

Sunday 27th February 2022

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

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

ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA Telephone: 01785 663128 Fax: 01785 662987 Email: office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk Principal: Mr. M. Killeen	ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL Marston Road, ST16 3BT Telephone: 01785 413275 Email: office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk Principal: Mr. M. Brandon
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TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

The Eighth Sunday of the Year

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	26 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Bob & Damian RIP & Marie & Laurie Hawkins
		6:00pm		Vigil	Teresa Walsh RIP (Ann)
Sun	27 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	The Eighth Sunday of the Year	Mgr. John Heslin RIP
		10:00am	St Anne's		Anne Harvey RIP
Mon	28 th	NO MASS	St Anne's		Feria
Tue	1 st	9:30am	St Patrick's	St David	Feast Jetlin Jacob (Thanksgiving)
Wed	2 nd	9:30am 9:30am 7:00pm	St Anne's St Patrick's St Anne's	Ash Wednesday	Celebrant's Intention Mary Bamber RIP Jane Rose (Ann)
Thu	3 rd	9:15am	St Patrick's	Thursday After Ash Wednesday	Mgr John Heslin RIP
Fri	4 th	9.15am	St Anne's	Friday After Ash Wednesday	Mgr John Heslin RIP
Sat	5 th	4:00 pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Robert Wilson RIP
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	People of the Parish
Sun	6 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	The First Sunday of Lent	McHugh & Middleton Families
		10:00am	St Anne's		Marie Devaney (Ann)

Prayers for the sick: St Patrick's: Phylis Bowers, Susan Prince, Tim Tiernan, Gregory McKinlay, Linda Reavy, Martha Porter, Cecylia Kotara, Rebecca Kilkenny. St Anne's: Patricia Walters, Thomas McCormick, Mary Terry, Bernard Lundberg, Walter Rogers, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Colin Wise, Hal Lindop, Andrea Hulse, Winifred Meehan, Ian Burnside, Pat McDonnell, Georgina Copp.

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's] Patrick Donnelly, Michael Merino, Brigid Crilly, Walter Hagun, Sarah Godwin, Alexander Kawinski, Agnes Tunnicliffe, Elizabeth Walsh, Arthur Wood, Clare Malpass, Lucy Dillon, Philip Bates, Agnes Paish, Reginald Gould, Catherine Wood, Joanna Cooke and Kathleen Edwards. [St Anne's] Kay Gaynor, Bert Duckworth, John Hogan, Reginald Makin, Anne Davies, Jane Shackle, Monica Willmoth, Arthur Clarke, Gwenda Fenton, Ada Harrison and Lorraine Nicholls.

Income 20/2/22	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£75.00	£128.10	£391.45	£594.55	Sat44 Sun 72
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£97.60	£87.50	£149.69	£334.79	Sat51 Sun 54

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 winners of draw on 22nd February 2022

£100 B Awty -121, £50 J Antony - 73, £20 S Freckleton - 60, £10 J Croxall - 47, £10 R Fletcher - 88, £10 M Porter - 40, £10 W Meehan - 54, £10 M Badger - 53, £10 M&S Henthorne - 89, A Russell - 52, £10 R Ayirebi - 4, £10 B Farley -131, £10 C Salt - 155.

Thank you for your support. Numbers are available at £4 per number per month. Further details from Marie on 01785 661012.

Gift Aid 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. Those who use gift aid envelopes will find new ones for this financial year, labelled and numbered at the back of each church. Switching your giving via Standing Order mandate would be a great help also. 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*** Expenses (maintenance, consumables, utilities and fabric upkeep, not to mention health and safety) are ongoing. Very many thanks

St Anne's and St Patrick's Church maintenance: Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously. Upcoming tasks include remedial H&S work required for making St Patrick's old boiler house safe. **Important remedial work is also needed on St Patrick's upper front roof.** My grateful thanks for any donations. Fr. Bob

Sacrament of Reconciliation: If notice is given, or at convenient times, before or after Mass, we priests of Catholic Stafford will be hearing confessions as usual. Fr. Bob

Drop in at St Anne's on Wednesday mornings: All are welcome (from around 10:25am) in St Anne's Church Hall.

The recent "Bishops' Statement: Honouring Sunday" is published. Given that there remains a degree of caution within society, our bishops are nevertheless fundamentally asking us to consider the central importance of the meaning of Mass and the central place that Sunday -- the Eighth Day / Resurrection Day has in our Catholic Faith. So, although the obligation to attend Sunday Mass may not yet have been re-imposed, we are asked seriously about our priorities for Sunday, this special and unique day for us. Giving serious consideration as to where we place Mass attendance in the hierarchy of other Sunday activities, whether sporting, leisure, entertainment, shopping and so on should impact on the coming synodal experience and our Diocesan Vision: "Behold I am making all things new."

Our Deceased: Please remember in your prayers **Mgr. John Heslin.** Mgr. John had been Parish Priest of **St Patrick's** for 24 years and served as Prison Chaplain to Stafford Prison, before retiring in 2000. *May he rest in peace and rise in glory.* **Mgr. Heslin's** Requiem Mass will be held at **Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Saltburn by the Sea** on this **Monday 28th February** at **11:30am**

SECOND COLLECTION:

Up-coming Second Collections: First Sunday in Lent 5th/6th March Cathedral Maintenance
Second Sunday in Lent 12th/13th March CAFOD Lent Fast Day

St Anne's Choir: Do you like to sing? We would love you to come and see if it would interest you to be "one in the Spirit" here @ St Anne's. Our very small choir could do with a "little support" to be "one in the Lord". Male and female voices provide such harmony. Do come along to our meeting in church 7pm Tuesday. You will be most welcome.

