

Sunday 30th May 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

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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

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TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Solemnity of The Most Holy Trinity

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	29 th	4:00pm 6:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil	People of the Parish Celebrant's Intention
Sun	30 th	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity	John Pettit RIP Mrs Winifred Meehan RIP
Mon	31 st	9:30am	St Anne's	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Feast Private Intention
Tue	1 st	9:30am	St Patrick's	St Justin, Martyr	Memoria Peggy Toner RIP
Wed	2 nd	No Mass	St Anne's		Feria
Thu	3 rd	12 Noon 6:30pm	St Anne's St Patrick's	Requiem Mass for Roy Burton Ss Charles Lwanga & Companions	Memoria Bridget & Patrick Joseph Collins RIP
Fri	4 th	6:30pm	St Anne's		Feria Peggy Toner RIP
Sat	5 th	4:00pm 6:00pm	St Patrick's St Anne's	Vigil Vigil	Patty Tiernan RIP Theresa Del Pizzo RIP
Sun	6 th	9:00am 10:00am	St Patrick's St Anne's	Solemnity of the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ	Eddie Lennon RIP (25 th Ann) Lea Panzavecchia RIP & Rodger Whitefield 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, Rebecca Likenny. **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]* Leslie Foster, Joan Dunlavey, Elizabeth McDonagh, Anthony Finn, Frances Terry, Bridie Collins, Celia Jelfs, Matilda Warrilow, Gordon Wild, Eddie Lennon, Elizabeth Galvin and Joseph Beyer. *[St Anne's]* Mary Bester, Hugh Chadwick, Victor Crawley, John Gillett, Mrs Meehan, Christopher Nealon, Robert Powell, Terry Walsh, Cynthia Williams, Mike O'Leary, Trixie Shelley, Bernard Chevallier and Derek Nicholson.

Income 23/5/21	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£104.00	£112.00	£283.84	£499.84	Sat 52 Sun 43
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£73.00	£88.90	£146.23	£308.13	Sat 29 Sun 66

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 30th May 2021

£100 C Whitehall – 100, £50 M Badger – 53, £20 A Bindu – 92, £10 J Croxall – 47, £10 Lennon Family – 57, £10 C Tomlinson – 50, £10 C McHugh – 2, £10 M Owen – 122, £10 J Antony – 73, £10 M Simpson – 36, £10 J Stamyard – 64, £10 C McHugh – 39.

Thank you for your support. A lot of numbers are available at only £4 per number each 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.

Our Deceased: Please pray for **Roy Burton**, of St Anne's. Also, **Bernard Tallent** and **Eleanor O'Sullivan**, of St Patrick's, who have died recently. We remember their families at this time. Roy's Requiem will be at St Anne's on **Thursday 3rd June at 12 Noon**. **Bernard's** Funeral service will be at St Patrick's on **Monday 7th June at 12 Noon**. *May Roy, Bernard and Eleanor rest in peace and rise in glory.*

School Governors: St Patrick's School is in need of **Foundation Governors**, which is why we are making this appeal. If any parishioner might feel they could fulfil this important role please approach/phone Fr. Bob (**parish phone or email**). Alternatively, contact St Patrick's School (413275). Many thanks in anticipation.

The Month of May: *A universal daily prayer has been offered for the end of the Covid-19 Pandemic; focusing upon one of the international Marian Shrines. A list of the Marian Shrines can be found (in Italian) by clicking the link on the parish home page.* **Honouring Mary in May:** During this month of May we have been honouring Our Lady in St Anne's and St Patrick's by saying the 'Regina Caeli' followed by the Memorare at the start of each Mass.

***Concluding the month of May: this Sunday 30th May at 5:00pm** there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary and Benediction at **St Austin's**. Monday 31st May is the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so it will be an appropriate way to conclude this month dedicated to Our Lady. Our usual May Day of Prayer for Vocations in is being combined with these Marian Devotions. Please do try to come along.

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 sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. 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 11th 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

Training Workshops for Readers:

Saturday 19th June St Anne's 12 noon

Tuesday 22nd June St Anne's 7 pm

Wednesday 23rd June St Patrick's 7 pm

(Each workshop will be identical to give opportunity for everyone to get to one).

What we will do:

Basics of reading in public-posture, use of diction etc. We will practice these skills.

Consideration of the privilege and reality of being a reader, what it is to stand before the people of God to bring God's word. A brief shared reading of scripture.

