



Sunday 19th December 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
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TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	18 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Pat Shortt RIP & Sr. Sabina RIP
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	People of the Parish
Sun	19 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Patty Tiernan RIP
		10:00am	St Anne's		Patrick Toner RIP
Mon	20 th	9:30am	St Anne's	Advent Feria	Michael Glover RIP
Tue	21 st	9:30am	St Patrick's	Advent Feria	Winifred Mary Cotton RIP & Hugh Christopher Cotton RIP
Wed	22 nd	10:00am	St Anne's	Communion Service	Advent Feria
Thu	23 rd	9:15am	St Patrick's	Advent Feria	Celebrant's Intention
Fri	24 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	CHRISTMAS EVE	Bob & Damian RIP
		6:00pm	St Anne's		Winifred Meehan's Intentions
		7:00pm	St Patrick's		Private Intention
		9:00pm	St Anne's		David Harwar RIP
Sat	25 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	CHRISTMAS DAY Solemnity of the Lord's Nativity	People of the Parish
		10:00am	St Anne's		Anne Harvey RIP
Sun	26 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY	The McHugh & Middleton Families
		10:00am	St Anne's		Paul Toner RIP

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: Patricia Walters, Thomas McCormick, Mary Terry, Bernard Lundberg, Walter Rogers, Richard McMahan, Patsy Connelly Smith, Colin Wise, Hal Lindop, Andrea Hulse, Winifred Meehan, Ian Burnside, Pat McDonnell.

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's] Simon Collins, Bertram Shotton, Stanislaw Gackowski, Winifred Cotton, Dom Krsul, Francis Ackland, Clifford Hewitt, Violet Melvin, Wasil Hrynieccko, Joseph Meehan, Geoffrey Bowes-Lyon, Bridget Myatt, James McEwan, Egizia Valentini, Nicholas Byrne, Austin Read and Norah Lennon. [St Anne's.] Monica Beardmore, Kathleen McMahan, Lottie Riley, Vincent Eardsley, Noel Joret, Esther Martin, Peter Rice, Delia Brough, Ronnie Thomason, Eliza Baldwin, Frances Curran, John Freeman, Elsie Papworth, Pepita Pinney, John Taylor, Joyce Muriel, Bernard Hadley, Robert Sartory, Catherine Hammond and Mary Rogers.

Income 12/12/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£111.50	£277.30	£391.45	£780.25	Sat 49 Sun 66
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£151.00	£ 428.45	£149.69	£729.14	Sat 38 Sun 50

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 Winners of draw on 30 November 2021

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. Switching your giving via Standing Order mandate would be a great help also. 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

The Year of St Joseph. This year we honour 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 and there is a short prayer before each Mass.

St Anne's and St Patrick's Church maintenance: Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously. Upcoming tasks include remedial H&S work required for making St Patrick's old boiler house safe. **Important remedial work is also needed on St Patrick's upper front roof.** My grateful thanks for any donations. Fr. Bob

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 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'. **If notice is given, and at convenient times, before or after Mass, we priests of Catholic Stafford will hear confessions and this will continue.** Fr. Bob

OUR DECEASED: Please remember in your prayers **Cathie Miles, Michael Glover and John Bamber**, who have died; all parishioners of St Anne's. We also pray for their grieving families. *May Cathie, Michael and John rest in peace and rise in glory.*

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

Bible Study continues fortnightly at St Anne's 10 am – 11 am. Welcome to those wishing to join us.

Drop in at St Anne's on Wednesday mornings: All are welcome (from around 10:25am) in St Anne's Church Hall.

St Anne's RAFFLE: There will be a raffle for a **Traidcraft Christmas Food Box**. Tickets for the raffle will be on sale after this Sunday's Mass and after the Masses next weekend. Proceeds will go towards Parish Funds. **£1 per ticket.** Thanks

Advent Holy Hour: The Great Advent Antiphons, known as the 'O' antiphons are prayed before the Magnificat at Evening Prayer. Each antiphon is based on a different title for Jesus taken from the Old Testament. Today most people know them from the Advent Carol, 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel.' During the Holy Hour on Sunday, we will listen to the scripture passages and meditate on the different titles of Christ as we prepare for his coming.

The number to call if you would like to book spaces for any of the Christmas Masses is **07856 918465**. The final times to book for Masses will be on **Monday 20th December and Tuesday 21st December, between 5.00pm and 7.00pm.** Please note that the 4.00pm and 5.00pm Masses are now full.

Christmas Mass Bookings: If you find that you are unable to attend the Mass that you have booked to attend, **would you please telephone and let us know.** This will enable us to adjust the seating plans so that there aren't large gaps in the church, as was the case last year. It also means that we can offer the seats to any others who phone at the last minute.

Please note that there are no evening Masses next Saturday evening!

