

Sunday 25th October 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

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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	24 th	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	People of the Parish
		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	William Marriott RIP
Sun	25 th	8:00am	St Patrick's	Thirtieth Sunday of the Year	The McHugh Family
		9:30am	St Anne's		Bridget & Eddie McAweaney RIP
Mon	26 th	9:30am	St Anne's	Feria	June Reeve (special Int.)
Tue	27 th	<i>No Mass</i>	St Patrick's	Feria	
Wed	28 th	<i>No Mass</i>		Ss Simon & Jude, Apostles	Feast
Thu	29 th	6:30pm	St Patrick's	Feria	Joan Whitlock RIP
Fri	30 th	6:30pm	St Anne's	Feria	Private Intention
Sat	31 st	1:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Bridget Flood
		6:30pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Peggy Ogram RIP
Sun	1 st	8:00am	St Patrick's	Solemnity of All Saints	Bob & Damian
		9:30am	St Anne's		Josephine & John Ard 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]* Michael Hickey, Anne Martin, John Reavy, Joseph Kerr, Margaret Goodwin, Theresa Cooney, Geo Gage, Alexander Harrison, Ian Robertson, Katrina Hughes, Donald Caddick, Rev Bernard Kelly, Edward Biglane, John Emery, Kathleen Crowley, Genevieve Hocart-Derry, Teresa Moore, Bernard Evans, Ellen Snape, George Allman, Isabelo Reyes, Anne Begley and May Snape. *[St Anne's]* Joan O'Leary, Ann Begley, Joyce Horne, Johann Sima, Elsie Batkin, Albert Blissett, Tony Joret, Isabella Joel, Dennis Loran and John Thomas.

Income 11 th Oct	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£70.50	£89.01	£283.84	£443.35	Sat 52
						Sun 37
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£60.10	£55.15	£146.23	£261.48	Sat 41
						Sun 20

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

Parish Tote 150 Club September Winners. £100 Fr Bob – 72, £50 J Corr- 77, £20 J Porter – 9, £10 A Lyons – 22, £10 M Massey – 154, £10 A Rutledge – 135, £10 C Salt – 155, £10 T Green – 147, £10 C McHugh – 28, £10 J Peck – 153, £10 D Greatbatch – 35.

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

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. Below are the times and venues: (Looking two weeks ahead) including the schedule of Masses for St Austin's.

St Anne's Roof Appeal (Update)



The remedial work has now been completed so we wait in heightened anticipation for a downpour that will test it out! I am appealing for any donations St Anne's community can donate to this work; my humble appreciation to those who have already given so generously over the last few weeks; we are gradually on our way - looking at a sum approaching £10,000. (We are nearly 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.



Do not forget to turn clocks and watches BACK 1 hour this weekend.

Next Weekend our second collection will be for the Johnson Association.

MASSES

**SATURDAY 24th October 1:00pm St Patrick's
6:30pm St Anne's**
**SUNDAY 25th October 8:00am St Patrick's
9:30am St Anne's**
MONDAY 26th October 9:30am St Anne's
TUESDAY (No Mass at St Patrick's-Tarmacking)
THURSDAY 29th October 6:30pm St Patrick's
FRIDAY 30th October 6:30pm St Anne's

FOLLOWING WEEK:

**SATURDAY 31st October 1:00pm St Patrick's
6:30pm St Anne's**
**SUNDAY 1st November 8:00am St Patrick's
9:30am St Anne's**
MONDAY 2nd November 9:30am St Anne's
TUESDAY 3rd November 9:30am St Patrick's
THURSDAY 5th November 6:30pm St Patrick's
FRIDAY 6th November 6:30pm St Anne's

St Austin's Parish [Masses]

SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 11:00am
WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER 7:00pm
FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER 7:00pm
SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 5:00pm

(FOLLOWING WEEK)

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 11:00am
WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 7:00pm
FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 7:00pm
SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 5:00pm
[St Austin's will be streaming Masses on the other days also.]

