

Sunday 26th July 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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Email: stannestpatrick.stafford@gmail.com

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	25 th	6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	(50 spaces max) Colin Wilkinson RIP & Peggy Toner RIP
Sun	26 th	9:30am 11:15am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Seventeenth Sunday of the Year	“ “ People of the Parish The Kendrick Family Intentions
Mon	27 th	10:00am	St Anne's	Communion Service Blessed Robert Sutton	Memoria
Tue	28 th	No Mass	St Patrick's		Feria
Wed	29 th	No Mass		St Martha	Memoria
Thu	30 th	No Mass	St Patrick's		Feria
Fri	31 st	10:00am	St Anne's	Communion Service St Ignatius of Loyola	Memoria
Sat	1 st	6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	“ “ Shaun Gilbride RIP
Sun	2 nd	9:30am 11:15am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Eighteenth Sunday of Year	“ “ Patty Tiernan RIP “ “ People of the Parish

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM By Appointment

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's] Wladyslawa Halberda, Barbara Astley, Kathleen Cochlin, Bartholomew Tivenan, Larry Mooney, Mary Daghall, Elizabeth Millward, Delia Ferrie, Edward Hagan, Ian Banks, Charles Faulkner, Patrick Bourke, Mary Eccles, Catherine Boulton, Hugh Murphy, Tom Milsom [St. Anne's] Frederick Miller, Mary Purcell, Ann Stanyer, Peter White, Reg Densem, Emma Lake.

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 29 th March	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory		£	£	£	
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£	£	£	£	

ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA

Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987

Email: office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk

ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Marston Road, ST16 3BT

Telephone: 01785 413275

Email: office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk

Parish Tote 150 Club April 2020 Drawn on 23rd July £100 K Johnson – 70, £50 Carmel/Mary – 152, £20 Kitty Daly – 5, £10 A Russell – 52, £10 G Thickett – 149, £10 F Russell – 127, £10 J Palmer – 145, £10 M Porter – 40. Thank you for your support. Numbers are available at only £4 per number per month.

***Please note that those who would like to pay their subscriptions to the 150 Club by STANDING ORDER can let Fr Bob know and he will pass on the name to Mary Owen. It would help immensely during this time. Many thanks**

St Patricks: Just to say that St Patrick's School has very recently colourfully remarked and smartened its playground, so when parking for Sunday Mass please keep to where the original parking spaces would have been and ignore new white lines painted on the playground. Thanks

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/FAOS/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

*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. 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. E.g. because I had planned a few days break in late July and mid-August, the days of Mass will alter. Below are the times and venues: (Looking two weeks ahead) You will notice that I have included the schedule of Masses for St Austin's which perhaps also reflects the way we need to think in terms of the future.

No Masses until:

SATURDAY 1st August 6:00pm St Anne's

SUNDAY 2nd August 9:30am St Patrick's

2nd August 11:15am St Anne's

But, please note:

**MONDAY 27th JULY 10am St Anne's:
Communion Service**

**FRIDAY 31st JULY 10am St Anne's:
Communion Service**

FOLLOWING WEEK

MONDAY 3rd August 9:30am St Anne's

St Austin's Parish [Masses]

SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST 10:30am

WEDNESDAY 5TH AUGUST 7:00pm

FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST 7:00pm

(FOLLOWING WEEK)

SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST 10:30am

WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST 7:00pm

FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST 7:00pm

TUESDAY 4th August 9:30am St Patrick's
WEDNESDAY (No Mass)
THURSDAY 6th August 6:30pm St Patrick's
FRIDAY 7th August 6:30pm St Annes'
SATURDAY 8th August 6:00pm St Anne's
SUNDAY 9th August 9:30am St Patrick's
11:15am St Anne's

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. There will be no bidding prayers and no offertory procession, and 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. But worry not if this all sounds daunting and strange because once you are seated comfortably in the Mass of your choice I shall, with the help of the stewards we have already, explain exactly how Mass will unfold and how we will all benefit from the experience. 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 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

It's often said about many of us that we know the price of everything, but the value of nothing. It can be true, can't it? You do sometimes meet people in conversation who constantly go on about price: "How much did you pay for that?" "How much did that set you back?" "What's that worth?" "You were done" and so on. And you realise there's something missing in their lives. There's a story that God had a secret treasure He wanted to give to His people, so He gave it to the angels to take to earth and hide it so that we'd have to search for it before being overjoyed on finding it. The angels asked God: "Shall we hide it on the mountains?" and God replied: "No, because only the healthiest would be able to climb it and the weakest would fail." Then the angels asked God: "Should we put it on the furthest shores of the ocean?" "No" God said, "because only the rich could afford to travel so far and the poor wouldn't have a

chance.” Finally, the angels asked God: “Where shall we put it then?” “Put it within reach of everyone – rich, poor, healthy or weak – put the treasure in the centre of their beings – hide it in their hearts.”

VALUE points to something deep within us – something like an ultimate authority that shows us what really counts in our lives. Prices are labels and tags placed on the outside and on the surface of things. And, let’s face it; prices go up and down, don’t they? In worldly terms anything is only worth what someone, somewhere is willing to pay for it. The most expensive house in the most expensive area would be worth nothing if lethal doses of radiation were discovered from the ground below. There’s a phrase we’ve all heard of: Heard the phrase “As safe as the Bank of England”? – Well all bets are off now after recent years.

Jesus’ whole mission to us (as related in Matthew’s Gospel) was to lead us into our CORE – to help us find that treasure within ourselves and, as we’ve mentioned before, explaining the Kingdom of God isn’t straightforward. Our normal ways of looking at things – the world, us, why we exist and so on, are just not up to it. Jesus knows this and that’s why He talks in parables. And it’s the parables that are understood best by people who are open and yearning for something better – in other words, the true Kingdom of God. You see, Matthew was writing his Gospel for the church of his time and he had a powerful message for it. These parables were really showing up the opposition to Jesus and were going to help followers of Christ everywhere to cope with all the persecution we might experience. Let’s face it; we could be fairly disillusioned by what’s thrown at us, in terms of opposition, in our time today. Whether it’s the media constantly focusing on scandals and divisions in the Church, or the subtle attacks on Christianity and traditional values, we probably feel more and more side-lined. So what keeps us going?

The Gospel of the Kingdom isn’t some pleasant religious idea we might wish to explore when we’ve got a bit of time. The coming of Jesus has begun the final age – the final judgement. And we’re able to make that journey to the kingdom, in this world, by doing what Solomon did in the first reading. He asked the Lord for WISDOM – not power or wealth or victory over enemies. And wisdom means essentially holding things in balance – to live with opposites on earth but recognising where the real treasure can be found. As Jesus says, the kingdom draws in the net full of all sorts of things – truly CATHOLIC – truly universal. The dragnet isn’t sorted out while the boat’s still at sea. We, ourselves, are rooted in the old but we’re ‘giving birth’ to the new. We’re bearing that Kingdom within us, at our heart and if our hearts no longer hold together, our lives threaten to fall apart. Yes, we’re God’s kingdom and we seem like a dragnet full of a whole assortment of odd humanity, but, and importantly, we’re also a pearl and treasure beyond price.