

Sunday 18th October 2020

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 Head Teacher: 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

TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

| Day | Date | Mass Time | Church | Liturgical Day | Mass Intention |
|-----|------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Sat | 17 th | 1:00pm | St Patrick's | Vigil Vigil | People of the Parish & wellbeing of Kitty Daly John Harland RIP |
| | | 6:30pm | St Anne's | | |
| Sun | 18 th | 8:00am | St Patrick's | Twenty-Ninth Sunday of the Year | Colin Atherton |
| | | 9:30am | St Anne's | | Canon Gerry Breen RIP |
| Mon | 19 th | 9:30am | St Anne's | Feria | Miriam&BernardFarrell RIP |
| Tue | 20 th | 9:30am | St Patrick's | Feria | Kitty Cooney & The Madden Family RIP |
| Wed | 21 st | No Mass | | Feria | |
| Thu | 22 nd | 6:30pm | St Patrick's | Feria | Joe & Delraine RIP |
| Fri | 23 rd | 6:30pm | St Anne's | Feria | June Reeve (Special Int.) |
| Sat | 24 th | 1:00pm | St Patrick's | Vigil Vigil | People of the Parish William Marriott RIP |
| | | 6:30pm | St Anne's | | |
| Sun | 25 th | 8:00am | St Patrick's | Thirtieth Sunday of the Year | The McHugh Family Bridget & Eddie McAweaney RIP |
| | | 9:30am | St Anne's | | |

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]* Thomas Costello, Margaret McGowan, Millicent Palmer, Harry Tinkler, Cecil Allen, Margaret McGuigan, Elizabeth Lane, Raymond O'Sullivan, Reginald Carthy, Ellen Cartwright and Mary Sullivan. *[St Anne's]*.Conor Dewsnap, Imelda Bragg, Joan Burnside, William Harrington, Margaret Johnson, Robert Cook, Bryan Kidd, John Stanley, Joseph Curran and John Sheppee.

| Income 11 th Oct | Source | Gift Aid | Non-Gift Aid | Standing Order | Total | Attendance |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|--------------|----------------|---------|------------|
| St Anne's | Offertory | £57.20 | £171.80 | £283.84 | £512.84 | Sat 53 |
| | | | | | | Sun 36 |
| St. Patrick's | Offertory | £170.00 | £219.00 | £146.23 | £535.23 | Sat 48 |
| | | | | | | Sun 30 |

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 September Winners. £100 Fr Bob – 72, £50 J Corr- 77, £20 J Porter – 9, £10 A Lyons – 22, £10 M Massey – 154, £10 A Rutledge – 135, £10 C Salt – 155, £10 T Green – 147, £10 C McHugh – 28, £10 J Peck – 153, £10 D Greatbatch – 35.

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

*A big thank you to those parishioners who have filled out new Standing Orders to help support the churches at this critical time. I am grateful to those who have continued to support their respective churches in this way for many years. If you can join them and make such a commitment for our offertory support; 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. Now that we have started public Masses once more, there will be large collection bins placed on entry and exit**

At this time though it makes a 'sink or swim' difference to your church. Without that money coming in, 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 dried up and this will make a massive difference. A significant amount of unavoidable remedial work is also planned shortly for St Anne's church roof, 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 to please help in any amount you can afford. Very many thanks

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended and we can avail ourselves of weekday Masses to enable sensible spacing on weekends (some in the weekday evenings for those who work?) Now, because we are in a sort of 'fluid' time in terms of medium term commitment, the times of Masses will be published weekly due to possible occasional alterations. Below are the times and venues: (Looking two weeks ahead) including the schedule of Masses for St Austin's.

St Anne's Roof Appeal (Update)



The remedial work has now been completed so we wait in heightened anticipation for a downpour that will test it out! I am appealing for any donations St Anne's community can donate to this work; my humble appreciation to those who have already given so generously over the last few weeks; we are gradually on our way - looking at a sum approaching £10,000. (We are nearly a third of the way there). Two special baskets are at the entrance and exit of the church dedicated to this special fund. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. I am very conscious of the straitened times we are living through at present. F. Bob

This weekend we have our annual Second Collection for the 'Association for the Propagation of the Faith' otherwise known as the APF (Missio). Some of you kindly already have the RED BOXES. I will liaise with our parish co-ordinators as to how we might organise collecting the contents of these boxes. Many thanks.

MASSES

SATURDAY 17th October 1:00pm St Patrick's

6:30pm St Anne's

SUNDAY 18th October 8:00am St Patrick's

9:30am St Anne's

MONDAY 19th October 9:30am St Anne's

TUESDAY 20th October 9:30am St Patrick's

THURSDAY 22nd October 6:30pm St Patrick's

FRIDAY 23rd October 6:30pm St Anne's

FOLLOWING WEEK:

SATURDAY 24th October 1:00pm St Patrick's

6:30pm St Anne's

SUNDAY 25th October 8:00am St Patrick's

9:30am St Anne's

MONDAY 26th October 9:30am St Anne's

TUESDAY (No Mass at St Patrick's-Tarmacking)

THURSDAY 29th October 6:30pm St Patrick's

FRIDAY 30th October 6:30pm St Anne's

The most important requirement is that each parish has plenty of volunteers, as part of teams, for helping to 'steward' and to clean pews and various touch points after each Mass. The sensible (distancing) capacity of each church is about 50, but Remember, a family group may sit together on one bench or in neighbouring chairs. Between the two parishes there should be 8 Masses during one week. I am asking for your help in making this happen as smoothly as possible by assuming that any parishioner who is 'able' may offer their assistance in cleaning a bench or chairs after Mass. (Many hands make light work). We as a church venue need to have a safe cleaning regime.