St Patrick's Music: May I ask for volunteers who attend regular Mass at St Patrick's (Sat or Sun) to operate our phone/Bluetooth system so that our parish may once more sing hymns at Mass. It would be great to have a team taking care of this. I thank the two who have volunteered already, so if others could come forward and begin to form a rota it would be great. I will explain it all. Just phone/email Fr. Bob. With gratitude.

LENT: LOOK OUT FOR OUR 'COMBINED' PARISHES' PROGRAMME FOR THE LENTEN PERIOD; IT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FROM THIS WEEKEND. A SIX WEEK PROGRAMME OF REFLECTIONS THROUGH THE AID OF DVD'S, CD'S, SPECIAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS, AND A 'THREE PARISHES PENITENTIAL SERVICE' WILL ALLOW US TO FULLY ENTER INTO THIS KEY MOMENT IN OUR CHURCH'S LIFE.

Parishioners of both St Anne's and St Patrick's are now encouraged to use our alternative email account which is: stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk (Also at the top of the bulletin)

CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY: SUPPORTING THE DIOCESAN VISION

'Cursillo' began in Spain in the 1940's, a name simply meaning 'a short course.' It has become a world-wide, tried and tested method of adult faith development. It is a way of making our discipleship effective and furthering the mission of the Church. The movement has papal approval and the support of our Archbishop. You are invited to discover Cursillo at two exciting events taking place in the next few weeks and months in our Archdiocese. If you would like to be involved in either or both of these events, and for further information, please contact: Canon Michael Leadbeater at canon.michael.leadbeater@rcaob.org.uk

3-Day Cursillo Weekend from Thursday 24th March (evening) to Sunday 27th March (afternoon). This will be held at Shallowford House, near Stafford. Experience community, formation and prayer with a warm and friendly welcome!

What's New?

Covid-19 update

Dear parishioners, we are, as we have recently heard, now free of legal restrictions from last Thursday 24th, concerning the pandemic virus.

For Acts of Worship, the main mitigation against serious health issues arising from covid infection is to be fully vaccinated. The latest strain, Omicron, has mild symptoms. Those attending an act of worship **may** continue to wear a face covering (but not compulsory) whilst in the church building, but there is no need for formal social distancing in church buildings.

Evidence indicates that transmission from surfaces (touch transmission) is now minimal and so the use of

hymn books, missals and other worship aids can be resumed with immediate effect.



Whilst it is still good practice to sanitise hands on entry and exit of churches, there is no need for readers (or other ministers) to sanitise their hands before reading or performing other ministries in the church, except those helping distributing Holy Communion. The Sign of Peace may be offered again if felt appropriate. Congregational singing may continue.

Parish Social Activities can resume (if they have been suspended). It is recommended that the normal Health and Safety risk assessment for the activity is reviewed for these types of gatherings.

Whilst this reduction of restrictions brings about a more normal way of living, the Covid-19 virus is still in circulation, and this should be in the mind of those participating in the life of the Church as time goes forward, but recognition needs to be given to balance of accepting the need to live with the virus.

So, bearing in mind the above, I would like to ask both parishes to consider resuming these important aspects of parish life:

Altar Servers returning to the sanctuary (Both St Patrick's and St Anne's) [This can happen now]

Refreshments after Sunday Mass

Expanding our teams of readers

Reconstituting our parishes' social team for organising future events

Forming a parish 'Liturgy Team' to help priest in organising principal calendar celebrations such as Easter etc.

Building up our choir and musicians for regular liturgy. [This can start happening now]

Stafford Walsingham Association

For many years the Stafford Walsingham Association arranged a yearly pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Now restrictions have been lifted, we are hoping to revive this in 2022 and invite anyone in our three parishes to become a member. Every third Saturday, a Votive Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham will be held. We hope to begin this from May. During the Mass, we shall offer the Litany of OLW, praying that Our Lady will, as the prayer says, *'look down in mercy upon England thy Dowry and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee.'* As membership of the Association is open to anyone within our three parishes, the Mass will alternate between the three churches. If you would like to be a member of the Walsingham Association, please fill in one of the forms at the back of church and return it to the Presbytery.

North Staffs Vocations Promotions Group (Chalice Programme):

You are most welcome to join us as we all come together to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. The following will be held at The Church of the Immaculate Conception and St Dominic, Station Road, Stone ST15 8YG:

Holy Hour for Vocations led by Fr. Marco Egawhary, Thursday March 3rd, 7:00pm

Holy Mass for Vocations Celebrated by FrGerard Doyle, Friday March 4th, 6:00pm

Holy Mass for Vocations Celebrated by Fr. Marco Egawhary, Thursday March 31st, 6:00pm

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, 4th MARCH 2022 – I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU World Day of Prayer is the largest lay-led ecumenical organisation that enables women all over the world to share the ideas and concerns affecting all people. More details are available on the World Day of Prayer website: 2022 Theme and Country EJNI – World Day of Prayer (wwdp.org.uk). Alternatively, the Catholic representative for World Day of Prayer, Suzanne O'Malley, can be contacted at westport1928@gmail.com

24 Hours For the Lord Devotion and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction and opportunity for Confession, will be available in the twenty-four hours between noon midday on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th March. This is the 24 hours immediately prior to the Fourth Sunday of Lent. (The times and venues will be advertised to all parishes in due course.)