

**Weekly Newsletter****St. Anne's Catholic Church**Lynton Avenue Weeping Cross Stafford, ST17 0EA. Telephone: 01785 661012 - Website [www.st-anne-st.org.uk](http://www.st-anne-st.org.uk)**St. Patrick's Catholic Church**48 Sandon Road, Stafford ST16 3HF. Telephone 01785 661012 - Website [www.stpatrickssstafford.co.uk](http://www.stpatrickssstafford.co.uk)Email: [stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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	ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
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**TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK****Third Sunday of Easter**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	17 <sup>th</sup>	4:00pm 6:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil	Bob & Damian The Reynolds & McMahon Families Deceased
Sun	18 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Third Sunday of Easter	Dan Ryan RIP (Ann) Fr. Michael Crumpton RIP-
Mon	19 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Anne's	Easter Feria	Teresa Walsh RIP
Tue	20 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Patrick's	Easter Feria	Peggy Toner RIP
Wed	21 <sup>st</sup>	No Mass		Easter Feria	
Thu	22 <sup>nd</sup>	6:30pm	St Patrick's	Vigil (St George)	Celebrant's Intention
Fri	23 <sup>rd</sup>	6:30pm	St Anne's	St George, Patron of England	Solemnity
Sat	24 <sup>th</sup>	4:00pm 6:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil	People of the Parish Pupils&Staff of our Schools
Sun	25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Private Intention Andy Stewart 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]* John Wagstaff, Bill Thew, Marjorie Hinton, Jonathan Cummins, Lily Foster, John Ryan, Thomas Briody, James Murphy, Cecily Johnson, Waclaw Kiszeal, Vincent O'Connor, Alfred Milward, Thomas Scott, John Broun, Frank Willitt, Ernest Ferrie, Ralph Lennon and Kathleen Boult. *[St Anne's]* Bryan Barretto, Albert Bognor, Helen Hammond, Marjorie Densem, Andrew Martyn, Phoebe Taylor, James Byrne, John Taylor, Don Whitehall, Andrew Duffy, Bridget Truckel, Frances Rushton and Laura Rushton.

Income 4/4/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£71.42	£324.00	£283.84	£679.26	Sat 45 Sun 36
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£74.00	£67.66	£146.23	£287.89	Sat 21 Sun 48

*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 March 2021 Winners**

£100 J Walsh – 20, £50 C McHugh – 28, £20 F Russell – 156, £10 R Fletcher – 88, £10 B Walton- 148, £10 G Leese – 83, £10 J Hunt – 114, £10 G Thickett – 18, £10 W Meehan – 58, £10 B Roberts – 69, £10 K Ronan – 59, £10 T Lawrence – 26

Thank you for your support. Numbers are available at £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 still able to remain open**, 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.

**HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh:** We pray for HRH Prince Philip on the occasion of his funeral and we remember also Her Majesty The Queen and her family. May the Lord comfort them in their grief. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

**St Anne's Church Roof:** *The remedial work to the lower roof was completed last year.* Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously; we are gradually on our way – over £6,500 has been raised so far. This year we plan to try to monitor and possibly remedy any ongoing problems to the upper roof. 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 soon (date to be decided). 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.*

## **HOMILY THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**This Sunday's Gospel is the only one from Luke that we will find during this liturgical year. We know that we're in the 'year of Mark' but during the times of major seasons like Christmas**

or Easter, we sometimes read from other evangelists. We've also probably learnt that the evangelist Luke puts a lot of emphasis on meals and 'table fellowship' when he relates how Jesus teaches His disciples. Gathering around a table to enjoy a meal with others not only provides a 'feelgood' atmosphere but it also allows Jesus to relax and draw in His listeners. They are more likely to hang on to every word He says in an intimate situation rather than trying to follow a distant speaker addressing a vast crowd. We also know, don't we, that table fellowship can also offend people if they see that the 'wrong type' of guests are invited. But, the reason Luke's focus on meals is important in today's Gospel is that it helps the fearful and confused disciples hiding away in their room to see the glorified risen Jesus once again share food with them. Terrified that they were seeing a ghost, Jesus reassures them (as He always does) with the greeting of peace. And to make His presence even more deeply felt, He asks them for something to eat. It's almost as if Jesus was joining the disciples at their meal, that they had probably not long completed. In this wonderful atmosphere of gathering for a 'meal' Jesus can go through all the scripture that foretells what has happened. Their minds were opened.

Where do we find an account of the first meal in scripture? Yes, you may rightly guess: Chapter 3 verse 6. Adam and Eve ate together the fruit of the 'tree' but look what was missing: God's blessing and true fellowship. And instead of their eyes being opened to true knowledge of the joys and wonder of God's creation, their eyes were opened to the great deception that would lead to death. Death itself is traced to that moment of rebellion. The whole creation was subjected to decay, futility and sorrow, but now, Luke in a way echoes that primeval story and describes the first meal of the new creation. He does this when he describes how the two travellers on the road to Emmaus have their eyes opened and recognise Jesus: 'He took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them'. But this leads us to the other question we must ask ourselves when we read about the resurrected Jesus' appearances; why don't His immediate followers recognise Him straight away? Is it something to do with their state of mind and mental capacity or is it related to Jesus in His post resurrection, glorified state? It's a combination of factors. For the disciples, they needed to be enlightened

so that they could understand for themselves how everything that went before pointed to the risen life of Jesus and what it meant for them – and for all of us. Jesus' appearances were to help them come to this understanding, but it wasn't easy for them. What sort of a body did Jesus have? How could it at the same time be solid and real, with flesh and bones, able to eat cooked fish and to demonstrate that it wasn't a ghost, but also to appear and disappear at will? It can be easy to think that 'resurrection' simply means 'life after death' or 'going to heaven'. But, in the Jewish world of the first century it meant a new embodied life in God's new world. The new body which will be given at the end is not identical to the previous one. In an act of new creation, parallel to the original creation itself, God will make a new type of material out of the old one, no longer subject to death. In Jesus' case of course this happened right away, without His original body decaying, so the new body was actually the transformation of the old one. For the rest of us it will take a complete act of new creation. This is the challenge of the Gospel for us, isn't it, because we find it so difficult to imagine our new bodies belonging in BOTH the dimensions of God's world; in both heaven and earth. But true faith will and must stretch our imagination to beyond anything we can think of. God wants us to accept the news of Jesus' resurrection so that it can also become real for us, so that we too can "see for ourselves". We pray for a genuine personal encounter with the risen Lord, with His love, His presence, and importantly, a desire to witness and share this good news with the people of our time.

