

Sunday 18th July 2021

Weekly Newsletter

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

ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987 Email: office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk Principal: Mr. M. Killeen	ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL Marston Road, ST16 3BT Telephone: 01785 413275 Email: office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk Principal: Mr. M. Brandon
--	--

TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Sixteenth Sunday of the Year

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	17 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	People of the Parish
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Stephen Bayliffe RIP
Sun	18 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Sixteenth Sunday of the Year	The McHugh & Middleton Families
		10:00am	St Anne's		Kathleen & John Walsh RIP
Mon	19 th	9:30am	St Anne's	Feria	ET & MC Elliott RIP
Tue	20 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Feria	Canon Giles Goward RIP
Wed	21 st	No Mass	St Anne's	Feria	
Thu	22 nd	6:30pm	St Patrick's	St Mary Magdalene	Feast The Pupils & Staff of our two schools
Fri	23 rd	6:30pm	St Anne's	St Bridget	Feast Joao RIP
Sat	24 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Ken Wilson
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	People of the Parish
Sun	25 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Seventeenth Sunday of the Year	In memory of Selvi S Sonia
		10:00am	St Anne's		Private Intention

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, Rebecca Kilkenny. 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] Sheila Scifo, Thomas Kimmins, Marjorie Williams, Charles Edwards, Theresa Leake, Gladys Birch, Maud Perry, Reginald Gask, Beryl Slogget, William Hughes, Joan Lees, Ernest Moseley and Mary Murphy. [St Anne's.] Annie Curran, Sean McMahon, Masie McNamee, Jack McDonnell, Denise Morris, Jack Stephenson and Stephen Bayliffe.

Income 11/7/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£106.00	£166.50	£283.84	£556.34	Sat 56 Sun 58
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£83.00	£93.40	£146.23	£322.63	Sat 30 Sun 46

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

Parish Tote 150 Club June 2021

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*** Expenses (maintenance, consumables, utilities and fabric upkeep, not to mention health and safety) are ongoing. 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 have been open for Mass for well over a year now. 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.

Dates to Note:

MASS TO COMMEMORATE THE LOCAL MARTYR, BLESSED ROBERT SUTTON: Saturday 18th September 11:00am at St Thomas Mill.

The Year of St Joseph. For the remainder of the year we shall be honouring St Joseph (as this is the Year of St Joseph, initiated by Pope Francis). In St Anne's and St Patrick's churches the statue of St Joseph is prominent.

St Anne's and St Patrick's Church maintenance: Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously. Upcoming tasks this year include **decorating the interior of St Anne's Hall** this summer and **comprehensive remedial tree surgery for both parishes** to satisfy Health and Safety. **Important and involved remedial work is also needed on St Patrick's upper front roof.** Please accept my grateful thanks for any donations. 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

Our Deceased: We remember **Mary Cooper**, formerly of St Patrick's and **Eileen Kelly**, of St Anne's, who died recently. Also, please remember **Fr. John Burns**, a retired priest of our archdiocese, who died in Aston Hall last week. We pray also for their families. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

COVID-19 STEP 4 GUIDANCE (FROM 19TH JULY) At long last we have received guidance from the diocese in regard to how parishes can go forward from 19th July. We only received the document (from the English Bishop's Conference) yesterday so it will take some 'reading through' and understanding; it is 12 pages long. So, I cannot explain the new guidance in this week's newsletter. It is important that I meet up with our stewards and cleaners from both parishes in order to discuss the changes etc. Could I suggest that I meet with **St Anne's on this Monday immediately following the 9:30am Mass and likewise with St Patrick's on this Tuesday?** I realise that we will not have all the parishes' helpers but at least it will be a start in communicating our new guidance. Many Thanks 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 began 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

Visits to the sick and housebound are now possible if parishioners feel comfortable for them to happen.

THANK YOU: Many thanks to parishioners of both parishes for the kind wishes and congratulations offered to me as I reached a significant 'Biblical milestone' last Sunday. Sadly, before March 2020, a combined parish buffet celebration was planned but, as for most of our population, such events have had to be put on hold. Let's pray that body, mind and soul continue to hold up well into the near future. God Bless Fr. Bob

RCIA: This stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and the course is now up and running for those residing within St Anne's or St Patrick's parishes. Anyone wishing to become Roman Catholic and including relatives, friends or acquaintances of regular parishioners who may have expressed interest but don't know where to start are very welcome. Please approach Deacon Mike or Fr. Bob if you would like more information on the program.

