

Sunday 21st June 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

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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

TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	20 th	pm	St Anne's	Vigil	<i>No Congregation</i> Intentions of Sheila Burton
Sun	21 st	am	“ “	Twelfth Sunday of Year	<i>No Congregation</i> Bridie & Paddy Toner RIP
Mon	22 nd	am	“ “	SS John Fisher & Thomas More Feast	<i>No Congregation</i> Paul Toner RIP
Tue	23 rd	am	“ “	Feria	<i>No Congregation</i> People of the Parish
Wed	24 th	am	“ “	Nativity of St. John The Baptist Solemnity	<i>No Congregation</i> John Charlton RIP & Good health of Colin Wilkinson
Thu	25 th	am	“ “	Feria	<i>No Congregation</i> Peter Turner RIP
Fri	26 th	am	“ “	Feria	<i>No Congregation</i> Bob & Damian
Sat	27 th	pm	“ “	Vigil	<i>No Congregation</i> Peggy Toner RIP
Sun	28 th	am	“ “	SS Peter & Paul Solemnity	<i>No Congregation</i> John Charleton's Family

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM By Appointment

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's] Hugh Cotton, Robert Johnson, Joseph Headley, Florence Ames, Julia Oddy, Thomas Conner, Lias Boswell Sheila Oddy, Grace Edwards, Charles Collier, Ethel Palfreyman, Ann Bates, Kathleen Blackburn, Michael Walton, Joan Corley, Hilda Blamire [St. Anne's] Douglas Harrison, Frank Mitchell, Kevin Kaine.

Prayers for the sick: St Patrick's Phylis Bowers, Kath Read, Susan Prince, Tim Tiernan, Gregory McKinlay, Linda Reavy, Martha Porter and Cecylia Kotara St Anne's Michael Glover, Patricia Walters, Thomas McCormick, Mary Terry, Bernard Lundberg, Cath Miles, Walter Rogers, Colin Wilkinson, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Colin Wise and Shaun Gilbride.

Income	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
29 th March						
St Anne's	Offertory		£	£	£	
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£	£	£	£	

ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA

Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987

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ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Marston Road, ST16 3BT

Telephone: 01785 413275

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Parish Tote 150 Club: In order to catch up with the months missed, once we return, each of the missing months will be drawn separately. In this way, there will be no gaps. Many thanks for your support.

**** Important message: please go to paragraph just before the homily**

*Please note that those who would like to pay their subscriptions to the 150 Club by STANDING ORDER can let Fr Bob know and he will pass on the name to Mary Owen. It would help immensely during this time. Many thanks

Hello Parishioners on this Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time.

I am very aware that our usual routine, as parish communities, will undergo a considerable change, and we do not know for how long, but nevertheless our parishes will still need supporting as best we can for the foreseeable future. The sustaining and maintenance of the buildings and parish administration has to continue. For those of you who use gift aid envelopes, the new ones for the coming financial year have arrived and Mark (St Anne's) and Margaret St Patrick's) are labelling them and for those who contribute this way. There are a number who regularly use standing order (this is the most efficient way of giving) and if 'gift-aiders' could set up standing orders it would be a great help. Such a crisis as the present one shows the advantage of this method. However parishioners wish to donate, be assured of our grateful thanks and know that the parish office (St Anne's) can always be used as a 'drop-off' for envelopes. * I have received this communication from the head of Finance form Cathedral House:

You may like to know that we've made available on the Archdiocese website 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 diocese (Steve Roche):** Dear Fathers, Just to let you know, there is a donate **BUTTON (TOP RIGHT)** on the home page of the diocesan website – www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

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. 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. 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

LATEST: *The Archdiocese of Birmingham have now allowed parishes to open for 'Private Prayer'. We have received, over the last couple of weeks, a plethora of guidance information underpinning the strict conditions for opening the churches. The guidance includes issues such as volunteer 'stewards', cleaning materials / routines, signage, one-way systems, safety contingencies, 2m distancing, how many 'hours per day' opening etc. Myself, together with our Health and Safety representatives from both parishes, have communicated seriously in the light of such guidance and I would like to make the following LATEST suggestion:*

In order to provide us with sufficient 'organising' time during which to plan, set out, implement rotas, instruct etc. we are aiming at opening for 'private prayer' from the week beginning 29th June. To see how we go, the two parishes will open as follows:

ST PATRICK'S: Tuesday 11am till 1pm and Thursday 5pm till 7pm.

ST ANNE'S: Wednesday 11am till 1pm and Friday 5:30pm till 7pm.

Also, St Austin's will be open as follows: (Again, from 29th June)

ST AUSTIN'S: Monday 5pm till 7pm and Saturday 11am till 1pm.

