



Sunday 24th December 2023

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

48 Sandon Road, Stafford ST16 3HF. Telephone 01785 661012 - Website www.stpatricksstafford.co.uk

Email: stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA

Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987

Marston Road, ST16 3BT
Telephone: 01785 413275

Executive Head: Mrs K Bennett Principal: Mr. M. Brandon

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Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day		Mass Intention		
23 rd	4:00pm 6:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil		People of the Parish Bridie Toner RIP		
24 th	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Fourth Sunday of Advent		Joye Simpson RIP Geoff Owen RIP& Kitty Ronan & Mary Picking		
举	<mark>6:00pm</mark> 7:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil (Christmas Eve) Vigil		Kevin Walsh RIP Anne & John Murphy & Family Intentions		
25 th	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)	Solemnity	Patrick, Kitty & Mary Daly RIP Winifred Meehan's Intentions		
26 th	9.30am	St Anne's	St Stephen	Feast	Jack Devaney (Ann.)		
27^{th}	2:15pm	St Patrick's	Funeral Mass for Joye Simpson				
28 th	9:30 am	St Patrick's	The Holy Innocence	Feast	Michael & Eileen McHugh		
29^{th}	9:15am	St Anne's	St Thomas Becket	Feast	Geoff Owen RIP		
30 th	10.00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	St Anne's St Patrick's St Anne's	Exposition, Holy Hour & Confessio Vigil Vigil	n	Private Intention Ned&ThelmaTaylorRIP Peggy Ogram RIP		
31 st	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	The Feast of the Holy Family		People of the Parish Sr Assumpta (50 th Ann.of Profession)		
	23 rd 24 th 25 th 26 th 28 th 29 th 30 th	23 rd 4:00pm 6:00pm 24 th 9:00am 10:00am 25 th 9:00am 10:00am 26 th 9:30am 27 th 2:15pm 28 th 9:30 am 29 th 9:15am 30 th 10.00am 4:00pm 6:00pm 6:00pm 31 st 9:00am	23 rd 4:00pm 6:00pm St Patrick's St Anne's 24 th 9:00am 10:00am St Patrick's St Anne's 25 th 9:00am St Patrick's St Anne's 26 th 9:30am St Anne's 27 th 2:15pm St Patrick's 28 th 9:30 am St Patrick's 29 th 9:15am St Anne's 30 th 10.00am 4:00pm St Anne's St Patrick's 6:00pm 31 st 9:00am 10.00am St Patrick's 31 st 9:00am 10.00am St Patrick's	Date Mass Time Church Liturgical Day 23 rd 4:00pm 6:00pm St Patrick's Vigil 24 th 9:00am St Patrick's 10:00am St Anne's Fourth Sunday of Advent 6:00pm St Anne's Fourth Sunday of Advent 6:00pm St Patrick's Vigil (Christmas Eve) Vigil 25 th 9:00am St Patrick's Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day) 10:00am St Anne's St St Stephen 26 th 9.30am St Anne's St St Stephen 27 th 2:15pm St Patrick's Funeral Mass for Joye Simpson 28 th 9:30 am St Patrick's The Holy Innocence 29 th 9:15am St Anne's St Thomas Becket 30 th 10.00am St Anne's Exposition, Holy Hour & Confession Vigil 31 st 9:00am St Patrick's The Feast of the Holy Family	Date Mass Time Church Liturgical Day		

Prayers for the sick: St Patrick's: Susan Prince, Gregory McKinlay, Linda Reavy, Cecylia Kotara, Rebecca Kilkenny, Graham Burningham. St Anne's: Patricia Walters, Thomas McCormick, Walter Rogers, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Andrea Hulse, Winifred Meehan, Pat McDonnell, Georgina Copp, Marie Geal, Molly Hukin, Imelda Moore.

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's.] James McEwan, Egizia Valentini, Nicholas Byrne, Austin Read, Norah Lennon, James Scullion, Catherine Gask, Francis Ralph, Patricia Bradfield, Mary Devine, Margaret Leigh, George Storr, Alfred Simpson, Gertrude Vaughan, Brenda Read, Anthony Dykta, Norma Hussey, Nicolino Petrini, Thelma Taylor. [St Anne's] Bernard Hadley, Robert Sartory, Catherine Hammond, Mary Rogers, Laurence Baker, Robert Glover, Peggy Ogram, John Glover, Margaret Loftus, Deirdre Wilkinson, Louise Harley.

