



Sunday 23rd May 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

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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

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TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Solemnity of Pentecost

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Memoria	Mass Intention
Sat	22 nd	4:00pm 6:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil		John Pettit RIP People of the Parish
Sun	23 rd	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Solemnity of Pentecost		Veronica Rice & Cormac Deacon[Thanksgiving] Eamon Gormley RIP
Mon	24 th	9:30am	St Anne's	Mary, Mother of God	Memoria	Alistair Arthur RIP (Ann.)
Tue	25 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	St Bede the Venerable	Memoria	Kathleen Boulton RIP
Wed	26 th	No Mass	St Anne's	St Philip Neri	Memoria	
Thu	27 th	No Mass 5:30pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest Reception of the body of Gordon Lee	Feast	
Fri	28 th	6:30pm	St Anne's		Feria	Gordon Lee RIP
Sat	29 th	4:00pm 6:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil		People of the Parish Celebrant's Intention
Sun	30 th	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity		John Pettit RIP Mrs Winifred Meehan 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] Luigi Vella, Thomas Sutton, William Hinksman, Francis Pearce, Damian McKinlay, Janet Bunker, Gertrude Brough, Michael Cooney, Annie McCabe, John Mulrooney, Mary Batkin and Joseph Box.

[St Anne's] Alfred Charlton, Francisca Gonzalez, Julia Murphy, James Ashton, Anthone Dietruszko, Edwin Finn, M Larkin, John Reilly, Marie Reilly, Claire Skelton, Olga Sweeney, Bernard Bamber, Charles Chadwick, Anne O'Brien, Teresa Lloyd, Peter Griffin, Gerard Leongson, Robert Powell and Ronald Dawson.

Income 16/5/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£124.00	£185.50	£283.84	£593.34	Sat 52 Sun 45
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£113.00	£130.35	£146.23	£389.58	Sat 32 Sun 59

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

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. 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*

Without such donations, 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 been reduced. A significant amount of unavoidable work is also planned shortly for both parishes, 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 please help in any way. Very many thanks

St Anne's: At present all Masses celebrated at St Anne's are web streamed. (Our grateful thanks to Peter) [Please go to the front web page and click on Mass Live at the top and you should be able to follow the Mass]. Fr. Bob

Places of Worship are open for Mass, but we were reminded of the need and importance for us all to be extra careful and diligent with social distancing and hygiene. All our parishes have been grateful for the help and dedication of our stewards/ cleaners, ensuring that all guidelines are followed and that we can safely celebrate Mass.

Second Collection last weekend for Catholic Communications St Anne's £86.25 St Patrick's £21.00 Thank You

Our Deceased: Please pray for **Roy Burton**, husband of Sheila and **Gordon Lee**, husband of Irene, who have died recently, both of St Anne's. We remember their families at this time. Gordon will be received into St Anne's Church on Thursday 27th May at 5:30pm, followed by the funeral service at Tixall Road before burial on Friday 28th. Roy's Requiem will be at St Anne's on Thursday 3rd June at 12 Noon. *May Roy and Gordon rest in peace and rise in glory.*

School Governors: St Patrick's School is in need of **Foundation Governors**, which is why we are making this appeal. If any parishioner might feel they could fulfil this important role please approach/phone Fr. Bob (**parish phone or email**). Alternatively, contact St Patrick's School (413275). Many thanks in anticipation.

The Month of May: A universal daily prayer is being offered for the end of the Covid-19 Pandemic; focusing upon one of the international Marian Shrines. A list of the Marian Shrines can be found (in Italian) by clicking the link on the parish home page. **Honouring Mary in May:** During this month of May we are honouring Our Lady in St Anne's and St Patrick's by saying the 'Regina Caeli' followed by the Memorare at the start of each Mass. You will find copies of these prayers on small pieces of paper in each church porch. Please take them with you.

***Concluding the month of May: next Sunday 30th May at 5:00pm** there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary and Benediction at **St Austin's**. Monday 31st May is the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so it will be an appropriate way to conclude this month dedicated to Our Lady. Our usual May Day of Prayer for Vocations in is being combined with these Marian Devotions. Please do try to come along.

St Anne's Church maintenance: The remedial work to the lower roof was completed last year. Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously. Upcoming tasks this year include **decorating the interior of the Hall** this summer and **comprehensive remedial tree surgery** to satisfy Health and Safety. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. F.Bob

Sacrament of Reconciliation: [Easter Duties and Confession at this time]. 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'. According to the teaching of the Church, the present ongoing situation would not warrant the 'Rite of General Absolution'. If notice is given, and at convenient times, before or after Mass, I have been hearing confessions and this will continue. God Bless. Fr. Bob

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

Training Workshops for Readers:

Saturday 19th June St Anne's 12 noon

Tuesday 22nd June St Anne's 7 pm

Wednesday 23rd June St Patrick's 7 pm

(Each workshop will be identical to give opportunity for everyone to get to one).

What we will do:

Basics of reading in public-posture, use of diction etc. We will practice these skills – so be prepared for a laugh! Consideration of the privilege and reality of being a reader, what it is to stand before the people of God to bring God's word. A brief shared reading of scripture.

Please contact the church office or Deacon Mike on 07706077124 to say which is your preference of date.

