

Sunday 30th January 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
--	--

TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

The Fourth Sunday of the Year

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	29 th	4:00pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Private Intention
		6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	John Bamber RIP
Sun	30 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	The Fourth Sunday of the Year	Eddie & Bridie Hunt RIP
		10:00am	St Anne's		Percy Grero RIP
Mon	31 st	9:30am	St Anne's	St John Bosco Memoria	Betty Bennett & John Delaney
Tue	1 st	9:30am	St Patrick's	Feria	Special Intention
Wed	2 nd	10:00am Mass	St Anne's	The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemass) Feast	Patricia RIP
Thu	3 rd	9:15am	St Patrick's	Feria	Bernard Massey RIP
Fri	4 th	9.15am	St Anne's	Feria	People of the Parish
Sat	5 th	4.00 pm	St Patrick's	Vigil	Vincenza Tonna RIP
		6.00 pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Agnes Annie Wilks RIP
Sun	6 th	9:00am	St Patrick's	The Fifth Sunday of the Year	Kathleen "Patty" Tiernan RIP
		10:00am	St Anne's		Bryan Lee RIP

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.

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's] William Adams, Brigid Bradshaw, Cyril Evans, Eileen Gibson, Amy Hipwell, Cecilia Cooper, Timothy Lumb, Selivia Webb, Sylvia Fitzakerley, Winifred Baxter, Phyllis Cliff, Lily Bronn, James Carr, Vincenzo Narcisi, Arthur Cycles and William McLean. [St Anne's.] Percy Grero, Brian Ross, James Moran, Phyllis McCosh, Hannah Hodierne, Joseph Nicholson, William Ruscoe, Bernadette Strange, Marie Palmer, Stan Rusinowski, Marjorie Cowley, Bill Fennell and Norma Fennell.

Income 23/1/22	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£84.00	£103.55	£391.45	£579.00	Sat 54 Sun 76
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£111.30	£247.06	£149.69	£508.05	Sat 44 Sun 53

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 27th January 2022

£100 B Farley – 131, £50 M Harwood – 104, £20 J Hackett – 125, £10 J Hunt – 114, £10 M Ross – 146, £10 F Russell – 23, £10 M Simpson- 36, £10 C Tomlinson – 50, £10 J Pettit – 43, £10 L Cyples – 44, £10 C Price – 29.

Thank you for your continued support for 2022. A lot of numbers are still available at only £4 per number per month. Further details from Marie (parish secretary) 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. 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: Please be assured that the Church's communication on this is still valid from the beginning of 2020'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'. **If notice is given, and at convenient times, before or after Mass, we priests of Catholic Stafford will hear confessions and this will continue.** 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."

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.

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!

Modern Slavery

Please find below an e-invitation to join the relaunch of the Look Up project next month.

You may recall the Archdiocese joined forces with the Medaille Trust to launch a six-year Look Up awareness campaign in February 2019, to work together to combat modern slavery in our communities. A number of parishes were visited by a representative of the Trust and awarded a 'Make the Pledge' certificate.

As part of this call to action Garry Smith, CEO of the Medaille Trust, and Archbishop Bernard Longley, signed a pledge to work together for the benefit of those suffering from modern slavery.

You, and your parishioners, are invited to the online relaunch of this project on the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, Patron Saint of Victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. The online event takes place on Tuesday 8 February from 6pm to 7pm.

Find out how modern slavery affects your community and how you can help.

The Synod: Now's the time to get talking

Momentum to take part in the Synod is building across the Archdiocese as more and more parishes kickstart their conversations.

The Synod was launched in Rome last October by Pope Francis and the Diocesan phase is now underway. The deadline to receive feedback from parish conversations is **Monday 28 February**.



"We stand before you, Holy Spirit, as we gather together

in your name"

In response to Archbishop Bernard's Pastoral Letter last year on the Diocesan Vision and Pope Francis' call to the whole Church on the Synodal Pathway, we are inviting you to our three parishes discussion meeting. **The meeting will take place at Saint Anne's parish hall on**

WEDNESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.00 PM

Why the meeting? Pope Francis wants to hear from the whole Church about what is happening in local parishes in every diocese of the world.

What is the point of the meeting? It is an opportunity for us to come together and share our thoughts about our Church today. The meeting is part of a process of consultation, which will result in a report to Archbishop Bernard in March 2022.

Why should you attend the meeting? The meeting is for every parishioner in Stafford. Let us come together in an atmosphere of mutual honesty, trust and respect, to share our hopes and dreams for the future of Our Church as well as our doubts and concerns. *"Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it"*

If anyone requires transport to St Anne's, please speak to either Canon Michael, Fr Bob or Fr Simon.

Don't forget to pick up an A5 sheet to help you think about the questions and suggestions you may wish to bring to the meeting on 9th!

What's New?

Covid-19 update

Dear parishioners, we are all aware that from 27th January the Government's "Covid Plan B" was lifted and restrictions withdrawn. Following from this, the latest guidance for churches has been issued by the Catholic Bishops' Conference. From now on the restrictions placed on public worship and the celebration of Mass, social activities and home visits have been reduced considerably. [If you wish to see the complete guidance just click the link on our two parish's home page.

But, 'in a nutshell':

Advice to the Catholic Church in England and Wales from the government has since advised that for churches, keeping records is optional.

For Acts of Worship, the main mitigation against serious health issues arising from covid infection is to be fully vaccinated; this means two doses plus a booster for anyone aged 16 or over. The scientific consensus is that society is moving from the pandemic phase to the endemic phase.

Those attending an act of worship may continue to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) whilst in the church building, but there is no need for formal social distancing in church buildings.

Scientific 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 and there is a general encouragement to wear face coverings while singing, but not an absolute must.

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:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Altar Servers returning to the sanctuary (Both St Patrick's and St Anne's)</i> | <i>[This can happen now]</i> |
| <i>Refreshments after Sunday Mass</i> | |
| <i>Expanding our teams of readers</i> | |
| <i>Reconstituting our parishes' social team</i> | |
| <i>Forming a parish 'Liturgy Team' to help priest in organising principal calendar events</i> | |
| <i>Building up our choir and musicians for regular liturgy.</i> | <i>[This can start happening now]</i> |

I may very well have omitted other important aspects, forgive me.

Don't forget, we have much to consider within our Synodal and Diocesan Journey.