The recent "Bishops' Statement: Honouring Sunday" is published. Given that there remains a degree of caution within society, our bishops are nevertheless fundamentally asking us to consider the central importance of the meaning of Mass and the central place that Sunday -- the Eighth Day / Resurrection Day has in our Catholic Faith. So, although the obligation to attend Sunday Mass may not yet have been re-imposed, we are asked seriously about our priorities for Sunday, this special and unique day for us. Giving serious consideration as to where we place Mass attendance in the hierarchy of other Sunday activities, whether sporting, leisure, entertainment, shopping and so on should impact on the coming synodal experience and our Diocesan Vision: "Behold I am making all things new."

In the Advent season, the prophet Isaiah calls us to 'prepare a way for the Lord,' but with the busyness of our daily lives, this can often be difficult and before we know it, Advent has gone, and Christmas is upon us. This Advent we would like to invite you to be part of two events happening in our parishes, that will enable us all to make time and space in the season and truly prepare ourselves for Christmas.

**BELONG & BELIEVE is a CaFE Film Resource which looks at our Celtic past and how it can help us today. It provides simple ways of refreshing communion three consecutive Wednesday evenings at St Anne's Parish Hall starting at 7.30pm. Tea and coffee will be available from 7.00pm.*

*There will also be a time of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at these churches during Advent weeks. During these times, the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession will be available:
SAT 11TH DEC. 10am till 11am St Anne's / SAT 18TH DEC. 10am till 11am St Patrick's*

Our 'Advent Giving/Christmas' trees  splendidly adorn the sanctuaries of both churches.

This year our focus for 'gifts for the tree' is **HOUSE OF BREAD**. They would be delighted to be our charity this year. The things they suggest for donating include the following: socks both m&f, pants both m&f, men's boxers and briefs in packs if possible, bath towels (as they have a shower fitted), flannels. Toileteries such as . Anything else is welcome but not essential at the moment. If they have extra they share with other charities.

Our Crib Appeal in both parishes is for the **FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND**. Our Christian sisters and brothers have suffered significantly during this pandemic prolonged period. They rely so much on pilgrimages.

CHRISTMAS MASSES:		<u>Catholic Stafford</u>		
DEC		<u>St Patrick's</u>	<u>St Austin's</u>	<u>St Anne's</u>
24 th	EVE	4:00pm	5:00pm	6:00pm
24 th	EVE	7:00pm	8:00pm	9:00pm
25 th	MORNING	9:00am	11:00am	10:00am

St Anne's Choir: Do you like to sing? We would love you to come and see if it would interest you to be "one in the Spirit" here @ St Anne's. Our very small choir could do with a "little support" to be "one in the Lord". Male and female voices provide such harmony. Do come along to our meeting in church 7pm Tuesday. You will be most welcome.

St Patrick's Music: May I ask for volunteers who attend regular Mass at St Patrick's (Sat or Sun) to operate our phone/Bluetooth system so that our parish may once more sing hymns at Mass. It would be great to have a team taking care of this. I thank the two have volunteered already, so if others could come forward and begin to form a rota it would be great. I will explain it all. Just phone/email Fr. Bob. With gratitude.

Parishioners of St Anne's and St Patrick's are now encouraged to use our alternative email account which is: stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk (Also at the top of the bulletin)

BOOKING CHRISTMAS MASSES: Please collect the sheet explaining how to book one of our Christmas Masses (Christmas Eve or Christmas Day). This sheet really does explain everything. Many thanks.

* Booking Number for Christmas Masses is: * **07856918465** * available from Monday 13th December until Friday 17th December. Also, Mon 20th Dec. and Tue 21st Dec. between 5:00pm and 7pm. This is for all three parishes.

Situation Vacant: The Archdiocese of Birmingham is seeking to appoint a **SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISOR** Permanent / Part-Time (21 hrs per week). Please see the church noticeboards for further information.

St Anne's School PTFA have put together a Family Cookbook, packed full of recipes from parents, family and friends of the school. Every penny will go back into giving the school children those little extras. The cookbooks are £6 or 2 for £10 and can be bought from Baswich Library, the Bod, or the Chippy. You can also call Isobel on 07854 261492 and we can arrange to get a book to you. Thanks for all your support.

Grateful Thanks: *Many thanks to both our parishes for all the good wishes and help I have received over the year, not to mention the Christmas cards and blessings. I hardly need to mention how important it has been to have such generous and selfless volunteers for stewarding and cleaning during this ongoing situation once Masses had returned to normal schedule. Didn't we think we would be 'out of the woods' by now? As usual, so many have simply 'got on' with things and this is what helps parishes run so smoothly. Gradually the numbers of parishioners attending our Masses has increased but we eventually look forward to welcoming back those who may have had to shield for many reasons. A big welcome also to our visitors attending Masses over Christmas and any new parishioners who may have moved into the area. [Please don't hesitate to make contact, either by email or phone, if you ARE new to our parishes. We can give you more information about the 'life' of the parishes].* **On behalf of Deacon Michael and myself: A Blessed and Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.**
Fr Bob & Deacon Michael.

