



Holy Week

Sunday 28th March 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

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

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	27 th	4:00pm 6:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil	People of the Parish Geoffrey Green RIP
Sun	28 th	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	Philomena McCarron RIP Michael Collins RIP
Mon	29 th	9:30am	St Anne's	Monday of Holy Week	Anne Wilks RIP
Tue	30 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Tuesday of Holy Week	Sharon Delaney RIP
Wed	31 st	No Mass		Wednesday of Holy Week	
Thu	1 st	7:30pm 7:30pm	St Anne's & St Patrick's	Thursday of Holy Week Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	People of the Parish Tony Sullivan
Fri	2 nd	3:00pm 3:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	St Anne's & St Patrick's St Anne's & St Patrick's	Good Friday Liturgy Good Friday Liturgy Stations of the Cross & Veneration Stations of the Cross & Veneration	
Sat	3 rd	8:00pm 8:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Easter Vigil Mass Easter Vigil Mass	Fr. Oliver Kemp RIP Manus Mc Dermott RIP
Sun	4 th	9:00am 10:am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Easter Sunday (The Resurrection of the Lord)	Christine Halton RIP David Harwar 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] Frederick Cull, Catherine Owens, Timothy Vella, Mrs Morgan, Fr Thomas Cockburn, Mary McGrath, James Bratt, Mary Daly, Daniel Sullivan, James Emery. Eileen Murphy, Annie Wilde, Rose Mann, Joseph Parton and Margaret McDonald.

[St Anne's] Michael Collins, Robert Hunt, Annie Shelly, Sarah McHugh, Betty Cunningham, Jack Bilton, Amy Geoghegan, John Helks, Eva Brown, Elizabeth Loran and Sidney Stanyer.

Income 21/3/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£55.00	£83.00	£283.84	£421.84	Sat 41 Sun 40
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£61.00	£68.86	£146.23	£276.09	Sat 36 Sun 40

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

Thank you for your continued support for 2021. Numbers are still 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 still able to remain open, 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.

Our Deceased: Please remember in your prayers **Fr. Michael Crumpton** (retired priest of St Mary & St Modwen, Burton) who died recently. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

St Anne's Church Roof: The remedial work to the lower roof was completed last year. Much appreciation to those who have already given so generously; we are gradually on our way – over £6,000 has been raised so far. This year we plan to try to remedy any ongoing problems to the upper roof. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. F.Bob

Sacrament of Reconciliation: A number of parishioners have asked about 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

Holy Thursday Gifts: (In each of our three churches) **On Maundy Thursday** or at any time over the Triduum, in the spirit of sharing we invite you to bring an appropriate food item for Christian Food Help and Brushstrokes. These can be left at the back of the churches (but in the Presbytery Porch in St Anne's)

Good Friday: As is traditional, a collection towards the **upkeep of the Holy Places** will be welcome. In order to make this easier, large bins will be strategically placed near the entrances to St Anne's and St Patrick's.

Next Weekend there is the traditional Second Collection for the Easter Offerings for the parish clergy.

There are a few spaces still available for the Easter liturgies in all three churches. We thank those who have phoned already to book. The booking system will be available on **Monday and Tuesday between 5pm – 7pm in Holy Week.**

All our church's will be open 30 minutes before each Mass begins and we would encourage people attending to arrive early. When you arrive, you will be asked for your name or contact number, so there will be no need to use the track and trace app.

An Order of Service has been printed for each liturgy of the Triduum. Following the guidance that we received and the changes that needed to be made, we felt this an easier way for us all to attend and pray through the Triduum, rather than

there having to be announcements made. This means that your own Missals and Magnificat books won't have the necessary changes. Please take these sheets home with you.

If you have booked and are unable to attend, please do let us know as we may be able to give the seats to other people.

If people decide to attend the liturgies and haven't booked, you will be asked to wait until those who have booked have arrived and the stewards can see what seats, if any, are available.

If in the coming days you or any of your family members begin to show or feel any of the symptoms related to the virus, we would kindly ask you not to attend the Easter liturgies.

Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm on Good Friday evening has plenty of seats available in all three churches.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2021

It is good news that our churches are able to be open, and that we can gather together to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of the Lord's Death and Resurrection.

We are reminded that the need to ensure social distancing and good practice in hygiene is still of great importance to us all.

Because of the capacity within the three churches, we can allow the Triduum to be celebrated fully in each church. Timings of the Triduum liturgies in the three churches are as follows:

Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday	3.00pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross and Veneration *
Holy Saturday	8.00pm	Vigil and First Mass of Easter

** This liturgy has been added particularly for those who are unable to attend the 3.00pm service due to work commitments during the day.*

Easter Sunday Masses will be at the usual Sunday Mass times. Please note there is only one Vigil Mass at 8.00pm on the Saturday evening in each church. We are asking people to attend the Triduum in one church, rather than swapping and changing between venues.

