

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 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](http://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](http://www.stpatricksstafford.co.uk)

Email: [stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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**

<b>ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> Lynton Avenue, ST17 0EA Telephone: 01785 663128 Fa x: 01785 662987 Email: <a href="mailto:office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk">office@st-annes-weepingcross.staffs.sch.uk</a> Principal: Mr. M. Killeen	<b>ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> Marston Road, ST16 3BT Telephone: 01785 413275 Email: <a href="mailto:office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk">office@st-patricks-stafford.staffs.sch.uk</a> Principal: Mr. M. Brandon
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### **TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK**

#### **Thirteenth Sunday of the Year**

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	26 <sup>th</sup>	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Joan McKinlay(Birthday) & J. Jacob (in Thanksgiving)
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	People of the Parish
Sun	27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	St Patrick's	<b>Thirteenth Sunday of the Year</b>	Eleanor O'Sullivan RIP
		10:00am	St Anne's		Madge & Joe Fox RIP
Mon	28 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Anne's	St Irenaeus	Memoria Colin Wilkinson RIP
Tue	29 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St Patrick's	<b>Ss Peter &amp; Paul</b>	Solemnity Wellbeing Mgr. John Heslin
		9:30am	St Anne's		John Devaney RIP
		7:00pm	St Anne's		Private Intention
Wed	30 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass	St Anne's		Feria
Thu	1 <sup>st</sup>	6:30pm	St Patrick's		Feria Patty Tiernan RIP
Fri	2 <sup>nd</sup>	6:30pm	St Anne's		Feria Fr. David Catterall
Sat	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Private Intention
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Gwenda Fenton RIP (Ann.)
Sun	4 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	St Patrick's	<b>Fourteenth Sunday of the Year</b>	People of the Parish
		10:00am	St Anne's		Bridget & Eddie McAweeney

**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, Rebecca Kilkenny. 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]* Hilda Blamire, Kath Sanford, Ellan Nolan, Kenneth Ward, John O'Donnell, Francis Targett, Louise Gibbons, Ellen O'Donnell, Mary O'Hagan and Kathleen Read. *[St Anne's.]* Joseph Fleming, Robert Hogan, Alice Williams, Colin Wilkinson, Vera Bradshaw, Annie Lidick, Frances Williams and Tony McNulty.

Income 20/6/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£55.00	£338.02	£283.84	£676.86	Sat 58 Sun 55
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£127.00	£59.25	£146.23	£332.48	Sat 33 Sun 68

*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](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

### **Parish Tote 150 Club June 2021**

£100 S Hird – 133, £50 Mrs Freeman – 7, £20 A Reck – 25, £10 A Russell – 52, £10 L Porter – 6, £10 S Farley – 124, £10 S Keenan – 1, £10 F Russell – 23, £10 A Rutledge – 135, £10 C Salt – 155, £10 J Pettit – 97, £10 Fr Bob - 72

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

***Gift Aid*** At this critical time, 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. 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:** At present all Masses celebrated at St Anne's are web streamed. (Our grateful thanks to Peter) [Please go to the front web page and click on Mass Live at the top and you should be able to follow the Mass]. **Fr. Bob**

**Places of Worship are open for Mass**, but we were reminded of the need and importance for us all to be extra careful and diligent with social distancing and hygiene. All our parishes have been grateful for the help and dedication of our stewards/ cleaners, ensuring that all guidelines are followed and that we can safely celebrate Mass.

**Dates to Note:** **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** will take place on this Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June for St Patrick's (Yrs 3 & 4) [Please remember the children in your prayers] and on next Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July for St Anne's (Yrs 3 & 4)  
**MASS TO COMMEMORATE THE LOCAL MARTYR, BLESSED ROBERT SUTTON:** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 11:00am at St Thomas Mill.

**Second Collection:** Please note that there will be a second collection **this weekend 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> June** for 'Peter's Pence' Last weekend's collection for Day for Life St Anne's £129.13 St Patrick's £17.00 Thank You.

**The Year of St Joseph.** For the remainder of the year we shall be honouring St Joseph (as this is the Year of St Joseph, initiated by Pope Francis). In St Anne's and St Patrick's churches the statue of St Joseph is prominent and the special St Joseph's 'Memorare' and prayer will be said at the start of each Mass.

**St Anne's Church maintenance:** **The remedial work to the lower roof was completed last year.** Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously. Upcoming tasks this year include **decorating the interior of the Hall** this summer and **comprehensive remedial tree surgery** to satisfy Health and Safety. Please accept my grateful thanks for any donations. **F. Bob**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** [Easter Duties and Confession at this time]. Please be assured that the Church's communication on this is still valid from the beginning of last year's lockdown, and that provided we are fully contrite in our hearts, we can confess our sins to the Lord within our own 'private prayer space'. According to the teaching of the Church, the present ongoing situation would not warrant the 'Rite of General Absolution'. If notice is given, and at convenient times, before or after Mass, I have been hearing confessions and this will continue. God Bless. **Fr. Bob**

**Gift Aid Envelopes:** Please be aware that the new 2021/22 GA boxes are available at the back of each parish church. They are numbered and named and began on 11<sup>th</sup> April (many thanks to Margaret [SP] and Mark [SA] for preparing these). They are ready for collection. If anyone would like more information concerning this method of giving (or, indeed, concerning donation by Standing Order) please see Fr. Bob