Many Thanks for your patience and understanding. Regarding safety and distancing, we have been told to operate the 1m+ guideline so all those coming to Mass must wear a face covering, but it means we don't have to be 2m apart. Holy Communion will be distributed as parishioners leave church. There will be stewards to guide people to seats and to help with communion arrangements. If you have not set up a standing order/direct debit for parish offerings please do so if you are able. (I can supply you with all the details you need). There will also be large offertory 'bins' for folk who give their envelopes and cash placed at the entrance and exit points of church. From the outset, I offer my humblest apology for potential situations that may arise.. Once our maximum capacity has entered either church, a notice will be placed outside the door to that effect. There will be a Mass on another day of the week that will be able to accommodate.

Harvest Time Collection for CAFOD St Anne's £215.71 St Patrick's £165.70 Thank You.

MISSIO: At the back of St Patrick's parishioners will find the latest Autumn edition of Missio's magazine. Please help yourself to a copy. There are many interesting articles included. Many thanks to Graham for his help in liaising with the charity.

St Patrick's and St Anne's each have a QR CODE displayed for church goers to scan if you have downloaded the NHS Covid-19 APP. It might help 'speed things up' as queues can develop on entry through the porches as you provide contact details. We will make sure there are sufficient codes on the doors and walls. Many thanks.

TARMACKING St Patrick's: Beginning on Monday 26th October the whole of the lower end of St Patrick's driveway (from the gates to the pavement) will be re-tarmacked. I have been assured that there should be minimum disruption, and that pedestrians obviously should be able to pass while the work is undertaken. However, vehicles should not be driven over the new surface for a day after completion so it would be best not to have Mass on Tuesday 27th. Apologies for this disruption but the result will prove worthwhile.

HOMILY FOR THE TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

You've probably heard the well-known advice about avoiding conversations concerning religion or politics, especially when in pubs or bars in social settings. Another piece of wisdom passed down states that

St Austin's Parish [Masses]

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER 11:00am

WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 7:00pm

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 7:00pm

SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER 5:00pm

(FOLLOWING WEEK)

SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 11:00am

WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER 7:00pm

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER 7:00pm

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 5:00pm

[St Austin's will be streaming Masses on the other days also.]

religion and politics don't mix. I suppose we can take a variety of views on this; some of us might agree, whereas, others might feel that if we leave out all reference to these areas then our conversation is going to be pretty boring, unless you have a natural comedian amongst the crowd, or a group of football fans get together. And, of course, for the football fans, football is their religion (tongue-in-cheek). What this sort of advice is really saying is that, as humans, we can be so immersed in our faith (or lack of it!) or so politically affiliated, that we find ourselves in arguments before we are aware of how they started. In other words, it's dangerous.

When God was forging and moulding His people thousands of years ago, beginning with the call of Abraham, He wished to form a people that would be a special part of His plan; to eventually become a light for the nations from Moses onwards. And for this Chosen People, their faith and their 'religion' (if that had any meaning then) would have been an integral part of their lives. In a sense, politics, as we know it, wouldn't have been a part of their consciousness. Yahweh's almighty presence, His laws and commandments would have been the only reality within the life of the wandering community heading for the Promised Land. So, essentially, that would have been their world, end of! (No consciousness whatsoever of any Religio-Politico conflict). Now, fast-forward many centuries to Jesus in Jerusalem, as related in Matthew's Gospel. Here we have God's chosen nation utterly unable to govern itself and completely under the power of Rome or its puppet Herod. And in this situation the chosen nation's life of faith in, and obedience to Yahweh God, 'appears' to be in direct conflict with politics; and the politics of an alien power if you will!

So, how can a people, who's faith and religion survive within such a system? Well, by the look of things, quite OK actually; because, the wonderful outcome of the Pharisees' encounter with Jesus is that He turns their malice back into themselves. Their sole reason for coming to Jesus for His answer to their question was to put Him on the spot – to trap Him. Remember, the Chosen People were already living and surviving in this Roman culture and had been for a number of years, so they weren't coming to this new teacher with a fresh grievance. Rather, they had been paying their taxes to the State and seemed content to do so. The Herodians, for example, were beneficiaries of Roman patronage, and even though the Pharisees resented the Roman occupiers, they would have still 'knuckled under'. So, here we are then where Jesus 'seems' to be in a 'no-win' decider. If He says YES, He will lose all popular support, but if He says NO, Jesus will probably be arrested for sedition against the political authority. By not directly answering their original question, Jesus made them find the answer themselves through pointing out whose head was on the coin. And since the questioners had the coins themselves they realised that they were a part of the political economic system anyway. They were obviously happy enough to trade in the coinage and deal with Caesar's goods.

Two thousand years ago, a special nation, forged and created by God, had not kept faithful to His Plan, which would have been for God to govern them and look after them 'from cradle to grave and beyond' with no need for politics. So, they had created a 'political' situation through their own sinfulness and had no choice but to live their lives within it. Which is the same for us. We have inherited a particular political state, haven't we, as well as receiving through faith belief in the Kingdom of God in Christ. And what Jesus is saying to us in this story is: "have no fear – I know the state you're in and the journey you have to negotiate on this earth in this time and in this place". We don't float around in a bubble and we're not 100% spirit, so we are involved whether we like it or not. The secular and sacred dimensions of life necessarily overlap because they are parts of our ONE life, but Jesus' message is that we must answer to God in every area of life. In all things we must give back to God the world that belongs to God, which as we know is everything.