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) 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. 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.. 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.

Harvest Time Collection for CAFOD St Anne's £220.71 St Patrick's £165.70 Thank You.

MISSIO: 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.

St Patrick's and St Anne's each have a QR CODE displayed for church goers to scan if you have downloaded the NHS Covid-19 APP. It might help 'speed things up' as queues can develop on entry through the porches as you provide contact details. We will make sure there are sufficient codes on the doors and walls. Many thanks.

TARMACKING St Patrick's: Beginning THIS Monday 26th October the whole of the lower end of St Patrick's driveway (from the gates to the pavement) will be re-tarmacked. I have been assured that there should be minimum disruption, and that pedestrians obviously should be able to pass while the work is undertaken. However, vehicles should not be driven over the new surface for a day after completion so it would be best not to have Mass on Tuesday 27th. Apologies for this disruption but the result will prove worthwhile.

HOMILY FOR THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

'Love makes the world go round' as the saying goes. But, love is cheap, isn't it? Or is it? I don't think there's another word in our language which has been used to express so many different moods, attitudes and emotions towards things, people and experiences. Love's a word that can be a sign of incredible depth of meaning but also a sign of trivia and shallowness. From "I love God" to "I love chocolate". In human life LOVE seems to be on so many different levels and, for us Christians, it's so important that even our previous Pope, Benedict, a few years ago, wrote about it for his very first encyclical in the very year he was elected fifteen years ago in 2005. Some of you may have read it. Its title is simply: "GOD IS LOVE". If any of you haven't read it I'd recommend it. It's only a small book of 80 odd pages but basically sums up what love truly means for human life. Benedict talks about the different forms of 'love'; from EROS (the natural love between man and woman) to AGAPE which represents love purified to its extreme. In other words, our love of God.

Love separates us from the animals, because whatever we might call the attraction a dog has for another it isn't love. In fact we could never love unless God loved us first. The very fact that we're able to love each other is totally dependent on God's love for us. I think most of us would agree that if a child is brought up in an environment where no love is given or shown, then they'll find it nigh on impossible to show love to others. You may remember those dreadful scenes shown in Eastern European orphanage some decades ago, where very young children were left on their own in cots in bare rooms. Their vacant faces and 'rocking motions' showed a terrible absence of human contact and affection. Our self-image and self-worth are so vital if we are to be able to value other human beings as God's creatures; -- human beings that He has in fact loved into creation.

For the people of the Old Testament times love was never trivial, and certainly not constrained to the feelings or emotions. Love involved the whole person and total commitment. Love was, and should be for us, the expression of how we live our lives. It may not sound like it at first reading but the piece from Exodus today is a wonderful lesson on love. It comes not long after the Israelites have been rescued from Egypt and are looked after in the desert. The Ten Commandments have just been given by God and He's now 'filling in' some of the details about how they should treat each other. The amazing thing is when we read these verses how potentially barbaric these 'chosen' people must have been. What sort of people would want to be harsh with widows and orphans in the first place? And, who'd take advantage of poor, downtrodden people with no rights? -- From what we've said, only those who have never been given or shown love.

The Lord is reminding His people, through Moses, that they've been rescued from slavery, saved in the desert and been promised their own land. This, surely, must be an act of Love 'Par excellence'. So, how are the Israelites to respond to this love? By loving and respecting others since these others are also God's children. They who are loved will learn how to love.

So, how do we see ourselves at the bottom of God's mountain? Do we see ourselves as unworthy of ever being at the top? So unworthy, in fact, that we try to hold back and pull down those we see climbing. If we're going to be able to climb the mountain we'll need to travel light; to leave behind the 'baggage' of hurts and emotional beatings of our younger lives. But are we willing to climb together, helping each other on the steep, rocky path. Because when we know we're loved we also know we're worthy of reaching the mountain top, even if we have to be carried by others.