For us to enable this it must be stressed that we shall need a healthy cohort of "volunteers". So, please EMAIL ME (PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS) or phone if you feel you would like to help. Or contact LYN OR GERALDINE (ST PATRICK'S). PETER (ST ANNE'S).

St Anne's Volunteers meet at...7:00pm..... on ...Wednesday 24th June.....

St Patrick's Volunteers meet at...2:00pm.....on Tuesday 23rd June.....

Opening for 'private prayer' really does wholly depend upon the offers of help we receive (more people who are able to steward or clean after visits) and how we can follow our own risk assessments for each parish. The archdiocese does stress that they do not expect all or even most parishes to open for 'private prayer' because of the logistics involved, but, opening for Masses might be beneficial for us to get used to going into the churches and following guidelines of safety and care [in advance of Sunday and weekday Masses].

So, in summary, do please offer if you feel able, and rest assured that myself, together with Peter, Lyn and Geraldine, will happily go through preliminary guidance with you. It should also prepare us for the organising of 'teams' that we will definitely need when the Government allow Masses to go ahead.

Many Thanks in advance.

Fr. Bob

HOMILY FOR TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

I expect most of us have heard of the 'Roswell' conspiracy. In 1947, in New Mexico, a US military balloon crash landed and resulted in a whole series of conspiracy theories that have endured to this day. Did alien craft crash land? Were there alien bodies taken and studied under great secrecy? Was there a 'cover-up'? This isn't the only event that's caused such suspicion by far. Our modern history is littered with them. The death of Princess Diana, the Moon landings and so on. There's still a public appetite for wanting to believe in such things. I wonder why? We also like to hear about real-life 'ghost' stories as well. It's almost as if we have a predisposed interest in 'secrecy'; we're fascinated by the hidden and the mysterious. Maybe a part of us wants to believe there's something in it, behind it. I'd certainly be longing for a real alien event behind the Roswell incident. After all, the Universe belongs to God and He can create where and when He will.

I think there might be a link between our natural curiosity regarding the secret/mysterious/hidden and our FEAR. The reason for our fascination with the hidden unknown is due to our pre-occupation with FEAR itself. In the world of secrecy and darkness we have a sort of hiding place where we can lie low, and live for a while in self denial of who we really are. It's the world of the 'mask', of fantasy, of pretending. The disciples of Matthew's Gospel wouldn't have been immune from this fear; after all, they share broken humanity like the rest of us. But here Jesus gets to the roots and very foundations of what causes our fear, and how fear can be annihilated. Have you noticed the one command of Jesus that's repeated the most often in the Gospels? You might imagine it's something like loving more, or praying more or giving away more. But, believe it or not, it's actually the command: "don't be afraid". And we can see easily enough why Jesus needed to tell His disciples not to be afraid. Usually, our fears are of the unknown, but Jesus has warned them that the authorities will be after them, that they'll suffer physical and emotional violence, and that the people will start calling them all sorts of names. Plenty to be afraid of here, isn't there? But Jesus says: 'don't be afraid'. So how can He justify it? The reason

He gives isn't perhaps the most obvious. We might very well expect Him to say to them that 'the Father will look after you'. But Jesus' first reason that He gives is that a time will come when everything will be uncovered. Everything that is presently secret will be made known.

The big question for us is why would uncovering everything mean they don't have to be afraid anymore? I mean, let's face it, most people would regard the immediate disclosure of their most private thoughts and words as a further reason TO BE AFRAID. But this isn't what Jesus is about. He's not about "finding us all out" and rubbing in our pain and embarrassment. Jesus is assuming that what'll come to light on that day is actually the disciples' loyalty and faith, as their patience and perseverance will come out into the light. And they'll be seen to have followed the true Messiah; the world's true Lord. In other words, when we come out of the darkness of secrecy and the hideaway niches of our scared and wounded conscience, truth will out, justice will prevail and if we've lived with integrity and faith, no matter what the world says about us, we'll be vindicated. All this, of course, doesn't take away the fact that it'll always be the power of God that guides us, empowers us, and gives us the fearlessness that makes us live as followers of Christ.

Jesus talks about us fearing the one who can destroy body and soul in Hell, He means God. But fear, in this sense, should be seen as our response of awe and thanksgiving. God is the one we do NOT have to fear, in the ordinary sense, because He's the one we can trust with our lives, our souls our bodies, everything. It's vital that we know that God cares about the details of our lives even as we face the temptations and dangers around us. As Christians we rise above conspiracy theories and we're called to honesty and openness. And we expect attacks at all levels. But deep down we have to learn that the one we're serving is stronger than the strongest opponent we'll ever meet.