bellasis, Christopher Kelly. [St. Anne's.] Baby Brandon Harland, James Heneghan, Sheila Bartle, Robert Atkinson, Mary Rhodes, Joseph Whitmore, John Caddick, Thomas Fleming, Betty Henderson, Annie Holmes, Thomas Kelly, Elizabeth Lawler, Michael Rafferty, Albert Southern, Raymond Rice, Robert Sartory.</p>							
Income 11/02/24	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance	
St Anne's	Offertory	£88.00	194.42	£408.25	£690.67	Sat 61	Sun 90
St Patrick's	Offertory	£51.30	£237.21	£152.16	£440.67	Sat 48	Sun 65

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 \(birminghamdiocese.org.uk\) / https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work](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. Very Many Thanks.

Last weekend's collection for the Life charity St Anne's £232.99 St Patrick's £139.67 Thank You.

Future Second Collections: Next Weekend 24th/25th February CAFOD Lent Fast
2nd/3rd March CATHEDRAL MAINTENANCE

(Envelopes for the Family Fast Day collection are at the back of church, please take them)

St Anne's Readers: The rota is on the notice board in the church porch

Our Deceased: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Emelda Moore**, of **St Anne's Parish**, who died this week. We remember also her family at this time. *May Emelda 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 would be most welcome.**

Wax Melts There are scented wax melts, for use in oil burners, for sale in the church porch. They have been recycled from old disused church candles and, as such, have all been blessed at some time. All proceeds will go towards the church maintenance fund.

St Anne's: CHILDREN'S LITURGY is up and running and held on every Sunday. This is due to the number of kind parishioners who have volunteered to help put on this much appreciated facility. It means we can form teams and a rota. Please do come forward to help if you would like to become involved. Ann Kelly is kindly looking after the necessary safeguarding procedures. Many thanks.

St Patrick's: (SUNDAY CHILDREN'S LITURGY) The Children's Liturgy Group is running and much appreciated. Open to children of primary school age and under. If you think you can help come along to a session and see what we do [Those interested in helping please see Fr. Bob]

Parish Library St Anne's

Thank you to everyone who has donated bibles and books (and a bookcase). The parish library is in the parish meeting room. You may borrow any of the bibles, books, or CTS booklets.

*** 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.*

+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 on Tuesday 27th February. Pope Francis has declared this coming year to be a Year of Prayer and so all are very welcome to join in!!

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: we have re-established the rota, for 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. Thank you.
[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

Our local co-ordinators, Adam and Clare (St Austin's), send their thanks.

Take a look at our latest graph showing the numbers of meals provided (at the back of church)

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.

"CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

CATHOLIC STAFFORD: *Your help, understanding and patience has been welcome, as we continue to collaborate in ministering to the Catholics of Stafford. This is especially evident as we often need to arrange to cover for priests in neighbouring deanery parishes at short notice. However, as we go forward in 2024 and become more aware of the unique value of our faith and how we may pass it on to others, immersing ourselves into the coming Year of Prayer will be essential. Further detail will be made available as to how we might use this year in relation to our prayer life; both communally and individually.*

Still curious about Jesus?

St Anne's will be hosting an ALPHA COURSE beginning Monday 8th April at 7 pm

ALPHA is a 12 week course similar in format to the groups we have been having at St Austins over the past few months. The Alpha course is ideal to bring non-Christian or lapsed church going friends along with you to take part in. Alpha is a series of interactive video/discussion sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. We would love you to come along either as a helper with hospitality/group support/set up or just to join in and hopefully invite a friend. More info on our St Anne's Website.

Fr Stephen, Deacon Mike or Fr Bob will be happy to talk with you about the course.

THE BIG LENT WALK "Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose, over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty.

CAFOD and SCIAF are teaming up to bring the Big Lent Walk to Great Britain! Read more about us and our decision to join forces. **HERE** Thousands of walkers from England, Wales, Scotland and beyond, will be tying up their purple laces and walking an incredible 200km this Lent to fight global poverty. So, sign up to do the Big Lent Walk yourself, or join in with your school or parish Then put your best foot forward with the biggest group of Big Lent Walkers yet."

(For more information go to: [The Big Lent Walk 2024 \(cafod.org.uk\)](https://www.cafod.org.uk))

Parish Ideas: There is a shortened link to work with for our Big Lent Walk:

tinyurl.com/cafodlentwalk

People can support by donating, or joining in. They can join in by visiting the weblink and clicking 'Join Team' and they can record their walking by linking Strava to the justgiving page, or simply recording the distances as they go along.

Some sponsor forms and posters printed for the Churches will follow. A volunteer/s would be very welcome who might be willing to manage the sponsor form on our behalf.

Secondly, Two short walks in Lent are planned by Deacon Mike:

- 1) **Sunday 3rd March 2:30pm** from St Anne's Car Park. About 45 mins to an hour.
- 2) **Sunday 17th March 2:30pm** from St Annes' Car Park. About an hour and a half.

Both walks are easy and accessible. If we like the idea of a monthly stroll out then we can go over the Chase etc.

[Take a sheet with the walk plan from the back of church]

LENT MESSAGE: His Holiness, Pope Francis, has sent an encouraging message to the Church for Lent 2024. There are some copies at the back of church but it can be accessed through the front web-pages of our parishes. It is entitled: ***'Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom'***

We Dare To Say :

Year of Prayer: As part of the Year of Prayer the Bishops of England and Wales have produced a series of reflections called 'We Dare to Say' which looks at the petitions of the Our Father in five ready-to-use sessions. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. The connection of the Our Father with the sacraments and the devotional life is explored, and wisdom from the saints is offered for the spiritual growth of group participants and individuals alike. The first of these sessions will start on Monday 26th February at 7.00 p.m. at St. Anne's and Tuesday 27th at St. Austin's and continue throughout the Mondays and Tuesdays of Lent. Both the Monday and Tuesday session will focus on the identical topic but will provide folk with a choice of evening. All are very welcome.