

Sunday 23rd August 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

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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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	22 nd	6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Private Intention
Sun	23 rd	9:30am 11:15am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Twenty-First Sunday of the Year	The McHugh Family People of the Parish
Mon	24 th	9:30am	St Anne's	St Bartholemew	Feast Eileen Awty
Tue	25 th	9:30am	St Patrick's		Feria Winnie Lythall RIP
Wed	26 th	No Mass		Blessed Dominic Barbari	Feast
Thu	27 th	6:30pm	St Patrick's	St Monica	Memoria Fr David Barry RIP
Fri	28 th	6:30pm	St Anne's	St Augustine	Memoria K.V. George (Ann.)
Sat	29 th	6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Pauline Awty RIP & Dick Jarvis RIP
Sun	30 th	9:30am 11:15am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year	Dan Ryan (90 th Birthday Anniversary) For the Suffering people of Beirut & Lebanon

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM By Appointment

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: *[St. Patrick's]* Elizabeth Walsh, Dan Cooney, Ron Walker, Breeda O'Toole, Mary Sutton, Andrew Petrini, Francis Kenny, Doris Allen, Katharine Burns, Eddie McKiernan, Lilian Haydon, Agnes Corfield, Irene Ryan and Albert Ackland. *[St. Anne's]* Laura Brown, Nathan Goodwin, Frank Ilsley, George Nealon, Millicent Carter, Thomas Deaval, Deacon David McCarroll, Alan Gaynor and Bernard Warburton.

Prayers for the sick: *St Patrick's* Phylis Bowers, 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, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Colin Wise.

Income 16 Aug	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£66.00	£129.50	£283.84	£479.34	70
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£115.00	£50.00	£146.23	£311.23	

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 diocese (Steve Roche):** 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 July Winners £100 B Walton – 148, £50 M Bamber – 142, £20 D Greatbatch – 35, £10 J Serno – 95, £10 F Russell – 127, £10 A Lyons – 22, £10 G Thickett – 149, £10 M Owen – 122, £10 F Russell – 156, £10 W Meehan – 54, £10 C McHugh – 51.

Thank you for your support. A lot of numbers available at only £4 per number per month.

*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

Please bear with me as I mention here just a few details we need to be aware of. At the start of each Mass I shall explain a lot more of how we proceed, so no problems. Masses will be celebrated within the (1metre + guidelines) This will entail the wearing of some form of face covering within the church.

An important and interesting point for us to understand is that 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, I will publish the times of Masses weekly since there will be occasional alterations and gaps. Below are the times and venues: (Looking two weeks ahead) including the schedule of Masses for St Austin's.

St Anne's Roof Appeal



Leaking church roofs sound like a cliché, don't they? But certainly in our case, the situation is a reality. For quite some time now (year in year out) we have pondered how best to solve St Anne's leaking roof problem, from various 'patching' solutions to full re-roofing! However, it has been decided that we can't ignore it any longer. It would be a neglect of duty of care for our parish fabric. So, having sought a wide range of advice it has been decided that the best and most cost-effective way forward is to undertake a comprehensive 'remedial' repair project on the whole of the lower tier roof. It is in fact this aspect which has caused the most alarming revelations and internal problems. It is hoped that the work will commence within the next few weeks, well before 'winter' weather arrives! [Although, can we tell the difference?] I am appealing for any donations St Anne's community can generously donate to this work, since we are looking at a sum approaching £10,000. There will be two special boxes at the entrance and exit of the church dedicated to this special fund; so we can at least make a start. 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

MASSES

SATURDAY 22nd August 6:00pm St Anne's

**SUNDAY 23rd August 9:30am St Patrick's
11:15am St Anne's**

MONDAY 24th August 9:30am St Anne's

TUESDAY 25th August 9:30am St Patrick's

THURSDAY 27th August 6:30pm St Patrick's

FRIDAY 28th August 6:30pm St Anne's

FOLLOWING WEEK:

SATURDAY 29th August 6:00pm St Anne's

**SUNDAY 30th August 9:30am St Patrick's
11:15am St Anne's**

MONDAY 31st August 9:30am St Anne's

TUESDAY 1st September 9:30am St Patrick's

THURSDAY 3rd September 6:30pm St Patrick's

FRIDAY 4th September 6:30pm St Anne's

St Austin's Parish [Masses]

SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST 10:30am

WEDNESDAY 26TH AUGUST 7:00pm

FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST 7:00pm

(FOLLOWING WEEK)

SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST 10:30am

WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 7:00pm

FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 7:00pm

**[Fr. Michael will be streaming his
Masses on the other days also.]**

The most important and pressing and absolutely vital 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. I can't emphasise enough how the church needs you! Because the sensible (distancing) capacity of each church is 50, it will be 'first come, first served', but, between the two parishes there should be 7 Masses during one week, potentially allowing for a total of 350 parishioners. 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.

This is why it is very important for sufficient volunteers to be able to cover Masses. Many Thanks for your patience and understanding. Regarding safety and distancing, we have been told to operate the 1m+ guideline so all those coming to Mass must wear a face covering, but it means we don't have to be 2m apart. Holy Communion will be distributed as parishioners leave church. There will be stewards to guide people to seats and to help with communion arrangements. 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 through the 'first come, first served' policy. Remember, a family group may sit together on one bench or in neighbouring chairs. 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.

HOMILY FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

I remember as a young child seeing 'Punch and Judy' shows at sea-side resorts. I never liked them very much; I found them scary and violent. But, at that young age the 'reality' and

behaviour of the puppets seemed real. You never thought about who was working them. As we grow up, of course, we realise that puppets are controlled by people and the 'gloved' characters have no authority on their own. The trouble is, we can so often, and indeed do, become the puppets of others (whether of politicians, ruthless bosses or manipulating husbands or wives).

Our readings today, however, put the emphasis on who's really 'in charge'; who's really in authority, and it's **AUTHORITY** that's so important here. I suppose we live in an age which tends to be suspicious of authority and very often we're justified in thinking like that. I'm often driving down the road getting more and more irritated by speed humps as I think about what's happening to the suspension system and how many billions the motorist is putting into the exchequer. But, obviously I can also see the reason for having them (**JUST**) – well, I can cameras at least. The main point about authority, really, is where it lies. In our world/our society today just who is in charge? Who really is wielding authority for us or over us?

In our first reading from Isaiah, it was obvious that Shebna wasn't fit to wield authority so God raised Eliakim to take his place; to entrust him with authority. The "key of the house of David" was placed on Eliakim's shoulders. In God's plan for His people, this **KEY** was to allow the people to see the true works of God and His plan for how they were to live. So, the power that we humans can exercise is strictly limited, but, more importantly, it is definitely conditional. No human power can ever be absolute and Isaiah shows God exercising His absolute right to organise human affairs.

The famous Gospel passage we've just heard is so well-known because it's used in many discussions about where the authority lies within our own Church. It speaks about **KEYS** and **BINDING** and **LOOSING**; and points to Peter as being the one follower of Christ

who's given the ultimate authority. Now, why was this? Remember, Jesus first of all asks His followers who people think He is, then He asks who **THEY** think He is. It's Peter who claims that Jesus is the Son of the Living God, and there's only one way Peter could have known this: through the Holy Spirit. And because Peter recognised Jesus through the Spirit he was rewarded with the **GIFT** of Jesus' authority. If Peter had simply said Jesus was the Messiah it wouldn't have been enough. A messiah could have just been a freedom fighter or guerrilla who would overthrow the Romans. But Peter saw beyond this and recognised the **AUTHORITY** behinds Jesus: the **FATHER** Himself. Jesus rewards Simon with an office to guard and look after this authority. He becomes Cephass (the rock). And it's this rock upon which Jesus builds His Church – Jesus' Church **NOT** Peter's **NOT** Benedict's, not Francis'. The pope's true role is defined in this Gospel and he represents the authority of **AUTHENTICITY**. Because the authority comes from God it is always authentic.

So, as we struggle and try to make sense of the authority figures around our lives, let's rest in the security that the Church's authority is truly authentic because its **KEY** opens the door to God through Jesus. There are no strings, no gloved puppets. The pope lives out his fully human life with all the faults and failings of each one of us. The difference is that the **KEY** he's been given opens the Church to Christ's guidance and control whenever and wherever it's needed. And this is what **INFALLIBILITY** truly means.