We are using the same booking system, as we had in place for Christmas. The number to use if you would like to book spaces for the Easter liturgies is **07856 918465**. Please only call to book seats between **5.00pm and 7.00pm, Monday – Friday**. To avoid lost bookings, **please do not send requests via text message or leave voice mail messages**. When you call you will be asked which church, and which of the liturgies you would like to attend.

Following the instructions given in the *Church Guidance*, there will be a few changes in how we celebrate the liturgies. There will be no Washing of the Feet or Altar of Repose on Maundy Thursday and no individual veneration of the Cross on Good Friday. Because of the changes, we are producing a simple Order of Service for each liturgy enabling us to pray through the liturgies without any unnecessary announcements or instructions. These changes will naturally bring a different feel to the liturgies, but let's remember that it is different for both the congregations and the priests who celebrate the Triduum this year. All of us, in this last year have experienced change and none of us, if we are honest, like change. It is often said that *'familiarity breeds contempt'* and with that in mind, let's see Easter 2021 as a new opportunity to enter into the Sacred Triduum in a fresh and new way.

[Canon Michael Fr Simon Fr Bob]



Don't forget to put clocks forward 1 hour this weekend

HOMILY FOR PALM SUNDAY

Life teaches us, doesn't it, that our greatest moments of disappointment happen when our levels of expectation are raised to the highest levels; to 'fever-pitch' almost. Then, the 'promise' is unfulfilled – we draw a blank and we know how 'let down' we feel, don't we? I'm sure we see this in children when their hopes are raised about a great event they're looking forward to or a present. I suppose as we reach adulthood we develop a self-defensive cynicism that whispers in our ear: "don't hold your breath". It prevents us from getting too excited and I suppose, what we don't really expect we're not going to miss if it never comes. These very human experiences haven't changed since the time of the Gospels and the Palm Sunday liturgy that we are immersed in today is no different. The Gospel during the blessing of palms sets the scene for the 'beginning of the end' so to speak. Jesus fully understands the path that His journey to Jerusalem is taking Him. He is the only one who fully understands the meaning and the divine reality of what is happening and what will unfold.

Everyone else in Jerusalem on that day failed to see the true meaning, including, as we painfully know, Jesus' disciples. The crowds cry: *"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.... Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming."* So, many must have thought that Jesus was the promised one who would free them – free them politically from the hated Roman occupying forces; carrying on the kingdom as in David's time. We know king David won many battles, and surely the promised Messiah would lead them to total victory. Oh, the disappointment! It just wasn't going to happen, was it. This was no 'warlord' recruiting and training a special army and waiting for the opportunity of challenging the Empire. Heightened expectations and promises dashed, we can imagine disappointment turning to frustration and then turning to anger. No wonder the Jewish authorities had no problem whipping up a vengeful crowd demanding crucifixion as we read in today's Passion.

And what about Jesus' closest followers, His disciples, the ones whose feet He washed, the ones for whom He calmed the storm, protected, stood up for and spoke for? Mark clearly doesn't spare them, does he. We see these chosen ones for what they are; tired, disillusioned and terrified. And, so unlike the evangelist John, Mark puts Jesus firmly in the victim role, totally at the mercy of events and people. And, although Mark has the simplest description of this painful story with little embellishment, it comes over as shocking and stark. Jesus is effectively utterly alone in that garden, overcome with horror, praying for another way, claiming that truth which He had already taught His disciples, that all things are possible to God. Jesus comes through a time of great struggle; three time repeating a prayer for rescue, and finally and eventually, He hears from the one He calls 'Abba', Father. And the answer is NO! Awesome, isn't it. We hear the story every year, but when we just ponder that Gethsemane scene it's shocking. Jesus is completely alone from our perspective and even His Father seems absent, but He emerges composed and in charge once more. We can only understand that divine relationship of Father and Son in Gethsemane by the mystery of abandonment. This is what it meant for Jesus to be, in a unique sense, God's Son. The very moment of greatest closeness -- Jesus' desperate prayer to His Father – is also the moment He hears the answer 'NO' and sets His path on the road to God-forsakenness on the Cross.

The disappointed who expected an earthly warrior Messiah failed to see that they needed a 'King of the Jews' who must stay on the Cross. This is His royal task and reign – it's what He's come to do. And we can only fall on our knees realising that Jesus drinks the full cup of God's wrath; sharing the depth of suffering that reflected the world's evil; that cut the Son off from the one He called 'Abba', His Father. At this moment the Gospel meets the world in the deepest point of the abyss, when God the Son is forsaken by God the Father.