

Sunday 20th February 2022

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

The Seventh Sunday of the Year

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	19 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Mgr. John Heslin RIP
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Michael Broderick RIP
Sun	20 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	The Seventh Sunday of the Year	People of the Parish Andrew Boucher & Brandon Harland(Ann)
		10:00am	St Anne's		
Mon	21 st	9:30am	St Anne's	Feria	Celebrant's Intention Brandon Harland(Ann)
Tue	22 nd	9:30am	St Patrick's	Chair of St Peter, Apostle Reception of Mary Bamber	Feast Robert Wilson RIP
		6:00pm	St Anne's		
Wed	23 rd	1:00pm	St Anne's	Requiem Mass for Mary Bamber	
Thu	24 th	9:15am	St Patrick's	Feria	Hugh Christopher & Winifred Cotton RIP & Peggy & Harry Watts
Fri	25 th	9.15am	St Anne's	Feria	Mary Bamber RIP
Sat	26 th	4.00 pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Bob & Damian RIP & Marie & Laurie Hawkins
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Teresa Walsh RIP (Ann)
Sun	27 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	The Eighth Sunday of the Year	Mgr. John Heslin RIP Anne Harvey RIP
		10:00am	St Anne's		

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 McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Colin Wise, Hal Lindop, Andrea Hulse, Winifred Meehan, Ian Burnside, Pat McDonnell, Georgina Copp.

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's] Jean Shearer, Dorothy Gittins, Dorothy Shelley, Margaret Lawson, Michael Goater, Hilda Riley, Tom Park, Thomas Devine, Peter Farrell, Edward Bellasis, Christopher Kelly, Joyce Dempsey, Thomas Jones, Dennis Myers, Roman Helmig, Marian Jakubik, Bernard Scahill, Candida Ventress, Annie Hearne and Bob McKinlay. [St Anne's.] 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, Mary Adamson, Michael Foy and Catherine Ruscoe.

Income 13/2/22	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£104.00	£166.80	£391.45	£662.25	Sat 42 Sun 83
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£104.00	£109.60	£149.69	£363.29	Sat 38 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**

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

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 2020'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

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

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."

Our Deceased: Please remember in your prayers **Mgr. John Heslin** who died last Tuesday. Mgr. John had been Parish Priest of **St Patrick's** for 24 years and served as Prison Chaplain to Stafford Prison, before retiring in 2000. Also please remember **Mary Bamber**, a parishioner of **St Anne's**, who died on Thursday. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.* We pray also for their families at this time. **Mary's** Requiem Mass will be on **Wednesday 23rd February at 1:00pm at St Anne's.** **Mgr. Heslin's** Requiem Mass will be held at **Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Saltburn by the Sea on Monday 28th February at 11:30am**

SECOND COLLECTION:

Last weekend's collection for Pro Life St Anne's £145.40 St Patrick's £35.00 Thank You.

Up-coming Second Collections: First Sunday in Lent 5th/6th March Cathedral Maintenance
Second Sunday in Lent 12th/13th March CAFOD Lent Fast Day
[Envelopes for Fast Day in church porches]

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 who 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.

LENT: LOOK OUT FOR OUR 'COMBINED' PARISHES' PROGRAMME FOR THE LENTEN PERIOD; IT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED VERY SHORTLY. A SIX WEEK PROGRAMME OF REFLECTIONS THROUGH THE AID OF DVD'S, CD'S, SPECIAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS, AND A 'THREE PARISHES PENITENTIAL SERVICE' WILL ALLOW US TO FULLY ENTER INTO THIS KEY MOMENT IN OUR CHURCH'S LIFE.

Parishioners of both 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)

CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY: SUPPORTING THE DIOCESAN VISION

'Cursillo' began in Spain in the 1940's, a name simply meaning 'a short course.' It has become a world-wide, tried and tested method of adult faith development. It is a way of making our discipleship effective and furthering the mission of the Church. The movement has papal approval and the support of our Archbishop. You are invited to discover Cursillo at two exciting events taking place in the next few weeks and months in our Archdiocese. If you would like to be involved in either or both of these events, and for further information, please contact: Canon Michael Leadbeater at canon.michael.leadbeater@rcaob.org.uk

3-Day Cursillo Weekend from Thursday 24th March (evening) to Sunday 27th March (afternoon). This will be held at Shallowford House, near Stafford. Experience community, formation and prayer with a warm and friendly welcome!

The Synod: Now's the time to get talking

Momentum to take part in the Synod is building across the Archdiocese as more and more parishes kickstart their conversations.