Please contact the church office or Deacon Mike on 07706077124 to say which is your preference of date.

Hednesford Pilgrimage 2021: Sadly, the *normal* pilgrimage has not been able to be held again this year, with pilgrims from the Archdiocese and beyond, but there remains our second event involving parishioners from Hednesford and surrounding area: **Mass for the Diocesan Pilgrimage.** Bishop Stephen Wright will say Mass at the shrine on **Sunday June 20th at 3pm.** The Mass will be filmed and posted online on Sunday July 4th in place of the Diocesan Pilgrimage Mass. Meanwhile, last week's Mass by Archbishop Bernard was filmed and will be posted online this Monday May 31st as part of the Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage. If you would like to actually come to the shrine, book a place by ringing 01543 422576 or emailing lol.hednesford@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 8th 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 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.*

End Note: If anyone who thinks they might enjoy painting/touching up a few of our church statues in St Patrick's, do please let me know. You may even be aware of someone who could be willing to help. It would be greatly and humbly appreciated. F. Bob

HOMILY TRINITY SUNDAY

What's in a name? Apparently, this phrase comes from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet: "What's in a name? that which we call a rose By any other name would smell as sweet". Well, I can't speak for the age of Shakespeare's sixteenth century England, but we're very aware of how our perception of names and 'naming' has changed through the centuries. It has already been made clear to us, through many passages of the Old and New Testaments, just how seriously and profoundly names were given and how they were used. "I am who I am" said Yahweh to Moses when Moses enquired about how the Lord would be known. When Jesus cast out the demons in the country of the Gadarenes, they knew who He was (what do you want with us, Son of God?) and begged Him to send them into the pigs. Notice that Jesus asks their name and once they tell Him it is 'Legion' they lose their power. Not disclosing your name meant that you were holding on to an aspect of power in a way. Names in ancient times represented the reality behind their

meanings. Just contrast this to our culture of names today. We live in a 'shallow' society now, don't we; a 'throw away' here today, gone tomorrow way of seeing things. Words that would have pointed to something real and deeply meaningful are used so widely and unthinkingly that they can mean anything. The one word we can all agree on that's been used far beyond its primordial meaning is LOVE, isn't it. It's become maybe the most debased and casual word in our language. We've only got to think of 'Love Island' to make us shudder in horror, so let's not go there.

Rather, let's begin to rebuild our lives with meaning and true purpose, where words are valued with care, in how we use them, and names begin to draw us into a 'world' where each one of us matters and each one of us feels at home. Our celebration of the most Holy Trinity today takes words and names to a totally different dimension. The Gospel of Matthew tells us how Jesus wished His Apostles to bring Him to the rest of the world. "Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". No instruction could be clearer could it. When we are baptised we are immersed into the Body of Jesus Christ, and so we must be immersed in God Himself, in a mysterious way that we'll only fully know at the end of time. And of course this means we have the Holy Trinity within us. These are incredible words of Jesus, aren't they, and powerful beyond our imagination. But they really do emphasise how names have meanings far beyond the superficial and fatuous.

In the decade after the Second Vatican Council there was some 'experimentation' (to put it mildly) with the liturgy, especially in trying to make it "gender neutral". In fact, a number of priests (mainly in the States) baptised babies 'In the name of the creator, and of the redeemer and of the sanctifier'. They may have thought they were being 'progressive', but they totally missed the point. Jesus Christ Himself gave us the formula and the Father, Son and Spirit are the only names that are valid. Because when we call upon any of these members of the Holy Trinity, we are drawn into the actual presence of each. Today, especially, we need to remind ourselves that the Blessed Trinity is the story of three movements of God towards us. First is the movement of life out from the mind of God, as He Fathers all creation. [And God said: 'it is good']. But once we sold off our birth right and became slaves to sin, we needed a second movement of God towards us, so He sent us His only Son our Redeemer and Saviour. The Son entered our fallen, broken humanity in total fulness and became one of us in our need and frailty. As the head of the body, where He has gone, there we hope to follow. And the basis of this hope is the third movement of God; the gift of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the breath, the power of God which draws all creation towards unity.

Far from treating names as inconsequential, the Holy Trinity of God brings blessing to names because precisely in the name is the presence and the power of the one invoked. God is ever-present to us as a fatherly power, redeeming word and sanctifying love. And in prayer we respond to these movements. Glory be to the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit.