

Sunday 24th January 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	23 rd	1:00pm 6:30pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil	Kathleen Boulton RIP Private Intention
Sun	24 th	8:00am 9:30am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Third Sunday of the Year	People of the Parish Madge & Joe Fox RIP
Mon	25 th	9:30am	St Anne's	The Conversion of St Paul	Feast Guy Leongson RIP
Tue	26 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Ss Timothy & Titus	No congregation Memoria Private Intention
Wed	27 th	No Mass			Feria Private Intention
Thu	28 th	6:30pm	St Patrick's	St Thomas Aquinas	No congregation Memoria Celebrant's Intention
Fri	29 th	11:45am	St Anne's	Requiem Mass for Deidre Wilkinson	Feria
Sat	30 th	1:00pm 6:30pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil	Well being of Mgr. John Heslin Percy Grero RIP
Sun	31 st	8:00am 9:30am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Fourth Sunday of the Year	People of the Parish Celebrant's Intention

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] Doris Hindle, Alice Ogbourne, Eric Pitman, Richard Dawson, Marie Fradley, Dolly Godwin, Alan Mitchell, Alfred Keogh, Mary O'Connor, William Bell, Michael Creamer, Zenon Zawadka, Terry Costello, Mary Bromley, Michael Caple, Eddie Hunt, Terence Keane, Tony Percy, Johannah Plant, Peter Sanza, William Adams and Brigid Bradshaw. [St Anne's] Dolores Delgado, Mary Elms, Harry Peck, Vincent Lythgoe, Fred Stephens, Peter Gibson, Charles Shackle, Fr Kevin Good, Percy Grero and Brian Ross.

Income 17/1/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£319.00	£165.45	£283.84	£768.29	Sat 31 Sun 34
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£59.00	£44.50	£146.23	£249.73	Sat 21 Sun 11

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 during 2020. Hopefully we can count on your support again in 2021. Those who pay yearly please can you put your monies in a sealed envelope with your name on the outside marked for 150 Club and put into the collection bins. Cheques should be made payable to St Patrick's. Further details from Marie on 01785 661012.

*at this critical time. If anyone wishes to make such 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 Roof Appeal (Update)

The remedial work to the lower roof has now been completed. We are appealing for any donations St Anne's community can donate to this work; my thanks and appreciation to those who have already given so generously; we are gradually on our way - looking at a sum approaching £10,000. (We are nearly half of the way there). This year we hope to remedy ongoing problems to the upper roof. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. F.Bob

Our Recently Deceased: Please remember in your prayers **Deirdre Wilkinson, St Anne's** who died on 29th December. We pray also for her family. May she rest in peace and rise in glory

** St Anne's parish is now live-streaming Masses, so please go to the front web page and click on Mass Live at the top and you should be able to follow the Mass.

St Patricks: In consideration of the attendance numbers and in discussion with our team of stewards and helpers, it has been decided to suspend the public nature of the two weekday Masses in St Patrick's . Please refer to the first page. Please be assured that I shall continue to say a private Mass in the sacristy of the church on those days, including the accompanying intentions. Fr. Bob

Even under new restrictions for a third national lockdown. **Places of Worship are still able to remain open**, but we were reminded of the need and importance for us all to be extra careful and diligent with social distancing and hygiene.

Since re-opening back in July our parishes have been grateful for the help and dedication of our stewards/ cleaners. They have ensured, and continue to ensure, that all guidelines are followed and that the church is thoroughly cleaned after each service.

Please remember that the obligation to attend Holy Mass is still suspended. All our Masses from St Anne's will continue to be live streamed through YouTube, details of which can be found on our website.

Let us all seek the intercession of St Anne, St Patrick and St Austin our parish patrons, and the intercession of Our Blessed Lady and St Roch at this time.

HOMILY FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

We are all aware that entering 2021, and even from the start of Advent just gone, we are in the year of Mark's Gospel. And this means that we can 'enjoy' a journey through the fast-paced story telling of the evangelist Mark. So unlike John, who dwells on the internal divine life of Jesus the Word and Sign, Mark relates to his readers the urgent message of Jesus that the Kingdom is at hand; and that Jesus wastes no time in calling those who are going to carry that message to the ends of the world. Mark's Gospel, together with Matthew's and Luke's, is one of what we call the 'synoptic' Gospels because these three accounts have many similarities in their narratives and the teaching of Jesus. In other words, the origins

and source of their writings are from a common communal history going right back to Christ's foundational 'church'. Sometimes those who criticise the Christian Gospel often point to the discrepancies and occasional anomalies found in accounts of the same event. "Why aren't they identical?" they ask. Well, for us we know that our faith has been formed by belief in the person of Jesus Christ. And this person of Christ has been communicated to us through the centuries by Church Tradition and the Gospels. Each of the four evangelists would have written down the essential life and teaching and message of Jesus for their own people or community, picking and adapting their source to suit their purpose, and Mark's purpose was to deliver it as a continuous story with the emphasis on urgency. Notice how the story flows, especially this section on the call of His disciples. "straight away they left their nets and followed Him." No hanging about pondering or weighing things up here; the narrative immediately moves on and it's then Zebedee left in his boat while his sons have gone off after the preacher!

It is only when we think a bit about the sort of life Peter, Andrew, James and John had had, and the totally unknown future Jesus was inviting them into, that we get an understanding just how earth-shattering this little story was (and is). Just because Mark seems to tell Jesus' 'story' in a fast-paced matter-of-fact way, we must not underestimate the powerful, life changing message he's laying before his readers. Leave everything you've known, all your security, your family (and family solidarity was terrifically important in that culture), and follow Jesus. Some people in certain circumstances face that call today. The way Mark tells the story sends echoes ringing back right through the scriptures, and throws light on the larger and wider story of God's people from the calling of Abraham. 'Leave your country and your father's house' God says to Abraham, 'And go to the land I will show you.' Abraham, like Peter and the others, did what he was told and went where he was sent. Mark is hinting to his readers that the old family business of the people of God is being 'left behind'.

It would be so easy, wouldn't it, to simply listen to a reader relating Mark's Gospel and imagining the story unfolding as one event after another. But rather, this whole episode follows from the opening few lines of today's passage when Jesus arrives in Galilee announcing the Good News. "The time is fulfilled" He said; "God's Kingdom is arriving! Turn back and believe the Good News!" It's what Israel has been waiting for. It wasn't a new piece of good advice, or a new political agenda, or a new spirituality. It was all of these and more, but essentially, Jesus was bringing the Good (and extremely dangerous news) that the living God was now coming into His kingdom in a big way, and into our lives and it demanded a definite response. At the start of a New Year it's a good time to renew our awareness of what our belief in Christ means. Who is this person who wanders into our lives and asks us to follow Him? And can we respond even though we don't know where He is leading us? Let us pray for the love, grace of prayer and generosity to say our yes to God's call. He has something unique and special for each one of us. "My yoke is easy, my burden is light".