

**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**

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

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Parish Mass Book Pg.281**

| Day | Date             | Mass Time          | Church       | Liturgical Day                            | Mass Intention                        |
|-----|------------------|--------------------|--------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Sat | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 4:00pm             | St Patrick's | Vigil                                     | Annie Carolyn RIP                     |
|     |                  | 6:00pm             | St Anne's    | Vigil                                     | People of the Parish                  |
| Sun | 29 <sup>th</sup> | 9:00am             | St Patrick's | <b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>           | Patrick Meegan's Well Being           |
|     |                  | 10:00am            | St Anne's    |   | Eamon Gormley RIP                     |
| Mon | 30 <sup>th</sup> | 9:30am             | St Anne's    | <b>The Solemnity of Dedication</b>        | Well Being of Julie Grantham          |
| Tue | 31 <sup>st</sup> | 9:30am             | St Patrick's | <b>The Visitation of the BVM</b>          | Feast Keith Price RIP                 |
| Wed | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 10:00am            | St Anne's    | Communion Service <b>St Justin Martyr</b> | Mem.                                  |
| Thu | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | <b>9:30am</b> (BH) | St Patrick's |   | Easter Feria Patty Tiernan RIP        |
| Fri | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | <b>9:30am</b> (BH) | St Anne's    | <b>Ss Charles Lwanga &amp; Companions</b> | Memorial Well Being of Julie Grantham |
| Sat | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 4:00pm             | St Patrick's | <b>Vigil</b>                              | Bridget Collins RIP                   |
|     |                  | 6:00pm             | St Anne's    | <b>Vigil</b>                              | Winifred Meehan (birthday)            |
| Sun | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 9:00am             | St Patrick's | <b>Pentecost Sunday</b>                   | Eddie Lennon RIP                      |
|     |                  | 10:00am            | St Anne's    |   | People of the Parish                  |

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

**Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's]** Mary Batkin, Joseph Box, Leslie Foster, Joan Dunlavey, Elizabeth McDonagh, Anthony Finn, Frances Terry, Bridie Collins and Celia Jelfs. **[St Anne's]** Mary Bester, Hugh Chadwick, Victor Crawley, John Gillett, Mrs Meehan, Christopher Nealon, Robert Powell, Terry Walsh, Cynthia Williams, Joan Bulock, Mike O'Leary, Trixie Shelley, Bernard Chevallier and Derek Nicholson.

| Income 22/5/22 | Source    | Gift Aid       | Non-Gift Aid   | Standing Order | Total          | Attendance    |
|----------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| St Anne's      | Offertory | <b>£112.00</b> | <b>£154.70</b> | <b>£391.45</b> | <b>£658.15</b> | Sat 64 Sun 54 |
| St Patrick's   | Offertory | <b>£50.30</b>  | <b>£110.10</b> | <b>£149.69</b> | <b>£310.09</b> | Sat 36 Sun 84 |

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)

There will be a **Second Collection** this weekend (28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>) for ‘**Catholic Communications**’

### **Parish Tote 150 Club**

Thank you for your support. A lot of numbers are available at £4 per number per month. Further details from Marie (parish secretary) 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

**Our Deceased:** Please remember in your prayers **Mary Terry, of St Anne’s Parish** and lately resident in Dora Rose Home, who died recently. Also, **Margaret Buckingham, of St Austin’s**, who died last week. Our thoughts are also with their families at this time. *May Mary and Margaret rest in peace and rise in glory.*

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

The Quiz at St Anne’s last Saturday was much appreciated by all who took part. It was the first proper parish social event since the beginning of the ‘pandemic’. It raised £272.00 for parish funds. A big thank you to Thomas who, as usual, was the ‘star’ quiz master. Thank You.

If anyone has any spare wool, someone who knits hats and scarves for the homeless would be very grateful. Please leave in church porch. Many thanks.

**Refreshments after Mass:** Do join us after the 10:00am Sunday Morning Mass for tea and coffee in St Anne’s Hall. Many thanks to those who prepare this welcome facility. **More volunteers to help here please.**

**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. Even if you can just come now and then for the pleasure of singing 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 those 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.

**St Anne’s Readers** Copies of the new reading rota for June – August 2022 are in the Church porch.

**Christian Food Help:** Thank you to those who continue to donate to and support the work of our Christian Food Help. Any donations can be left at the back of any of our three churches, or at the Presbyteries.

**St Patrick's:** Now that we are back in, what we would hope is, 'pre-2020 mode', there is a need for consolidating and building up our parish teams. Some may remember the effort made in creating rotas and supporting those who already put so much into various areas of parish life. It is with this in mind (together with the Bishops' Statement) that I am calling for more help in the following areas: the **Sacristy team, Music/hymns in Mass, Health and Safety, Cleaning Team, Counting teams, Gardening and Environment and Catechesis.** Please email or phone Fr. Bob who will be delighted to hear from you. [stannestpatrick.stafford@rcaob.org.uk] or 01785 661012

**Finance Committee Meetings: St Patrick's: This Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 7:00pm in school Hall/Church meeting room**

**BIBLE STUDY:** Our parish Bible Study now meets on a regular **fortnightly** programme. The next meeting is on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June in St Anne's parish hall meeting room from 10 am – 11 am.** Welcome to those wishing to join us.