Diocesan Vision: "Unfolding God's Plan". The Diocesan Evangelisation Team are inviting parishes to host '**Something Greater**' which takes place on Thursday 8th July. This event will help parishes extend a hand of friendship to their local community. This online gathering will include a welcome, a short film and a personal invitation to come to church. A pack is being created which will have everything we need to host '**Something Greater**'. It will include a step-by-step guide and different ways for parishes to reach out to invite their community and ideas on how we may extend a personal invitation to church. If any parishioners are interested in coming together to form a group who would help lead this then the Evangelisation sub group would be pleased to make contact. They can be contacted at: something.greater@rcaob.org.uk More information on the Diocesan Vision will be released. We are all asked to pray for this event and also encouraged to think how we might begin to reach out to:

(1) *Those who have lost the habit of coming to church and who may be anxious about doing so.*
(2) *Those who may not want to re-establish a pattern of Catholic worship – who may have seen a gap widen between the spiritual dimension of their lives and communal expression of that spiritual quest.*
(3) *Those 'Covid curious' who may have encountered the Catholic Church for the first time during the pandemic*

HOMILY SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF YEAR

We've all heard the phrase "on a roll" haven't we; it can apply to all aspects of our lives. Whether in business, career projects, learning new tasks or in the field of sport, we might feel that everything is going terrifically well, and we see the results of all the effort we're putting in. In fact we probably think that the more we apply ourselves the greater reward we are going to receive. All goes well until we meet a set back and we know setbacks always rear their heads don't we. So, maybe those apostles sent out by Jesus previously, and now having returned, might have felt they were "on a roll" in some way. They were excited in relating to Jesus all that they had done on their round; the healings, the casting out of evil spirits and the apostles would have been very aware of the power they were wielding in the name of God. And in Luke's version of the sending out of the seventy, remember they came back rejoicing that the demons were submitting to them. But, and this is the crux here, Jesus in His divine wisdom realised that the apostles needed to retreat. This is because being "on a roll" can lead to disaster if left unchecked.

Notice what Jesus tells His apostles when they return: "come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile". In other words, to have some sort of 'retreat' – to withdraw, to pull back from what they were doing. Jesus was showing them that the power behind their apostolate was divine energy and their achievements, while they toured the villages and districts, were not their own. The authority they had over spirits and illness was not of human origin but was given to them by the Lord because, as we well know, all the human effort we put in to our apostolate as Christians achieves little unless it is powered from within us by divine grace. And when you think about this it's so true isn't it, and it's why Jesus, as Son, spent so many long hours in solitude with His Father. Jesus going off to pray on His own is mentioned a lot in the Gospels because it is so important. It's what sustains Him, not only when He is with His disciples,

travelling the Land and working miracles and signs, but in the final hours of His Passion from Gethsemane to Calvary, where He offers Himself up to the will of the Father.

Let's think about those three phases in Jesus' invitation to His apostles: to come away on their own—to a deserted place—and to rest awhile. Busy people, like those twelve being sent out, need to recognise that if they never come away voluntarily, then sooner or later they (just like we would today) would fall apart or be torn apart, involuntarily. This is a basic message for all of us really, isn't it, whatever area of life we may be involved in. I know from personal experience that my priestly duties are never productive when I ignore, or put off that call to spend quiet time with the Lord where I can offload all the dross of the day or week and allow God to 'talk' to His creature without the obstruction of business. Secondly, a deserted place isn't an escape from reality because the heart of reality is the innermost centre of our being; our inner core. There we find our genuine solitude which is definitely not loneliness. Loneliness is the empty way of being alone whereas, solitude is the way of fullness. Thirdly, the Lord invites us to rest and restore our energy and today's psalm 22, which all of know so well, gives us an interesting light on what this means. "Near restful waters He leads me to revive my drooping spirit". Sheep need water to drink but apparently have great difficulty in drinking from swiftly flowing streams. The shepherd has to make sure the sheep can drink from a pool of still water. In fact this last image sums up the way we should see our apostolic activity beautifully, doesn't it. God is present everywhere, but when our pace is hectic and we are, as we say, on a 'roll', we find it difficult to drink in God's presence in prayer. Just like the sheep, we need to find the 'pool' of still time and space. It's interesting that the only time evangelist Mark mentions the name apostles is in this context of retreating from busy-ness. This is because the powerhouse of the true apostle is divine energy and when we come apart to spend time with God what we're really doing is presenting our emptiness of mind, our emptiness of heart and our empty hands. We then pray that God's Spirit will be our fullness.