The Synod was launched in Rome last October by Pope Francis and the Diocesan phase is now underway. The **deadline to receive feedback** from parish conversations is **Monday 28 February**.

in your name"



"We stand before you, Holy Spirit, as we gather together

Once again, we were most grateful and encouraged by the high turnout and friendly and positive reaction to our recent combined parishes meeting. We realise that collating and processing the feedback is an involved task. But it is a task that will bring its own satisfaction as the Church, locally, nationally and globally, receives the views, frustrations and hopes of members of the Catholic Church. **On a practical note**, the **sheets** that we hope parishioners will have previously taken (at the back of Church) now need to be returned. **DEADLINE:** Please could you make sure you return the answer sheets to church by this weekend **19th / 20th**. This is so that we can send off the parish feedback by this **Monday 28th February**. Many thanks.

Boxes for the questionnaire returns are at the back of each church

What's New?

Covid-19 update

Dear parishioners, we are all aware that from 27th January the Government's "Covid Plan B" was lifted and restrictions withdrawn. Following from this, the latest guidance for churches has been issued by the Catholic Bishops' Conference. From now on the restrictions placed on public worship and the celebration of Mass, social activities and home visits have been reduced considerably. [If you wish to see the complete guidance just click the link on our two parish's home page. But, 'in a nutshell':

Advice to the Catholic Church in England and Wales from the government has since advised that for churches, keeping records is optional.

For Acts of Worship, the main mitigation against serious health issues arising from covid infection is to be fully vaccinated; this means two doses plus a booster for anyone aged 16 or over. The scientific consensus is that society is moving from the pandemic phase to the endemic phase.

Those attending an act of worship **may** continue to wear a face covering (but not compulsory) whilst in the church building, but there is no need for formal social distancing in church buildings.

Evidence indicates that transmission from surfaces (touch transmission) is now minimal and so the use of



hymn books, missals and other worship aids can be resumed with immediate effect. Whilst it is still good practice to sanitise hands on entry and exit of churches, there is no need for readers (or other ministers) to sanitise their hands before reading or performing other ministries in the church, except those helping distributing Holy Communion. The Sign of Peace may be offered again if felt appropriate. Congregational singing may continue and there is a general encouragement to wear face coverings while singing, but not an absolute must.

Parish Social Activities can resume (if they have been suspended). It is recommended that the normal Health and Safety risk assessment for the activity is reviewed for these types of gatherings.

Whilst this reduction of restrictions brings about a more normal way of living, the Covid-19 virus is still in circulation, and this should be in the mind of those participating in the life of the Church as time goes forward, but recognition needs to be given to balance of accepting the need to live with the virus.

So, bearing in mind the above, I would like to ask both parishes to consider resuming these important aspects of parish life:

<i>Altar Servers returning to the sanctuary (Both St Patrick's and St Anne's)</i>	<i>[This can happen now]</i>
<i>Refreshments after Sunday Mass</i>	
<i>Expanding our teams of readers</i>	
<i>Reconstituting our parishes' social team for organising future events</i>	
<i>Forming a parish 'Liturgy Team' to help priest in organising principal calendar celebrations such as Easter etc.</i>	
<i>Building up our choir and musicians for regular liturgy.</i>	<i>[This can start happening now]</i>

Stafford Walsingham Association

For many years the Stafford Walsingham Association arranged a yearly pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Now restrictions have been lifted, we are hoping to revive this in 2022 and invite anyone in our three parishes to become a member. Every third Saturday, a Votive Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham will be held. We hope to begin this from May. During the Mass, we shall offer the Litany of OLW, praying that Our Lady will, as the prayer says, 'look down in mercy upon England thy Dowry and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee.' As membership of the Association is open to anyone within our three parishes, the Mass will alternate between the three churches. If you would like to be a member of the Walsingham Association, please fill in one of the forms at the back of church and return it to the Presbytery.

North Staffs Vocations Promotions Group (Chalice Programme):

You are most welcome to join us as we all come together to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. The following will be held at The Church of the Immaculate Conception and St Dominic, Station Road, Stone ST15 8YG:

Holy Hour for Vocations led by Fr. Marco Egawhary, Thursday March 3rd, 7:00pm

Holy Mass for Vocations Celebrated by Fr Gerard Doyle, Friday March 4th, 6:00pm

Holy Mass for Vocations Celebrated by Fr. Marco Egawhary, Thursday March 31st, 6:00pm