Hednesford Pilgrimage 2021: Sadly, the *normal* pilgrimage will not be able to be held again this year, with pilgrims from the Archdiocese and beyond, but there will be two events involving parishioners from Hednesford and surrounding area: **1. Mass for the Diocesan Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage.** The Archbishop will say Mass at the shrine on **Saturday May 22nd at 12 Noon.** It will be filmed and posted online on Monday May 31st as part of the Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage. If you would like to actually come to the shrine, book a place by ringing 01543 422576 or emailing lol.hednesford@rcaob.org.uk **2. Mass for the Diocesan Pilgrimage.** Bishop Stephen Wright will say Mass at the shrine on **Sunday June 20th at 3pm.** The Mass will be filmed and posted online on Sunday July 4th in place of the Diocesan Pilgrimage Mass.

Diocesan Vision: "Unfolding God's Plan". The Diocesan Evangelisation Team are inviting parishes to host '**Something Greater**' which takes place on Thursday 8th July. This event will help parishes extend a hand of friendship to their local community. This online gathering will include a welcome, a short film and a personal invitation to come to church. A pack is being created which will have everything we need to host '**Something Greater**'. It will include a step-by-step guide and different ways for parishes to reach out to invite their community and ideas on how we may extend a personal invitation to church. If any parishioners are interested in coming together to form a group who would help lead this then the Evangelisation sub group would be pleased to make contact. They can be contacted at: something.greater@rcaob.org.uk More information on the Diocesan Vision will be released in June. We are all asked to pray for this event and also encouraged to think how we might begin to reach out to:
(1) **Those who have lost the habit of coming to church and who may be anxious about doing so.**
(2) **Those who may not want to re-establish a pattern of Catholic worship – who may have seen a gap widen between the spiritual dimension of their lives and communal expression of that spiritual quest.**
(3) **Those 'Covid curious' who may have encountered the Catholic Church for the first time during the pandemic.**

End Note: If anyone who thinks they might enjoy painting/touching up a few of our church statues in St Patrick's, do please let me know. You may even be aware of someone who could be willing to help. It would be greatly and humbly appreciated.
F. Bob

Pastoral Letter for Pentecost 2021

(Archbishop Bernard Longley)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Solemnity of Pentecost reminds us that everything which exists, every person and the whole of creation, is a gift of "God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth." God our loving Father creates and continues to give life to the world through His Word, Jesus Christ, in the power of His Holy Spirit. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, which we celebrate at Pentecost, is not something separate from Creation. God's revelation of himself in Creation is inseparable from the revelation of his love for us in Christ and in his desire to live in us through his Holy Spirit.

‘God’s Spirit is always and everywhere “the Lord, the Giver of Life”, and the voice of Pentecost is echoed in the voice of creation being transformed into the glorious liberty of God’s children.’ In this liberty, as God’s children, we call on the Spirit to ‘renew the face of the Earth’, and as his children, we are called, in turn, to use this liberty for the good of creation and for the good of all that brings life. Our world, God’s creation, is a precious gift to us. It is our common home entrusted to each generation. But how have we used that glorious liberty? How do we honour this precious gift? Are we really demonstrating love, care and respect for our common home?

As we celebrate Pentecost this year, we are acutely aware of the damage that continues to be inflicted on the Earth, and the repercussions for the well-being of our brothers and sisters, both here in our own countries and, more especially, in the poorest countries of our world. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have both taught us that everything is interconnected and interdependent. The way we live our everyday lives has an impact on everyone and on the earth.

The urgency of the situation, and the enormity of the challenges we face, have spurred us to speak out together this Pentecost Sunday, as bishops of England, Wales and Scotland, about the role that the Catholic Church and our faith must play in our shared care for God’s gift to us.

For all too long we have either been ignorant of, or ignored, the systematic exploitation of our planet and the unsustainable consumption of its resources. While accepting the crucial need and demand for energy for the benefit of the poorest of our brothers and sisters, the provision of our energy must, nonetheless, be by means which radically reduce the use of carbon-based fuels.

In our political thinking, there must be a new global understanding of our world, where nations recognise our common responsibility for the dignity of all people and their rights to sustainable livelihoods, in authentic freedom. Pope Francis speaks of a global politics that looks beyond our own needs to the needs of all, most especially the poor and the marginalised.

But we cannot leave the healing of our common home and the wellbeing and care of our brothers and sisters merely to a response from industry and governments. Our own local concern and action is necessary and has far-reaching consequences. We all have a part to play, each and every one of us, in the routines, choices and decisions of our everyday lives and our aspirations for the future. The actions of parishes, families, schools, and individuals will have a significant impact on our efforts to restore our common home. There are now many resources, freely available, to advise us on our choice of food, saving of water and electricity, suggestions about travel, waste, and re-use. These are measures that everyone can employ, in some degree, with minimal inconvenience and change. They are effective ways in which we can each reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation.

This Pentecost comes at a time of remarkable challenge and opportunity. We are gradually emerging from the tragedies and restrictions of the pandemic. We have the ability to make changes. Our countries are also hosting two most important meetings this year, the G7 in June and COP26 in November. These meetings will gather together men and women who have the power to make defining choices and policies which will help us build back better, provide for our brothers and sisters, and take care of our common home.

In all our human endeavours, we need the presence of the Holy Spirit, “the Lord, the Giver of Life”, whose gift to the Church and the world we celebrate again at Pentecost. Let us keep this Feast with that enduring hope that we can begin to repair the damage we have done and provide a healthy home for future generations. Our hope will be strengthened by our prayer. May our constant request be that the Holy Spirit guide us, strengthen our resolve and ‘renew the face of the earth’.