Income 17/12/23	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£154.50	£164.24	£408.25	£ 726.99	Sat 55 Sun 92
St Patrick's	Offertory	£49.30	£233.98	£152.16	£ 435.44	Sat 49 Sun 55

On the Archdiocese website there is a standing order and Gift Aid form for parishioners so they can transform the way they donate. Please direct any such enquiries to: Donate | Birmingham Diocesan Trust (birminghamdiocese.org.uk) / https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work

Parish Tote 150 Club December Winners

£100 N Shammas - 134, £50 D Cyples - 116, £20 J Pettit - 43, £10 A Smith - 94, £10 L Garnet - 120, £10 C Taylor - 46, £10 C Taylor - 2, £10 L Cyples - 44, £10 B Alex - 92, £10 J Walsh - 20, £10 K Webb - 93. Thank you for your support. A lot of numbers are available at £4 per number per month. Further details from Marie (parish secretary) on 01785 661012. Those who pay yearly and six monthly your monies are due in January.

<u>Gift Aid</u> 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. Switching your giving via Standing Order mandate would be a great help also.

Information cards [gift-aid it] can be found at the back of the churches for any parishioners who are not in the gift aid scheme. The cards explain how the system works (at no extra expense for the doner) and provide information as to how you can be part of the scheme. It is a simple, free and effective way to help our parishes increase our funds. Do consider this if you are not already gift-aiding. Very Many Thanks.

Future Second Collections: 20th/21st January Parish Maintenance

10th/11th February the LIFE Charity

The collection on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is the traditional Christmas offering for the clergy.

<u>Our Deceased</u>: Please pray for the souls of **Joye Simpson** and **Pam Knowles** who died recently. We remember their families at this time. **Joye's Requiem Mass will be at St Patrick's on Wednesday 27th December at 2:15pm.**

May **Joy and Pam** rest in peace and rise in glory.

St Anne's Readers: The rota for January is on the notice board in the church porch.

The Drop in Group

Do Come and join us on Wednesdays in the Meeting Room after the St Anne's 10 am Communion Service. All Welcome.

Wool donations – If anyone has any spare wool it can be left in St Anne's Church porch. It will be used for knitting hats and scarves for the homeless. Thank you.

Refreshments after Mass: Do join us after the **10:00am** Sunday Morning Mass for tea and coffee in **St Anne's Hall.** Many thanks to those who prepare this valuable facility. **More volunteers would be most welcome.**

* SAFEGUARDING The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our St Anne's Parish Safeguarding Representative is Ann Kelly and can be contacted at sg.stanne.stafford@rcaob.org.uk. Our St Patrick's Safeguarding Representative is Geraldine Thickett and can be contacted at sg.stpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

St Anne's: CHILDREN'S LITURGY is up and running and held on every Sunday. This is due to the number of kind parishioners who have volunteered to help put on this much appreciated facility. It means we can form teams and a rota. Please do come forward to help if you would like to become involved. Ann Kelly is kindly looking after the necessary safeguarding procedures.

Many thanks.

St Patrick's: (SUNDAY CHILDREN'S LITURGY) The Children's Liturgy Group is running and much appreciated. Open to children of primary school age and under. If you think you can help come along to a session and see what we do [Those interested in helping please see Fr. Bob]

<u>+BIBLE STUDY:</u> St Anne's parish Bible Study usually meets on a regular fortnightly programme, in St Anne's parish hall meeting room from 10 am – 11 am. The next meeting will be in January 2024. Pope Francis has declared this coming year to be a Year of Prayer and so all are very welcome to join in!!

<u>Exposition and Holy Hour</u>: There is Exposition and Holy Hour, including opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation, at St Anne's: From 10:00am until 11:00am. This is offered every Saturday, except the third Saturday of the month, upon which the Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham will be celebrated.

