

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 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](http://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](http://www.stpatricksstafford.co.uk)

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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**

<b>ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987 Email: <a href="mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk">office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk</a> Head Teacher: Mr. M. Killeen	<b>ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> Marston Road, ST16 3BT Telephone: 01785 413275 Email: <a href="mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk">office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk</a> Principal: Mr. M. Brandon
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### **TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK**

#### **SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	21 <sup>st</sup>	pm <b>6:00pm</b>	St Anne's	Vigil <b>Exposition (For end to Pandemic)</b>	<b>No Congregation</b> Jean Shearer&Kath Sanford
Sun	22 <sup>nd</sup>	am <b>11:00am</b>	St Austin's	Solemnity of Christ the King <b>Mass of Remembrance for the three parishes</b>	“ “ “ People of the Parish The Dead of the three Stafford parishes
Mon	23 <sup>rd</sup>	am		Feria “ “ “	Fr Patrick Farrelly
Tue	24 <sup>th</sup>	am		<b>St Andrew Dung-Lac&amp;companions</b> “ “ “	Teresa Healy RIP
Wed	25 <sup>th</sup>	am		Feria “ “ “	The Lloyd Family RIP
Thu	26 <sup>th</sup>	am		Feria “ “ “	Kitty & Patrick Daly RIP
Fri	27 <sup>th</sup>	am <b>6:00pm</b>	St Anne's	Feria “ “ “ <b>Exposition Hour</b>	Bob Broome RIP
Sat	28 <sup>th</sup>	pm		Vigil “ “ “	People of the Parish
Sun	29 <sup>th</sup>	am		First Sunday of Advent “ “ “	Peter Smith RIP

#### **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]* George McCosh, Edward Cooper, George Edensor, Harry Wills, William Harrison, Frances Madden, George Foster, Lastina Smith, Robert Bradley, John Hingerty, Shereen Slingsby, Paige Evans, Douglas Smyth, Gladys Emery and Walter Richardson. *[St Anne's]* John Denham, Tom Denham Senior, Christopher Hickey, Anna Machoil, Christine Round, Jill Sly, Marjorie Ferguson, Mollie Byrne, David Duggan, Edward Gray, William Ryan, Nicholas Tradamus, Clarena Williamson, Jack Emery, Freda Emery, Gregory Lakin, Kitty Pownall, Stan Rogers and Richard Thompson.

Income	Nov	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's		Offertory	<b>£303.00</b>	<b>£63.00</b>	<b>£283.84</b>	<b>£649.84</b>	Sat Sun
St. Patrick's		Offertory	<b>£83.00</b>	<b>£90.00</b>	<b>£146.23</b>	<b>£319.23</b>	Sat Sun

*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:*

**\*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](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish Tote 150 Club October 2020 Winners.** 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*

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***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. (Once we come out of this present 'lockdown').***

### **St Anne's Roof Appeal (Update)**



***The remedial work has now been completed.** We are appealing for any donations St Anne's community can donate to this work; my humble appreciation to those who have already given so generously; we are gradually on our way - looking at a sum approaching £10,000. (We are well over 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*

### **NOVEMBER (Month of Remembering our Dead)**

At the back of St Anne's and St Patrick's churches you will find brown envelopes into which you may place the names of those you wish to be remembered during the month of November. These can then be put in the basket. If you wish to make a donation then please place donations in the smaller 'Mass intention' envelopes, found nearby, and also place in the basket. Before each Mass the basket will be placed before the altar.

*During this second long period of 'Lockdown' during which Mass cannot be celebrated in public except as a requiem funeral, I shall continue to say Mass daily on my own and offer the intentions received. The difference will be that I shall be celebrating only one Mass per day. So on Sundays I shall be remembering those for whom the Mass is offered (both St Patrick's and St Anne's) during the one Mass. I shall also be remembering all our dead during every Mass especially those in the brown envelopes. If you wish to have the names of your deceased loved ones at the altar either email the names to the parish or push a brown envelope through the presbytery door. (envelopes can be found on the small table under the Hall Porch at St Anne's).*

**PARISH MASS OF REMEMBRANCE:** This Mass will take place at St Austin's this Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 11:00am where Myself, Fr Michael and Fr Simon will concelebrate. This Mass will be streamed and the names of those who have died through the last year (from Nov 2019) will be read out.

**Church Opening:** Unfortunately, due to the practical difficulties of having our two churches (St Anne's & St Patrick's) open during set periods during each day of the week (since there would be a need for stewards and cleaners) they will not be open for private prayer, **but St Anne's will be open for an hour's Exposition every Friday evening at 6pm.** Also, on the vigil of Christ The King Sunday (Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November) there will be **Exposition for an hour starting at 6pm** as conclusion of the universal day of prayer for ending the pandemic.

Meanwhile, do try to tune in to various Masses that are streamed from across the globe, and importantly, find time for some silent moments in personal prayer. Blessings Fr. Bob

***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 (1m+ guideline so all those coming to Mass must wear a face covering) means we don't have to be 2m apart. 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.***

**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.**

**MISSIO:** (St Patrick's) 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. If parishioners who have RED BOXES could continue to donate their boxes using either the online donations page at [www.missio.org.uk](http://www.missio.org.uk), by phone, cheque or text that would be great. If you use your postcode as requested, you will be able to be matched to Missio's database and the totals will be attributed to the parish totals. Many thanks.

**Friends of the Holy Land:** In a week's time we shall be entering the season of **Advent** during which we usually have Crib Donations for **Friends of the Holy Land**. This year has been particularly 'ruthless' for them in terms of lack of pilgrims (especially during this coming Christmas period when Bethlehem would normally be packed) and lack of sales for their wonderful artefacts etc. We will be arranging for this year's Crib donations from the First Sunday of Advent, through to the Christmas period, but of course our lockdown may interfere with this. Just drop off at the presbytery if you wish. However, you can donate through their website (where our Christian brothers and sisters' desperate situation is made evident). It is: <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk> . Any amount of assistance would be very welcome. Many thanks

**Women's Refuge (gifts for the Christmas Tree):** As usual, we will focus our gifts for the refuge but this year we will offer donations in form of cash or vouchers (supermarket). I have ordered two trees (smaller ones) for both churches and, rather than present bulky gifts [such as bedding, towels etc.] the Refuge would really appreciate vouchers because it eliminates the need for storage, which becomes more problematic in these times. Hopefully we will be back in church for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent!!??!! But if not please leave vouchers or cash in envelopes at the presbytery and I shall place them under the trees. Mark St Anne or St Patrick. Many Thanks

**The Bishops' Conference response to IICSA** Please take a look at the home pages of our parish websites for Archbishop Bernard's letter in response to the report.

**End Note:** I will continue to leave a few copies of this newsletter on the table under St Anne's Hall porch and pin a copy inside St Patrick's notice board.

## HOMILY FOR CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

Generally speaking, in our modern contemporary age, in the majority of Western nations (and even developing nations) the notion of being ruled by a monarch would be laughed off. Just as we've developed technologically, the argument would prevail that we have developed our political science and theory as well. And Kings and Queens belong securely in the past. There are exceptions of course, and our own nation is one example where we live in a constitutional monarchy, in relative peace and through popular acceptance. However, kingship, monarchy is very much a part of our lives if we claim to be Christian and this is because Jesus Christ Himself is Priest, Prophet and King. Jesus is our one and only leader and head and we are baptised into His mystical body so, we can't deny that we are His subjects in so far as He is our King. The kingship Jesus offers us, though, is like no other kingship ever experienced (or endured) by humankind. How is this?

The clue provided for us is in the attributes given to the Christ, the anointed one – PRIEST, PROPHET, KING. Jesus' kingship encapsulates and contains all three. As subjects of His we are blessed threefold; He is Priest for us in offering Himself for us in all our chronic moral need and destitution – He is our Prophet in the way He guides us, leads us and picks us up in our confusion – and He is our Monarch in His divine creative power and authority; an authority that forms the bedrock of our faith and reassurance. Clearly, no earthly monarch can even approach this all-embracing leadership. It is timeless and reaches across nations and cultures. This is why our faith will always have a response to contemporary scrutiny whenever and however we are challenged.

In Matthew when Jesus begins to preach to the people it is about the kingdom of heaven to be set up on earth – to have all of us living in such perfect unison with the plan of the loving creator that earthly society would mirror that of heaven. In other words, heavenly happiness would begin on earth. However, Jesus' uncompromising message to His listeners through all ages is that His kingdom ideal would mean reversing many of the principles on which life commonly operated. The sermon on the mount is a perfect example of this reversal, isn't it?

The scene that Jesus unfolds for His listeners in Matthew's Gospel is one of the most central and certainly dramatic in His assertion that God's justice will prevail and, from the earliest days of the Church, scenes of the Last Judgement have graced many church porticos. Images were essential for the imagination of the majority of the illiterate. So, who are these 'brothers and sisters' that Jesus is alluding to here? And who is being judged? Remember that Jesus had earlier defined His brothers and sisters as 'those who do the will of my Father in heaven', in a context which points to this as meaning 'those who hear and obey my kingdom announcement'. So, a possible meaning of the scene then is that those who have not followed Jesus the Messiah will be judged in terms of how they have treated the people He has counted as His family. Of course, this doesn't mean that Christians themselves are not to behave in a similar way towards others – this is taken for granted. Rather this scene comes after a long discourse of Jesus denouncing His own people especially the leaders, and in this context it is a 'refocusing' of a regular Jewish way of talking about God's judgement of the world. Jesus consistently redefines God's people around Himself, declaring that He will Himself judge the world on how it has treated His renewed Israel.

The essential message for us is that the vindication of the Son of Man spoken of earlier refers not to His future second coming, but to the events which would take place within a generation. According to the rest of the New Testament, Jesus is already ruling the world as its rightful Lord. So this scene of judgement may actually refer to what is happening throughout human history, from the time of Jesus' resurrection and ascension to the present time and beyond. The final judgement, in some sense, comes forward to meet us here and now.