**Receiving Holy Communion:** Recently occasions have been noted when one or two, who have come to receive the Host, have walked away with it in their hand. Please could we all understand that when the Lord is received in Mass the Host must be consumed as soon as it is placed in the hand. Thank you.

**Ukrainian Refugees:** We have received an email from the diocese related precisely to this urgent issue and you will find all useful details on our diocesan website. Please see just how offers of help will be co-ordinated through **Caritas** and **Father Hudson's Care.** Our Catholic parishes will be in regular communication with the diocese in regard to this matter.

**\*Stafford Walsingham Association**

For many years the Stafford Walsingham Association arranged a yearly pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. 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 have begun 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.

**Hednesford Diocesan Pilgrimage** is taking place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Any singers who would like to join the choir for the Mass are asked to contact Anne Tibke at [tibkes@talk21.com](mailto:tibkes@talk21.com) or by phoning 07850 459563. Rehearsals will be held in Hednesford at 7.30pm on June 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES** Please be aware that new boxes of envelopes used by parishioners who gift aid their donations can be found in the porches of both St Anne's and St Patrick's. They are already named and ready for collection. If any parishioner would prefer to donate through STANDING ORDER please let Fr Bob or Marie (in the office) know so that the relevant form may be completed. Many thanks to all of you who support our parishes so generously; the material upkeep of the churches is ever increasing. Thanks to Mark and Margaret for their efforts in administering the Gift Aid facility

**LIVE SIMPLY**

"The 3 parishes LIVE SIMPLY met last Wednesday **25<sup>th</sup> May.** Our **Live Simply** award needs to involve as many people in the community as possible. From the youngest to the oldest, each person's different strengths and interests contribute to making it a success. So do try to offer help and ideas. We shall be putting forward actual details of where we can be practical very shortly.

## \* **Committees/groups Returning**

We are now at that stage where “touching base” with our parish committees and groups is essential. I would hope that all of us would wish to see both parishes operating as we were in the early months of 2020 when Finance committees and Social committees and Health and Safety committees met periodically. These existed to enable each parish to function more completely and to keep parishioners informed of various requirements and opportunities for involvement in broader parish ‘life’. Some may feel that a new ‘model’ is needed in order for parishes to continue maintaining themselves and evangelising. I would welcome ideas and particular insights/ vision as to how the parishes of St Patrick’s and St Anne’s might go forward. According to Canon Law, the bare minimum is for us to have Finance Committees. As mentioned, if anyone has ideas for re-establishing some form of social/fund-raising group etc please let me know. We held a Quiz Night at St Anne’s on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7:30pm.

**PS:** It would help greatly if St Patrick’s re-established our regular counting teams. These used to carry out this important contribution following the Sunday Mass. If any parishioners could offer their time by becoming one of a counting team it would be much appreciated. As part of a team the counting task would not take long.

Also, if ‘Refreshment’ teams would like to be formed then let me know or sign up at the back of church. This would enable an important social facility following our Sunday Masses. Do give it some thought. Fr. Bob

## Returning to Mass at Pentecost

*Following the Spring Plenary, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have made an announcement on the “Sunday Obligation”:*



**See our parish home-page for the link to the complete article.**

*“Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed.*

*“The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.*

*“We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.”*

To my mind, this statement from the Bishops’ Conference makes it clear that, in the present situation we find ourselves in, there is more need than ever to put our weekly celebration of Mass as central to our lives if we are to truly live out our calling as baptised members of the ‘Body of Christ’. As we have all received the three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist, there lies within us a need for the nourishment that will sustain us through life’s ever-deepening challenges. Sadly, there has persisted the perception that the Sunday Obligation to attend Mass limits our ‘freedom’ and constrains us. Nothing could be further from the truth. By nourishing ourselves through the Eucharist, we live ever closer to the presence of Christ Himself; the redeemer who grounds our true freedom in His love and who guides us through every obstacle. Let us look ahead to the great feast of Pentecost and give thanks for the original ‘birth’ of the Church when the “imprisoned” disciples were empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring the freedom of Love to the world.

**NB:** Mindful that the latest Bishops Conference letter says the **“Virtual viewing” of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation**, please be aware that at St Anne’s, the Masses will continue to be livestreamed, but are only available to those who have asked to view them, **(for example the housebound)**. If you still feel unable to come to Mass on a Sunday and would benefit from the link to these Masses, please send an email to us.