St Patrick's Eucharistic Minister Rota: St. Patrick's Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: we have reestablished the rota, for both Saturday Evening and Sunday Morning. If you are an extraordinary minister and would like to be included in the rota, please contact Angela Russell (07765560153) or Fr Bob; please confirm which weekend mass you would be able to assist at. Also, <u>if you are not yet</u> a Eucharistic minister and may have thought of becoming one, please do give it thought and have a word with Fr. Bob. Full training would be given. Thank you.

LIVING SIMPLY: Parishioners are invited to purchase Fair traded goods and to buy world gifts from CAFOD https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk

We are developing a wildflower meadow at the side of St Anne's Church to help support biodiversity. We are inviting parishioners to donate wildflower seeds, plants or peat free compost. If you would like to look at the area, Liz and Ann will be available to show you the area on Sunday after Mass.

CHRISTIAN FOOD HELP: Due to the ever increasing problem of food poverty, nationally and locally within many families, there is a continual need for donations. At the back of each church we have clearly marked boxes for your donations of food items. Please deposit them there so that they can be taken regularly to St Austin's, where the CFH team can arrange for their distribution.

Many Thanks

Our local co-ordinators, Adam and Clare (St Austin's), send their thanks.

Take a look at our latest graph showing the numbers of meals provided (at the back of church)

<u>New to the Parish?</u> If you are new to either of the parishes of St Anne or St Patrick you are very welcome. Please let Fr Bob know (on 01785 661012 OR <u>stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk</u>) There are numerous aspects of our parish life that might be of interest to you. We hope that you will feel 'at home' within our parish community.

Parish Library St Anne's

Thank you to everyone who has donated bibles and books (and a bookcase).

The parish library is in the parish meeting room. You may borrow any of the bibles, books, or CTS booklets.

<u>Donations to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal</u>: at <u>cafod.org.uk/ipc</u> or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers."

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

St Anne's & St Patrick's

Parishioners may bring in gifts around the tree for two charities: **'The Women's Refuge' and 'House of Bread'**<u>The Refuge</u> would be grateful for donations such as: Washing powder, cleaning materials and Tesco and Asda supermarket vouchers to buy food.

<u>House of Bread</u> would welcome donations of Ladies underwear, men's pants, men's and women's socks, men's and women's deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, razor blades, shaving cream and flannels.

They have plenty of towels but anything that people give would be greatly appreciated.

Please note: Since two charities are involved in the Giving Tree, could you please indicate **CLEARLY** on you gift which charity it is destined for.

The gifts will be delivered mid-January so don't need to be wrapped for Christmas but maybe in gift bags instead.

Many Thanks.

This year's Crib Donations will be destined for Friends of the Holy Land.

Catholic Stafford:	VENUES AND MASS TIMES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD			
	St Anne's	St Patrick's	St Austin's	
CHRISTMAS EVE (Sunday 24 th)	7pm	6pm	9pm	
CHRISTMAS DAY (Monday 25 th)	10am	9am	11am	

Please note that the weekend of $23^{rd}/24^{th}$ December is the Fourth in Advent and so the Masses for Saturday and Sunday will be at the usual times within the three parishes. Don't forget to take a "walk with me" booklet (at the back of church)

GRATEFUL THANKS: Many thanks to both our parishes for all the good wishes and help I have received over the year, not to mention the Christmas cards and blessings. I hardly need to mention how important it has been to have such generous and selfless volunteers helping out in so many areas of church life. It is what allows parishes to run smoothly. A big welcome also to our visitors attending Masses over Christmas and any new parishioners who may have moved into the area.

*Now we minister as a team, popularly known as 'Catholic Stafford, all three parishes will need to give careful thought as to how we grow and develop our ministry and support, in order to draw in and welcome the many local Catholics who are not a part of our worshipping community, as well as those who might be thinking of joining us in faith. 2024 should be the year in which we meet the challenge as it will be a "Year of Prayer" in preparation for the "Jubilee Year" in 2025 (called by His Holiness, Pope Francis). Please let us all pray deeply for wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we approach a new chapter. Whatever trepidation we may feel, it is always through our faith in the Lord that we can meet the New Year.

On behalf of Deacon Michael and myself: May I wish all our parishioners and visitors a Blessed and Joyful Christmas and New Year and may God bless all our families.

Fr. Bob