**Visits to the sick and housebound** are now possible if parishioners feel comfortable for them to happen. If you know of anyone (St Patrick's or St Anne's) who might like to receive the Sacraments at home, please do speak to Fr. Bob

**Career Vacancy:** The Archdiocese has a vacancy for a **DATA COMPLIANCE MANAGER** (full-time). If anyone is interested in such a post please view the letter on the noticeboard at the back of each of the churches. For a full job description about this role please contact [Gerry.dryden@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:Gerry.dryden@rcaob.org.uk) or [clare.obrien@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:clare.obrien@rcaob.org.uk)

**Diocesan Vision:** “Unfolding God’s Plan”. The Diocesan Evangelisation Team are inviting parishes to host **‘Something Greater’** which takes place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July. This event will help parishes extend a hand of friendship to their local community. This online gathering will include a welcome, a short film and a personal invitation to come to church. A pack is being created which will have everything we need to host **‘Something Greater’**. It will include a step-by-step guide and different ways for parishes to reach out to invite their community and ideas on how we may extend a personal invitation to church. If any parishioners are interested in coming together to form a group who would help lead this then the Evangelisation sub group would be pleased to make contact. They can be contacted at: [something.greater@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:something.greater@rcaob.org.uk) More information on the Diocesan Vision will be released in June. We are all asked to pray for this event and also encouraged to think how we might begin to reach out to:

- (1) *Those who have lost the habit of coming to church and who may be anxious about doing so.*
- (2) *Those who may not want to re-establish a pattern of Catholic worship – who may have seen a gap widen between the spiritual dimension of their lives and communal expression of that spiritual quest.*
- (3) *Those ‘Covid curious’ who may have encountered the Catholic Church for the first time during the pandemic.*

**Candle Lighting day:** Unfortunately, due to the and the delay of their lifting until 19<sup>th</sup> July, our ‘Open Please keep your eye on the newsletter for further



ongoing Covid restrictions announced on Monday Church’ day has been postponed for a few weeks. information.

### **HOMILY THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF YEAR**

It can’t have escaped our attention, these days, that a common refrain from certain ‘quarters’ is that “we are destroying our world – we’re ruining creation”. Have any of us not heard something like this in recent times? I’m pretty sure we have. Well, actually, only one part of that refrain is true. Yes, as a human race, we could certainly be guilty of ‘ruining’ or spoiling, or defacing, or even making a horrible mess of. But we need to be careful how we use the term ‘destroy’; especially if we’re thinking in terms of annihilation. And this is because we know through faith that only God creates from nothing and only God can annihilate to ‘nothing’. Very important, this notion. Often we attribute to ourselves, as a human race, more power than we actually possess, and this can lead us into all sorts of socio-political, apocalyptic ways of thinking (just think of the movements that are rearing their heads now).

There’s good reason for us to hold all these thoughts in focus these days because we need to see our faith as the ‘guiding star’ for our lives on earth. After all, it’s our faith that gives all of us life, hope and the promise that all will be well; all will be rehabilitated. Read the first chapter of Genesis: “God saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good”. (Chapter 1, verse 31) So, the whole of creation is essentially very good and this will never change. When humanity was banished from Eden, the paradise of Eden wasn’t destroyed. It would have still existed, but it was utterly impossible for us to find our way back to it. Only God, through His divine plan and providence, would and could re-establish us, heal us, forgive us and bring us back to our true home. The short reading from Wisdom we have just heard is so powerful in its statement of fact and intent, isn’t it. ‘God takes no pleasure in the extinction of the living....the world’s created things have health in them.’ And, what a Gospel reading we have from Mark, today, to back up God’s promise of being with us always; of making all things right, of healing and bringing us back to wholeness.

Mark’s Gospel demonstrates the awesome power of God through the sheer pain, sickness and death of the people pressing around Jesus. Notice here how God has, through His Son, entered right into the crowded desperate mess of those longing for escape. Like all of us in every generation, they are longing for hope of something better, and Jesus is the one, there in the midst of them, who channels the Father’s creative power in changing our ruined, spoiled and mortal existence into a healed, forgiven and life-filled reality that gives us a glimpse of immortality. And ‘touch’ is so important for Mark’s homely story telling style, isn’t it. He invites us into that sort of meditation where we develop awareness of our bodily feelings as the place to genuinely meet God. Here in Mark, God is meeting us within chaos, confusion and horrible despairing mess of our spoiled, ruined, but never destroyed, world. And it’s not destroyed because God takes dust, debris and waste and forever recreates it into something beautiful.

**Let's put ourselves in the place of the woman with the haemorrhage and feel the emotions involved. We feel the need to draw closer to Jesus, after twelve years of our life we have wasted energy – just touching His garment is our only hope of cure. Then we suddenly feel healed and cleansed – all pain is gone and we would love to remain anonymous. But Jesus seeks us out, doesn't He, because He wants to know us individually, when His gaze drives out our fear. Jesus sees into us and behind us; today, yesterday and tomorrow. This is when we know we are understood, wanted and loved. And finally we know that we have here a God who is part of the human world and concerned about it. No matter how we might spoil or ruin our earthly 'home', the Lord can overcome whatever threatens it, whether ill health, destitution or death. The world is in His hands.**