

Sunday 30th August 2020

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 Head Teacher: 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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	29 th	6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Pauline Awty RIP & Dick Jarvis RIP
Sun	30 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year	Dan Ryan (90 th Birthday Anniversary)
		11:15am	St Anne's		For the Suffering people of Beirut & Lebanon
Mon	31 st	9:30am	St Anne's	Feria	Bernard Massey RIP
Tue	1 st	9:30am	St Patrick's	Feria	Bob & Damian RIP
Wed	2 nd	No Mass		Feria	
Thu	3 rd	6:30pm	St Patrick's	Pope St Gregory The Great	Feast The Elliot & McKinlay Families
Fri	4 th	6:30pm	St Anne's	Feria	Bridie & Paddy Toner RIP
Sat	5 th	6:00pm	St Anne's	Vigil	Bridget McKenna & Andy Stewart RIP
Sun	6 th	9:30am	St Patrick's	Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year	Colin Atherton
		11:15am	St Anne's		People of the Parish

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM By Appointment

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: *[St. Patrick's]* Thomas Palphreyman, Graham Alexander, Les Foster, Ronald Ward, Gladys Gackowska, William Robinson, Ephraim Chatterley, Kenneth Blagg, Daniel Begley, Florence Stokes, Betty Osborne, Freda Hefferman, Doris Owens, George Owens and Patricia McCarthy. *St. Anne's* Catherine Bowen, Catherine Burns, William Campbell, Fr T Corrigan, Dick Jarvis, Jean Scriven, Ivy Desbruslais, Joseph McKie, Margaret Wilton and David Ferguson.

Prayers for the sick: *St Patrick's* Phylis Bowers, Susan Prince, Tim Tiernan, Gregory McKinlay, Linda Reavy, Martha Porter and 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.

Income 23 Aug	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory	£62.00	£205.10	£283.84	£550.94	82 (Weekend)
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£114.00	£135.20	£146.23	£395.43	

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 diocese (Steve Roche):** 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 July Winners £100 B Walton – 148, £50 M Bamber – 142, £20 D Greatbatch – 35, £10 J Serno – 95, £10 F Russell – 127, £10 A Lyons – 22, £10 G Thickett – 149, £10 M Owen – 122, £10 F Russell – 156, £10 W Meehan – 54, £10 C McHugh – 51.

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

*A big thank you to those parishioners who have filled out new Standing Orders to help support the churches at this critical time. I am grateful to those who have continued to support their respective churches in this way for many years. If you can join them and make such a commitment for our offertory support; 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. Now that we have started public Masses once more, there will be large collection bins placed on entry and exit**

At this time though it makes a 'sink or swim' difference to your church. Without that money coming in, 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 dried up and this will make a massive difference. A significant amount of unavoidable remedial work is also planned shortly for St Anne's church roof, 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 to please help in any amount you can afford.

Very many thanks

An important and interesting point for us to understand is that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended and we can avail ourselves of weekday Masses to enable sensible spacing on weekends (some in the weekday evenings for those who work?) Now, because we are in a sort of 'fluid' time in terms of medium term commitment, I will publish the times of Masses weekly since there will be occasional alterations and gaps. Below are the times and venues: (Looking two weeks ahead) including the schedule of Masses for St Austin's.

St Anne's Roof Appeal



Leaking church roofs sound like a cliché, don't they? But certainly in our case, the situation is a reality. For quite some time now (year in year out) we have pondered how best to solve St Anne's leaking roof problem, from various 'patching' solutions to full re-roofing! However, it has been decided that we can't ignore it any longer. It would be a neglect of duty of care for our parish fabric. So, having sought a wide range of advice it has been decided that the best and most cost-effective way forward is to undertake a comprehensive 'remedial' repair project on the whole of the lower tier roof. It is in fact this aspect which has caused the most alarming revelations and internal problems. It is hoped that the work will commence within the next few weeks, well before 'winter' weather arrives! [Although, can we tell the difference?] I am appealing for any donations St Anne's community can generously donate to this work, since we are looking at a sum approaching £10,000. There will be two special boxes at the entrance and exit of the church dedicated to this special fund; so we can at least make a start. Please accept my sincere and grateful thanks for any donations that you may be able to make. I am very conscious of the straitened times we are living through at present.

F. Bob

St Patrick's: From this Sunday we are now using a 'track & trace' system so that we satisfy the governmental advice in regard to tracing contacts attending public gathering settings. All you will need to do is to provide your name and contact number to one of the stewards as you come into church. It will be extremely simple. St Anne's and St Austin's already have such a routine. Many thanks for your co-operation.

St Anne's: If any parishioner/s could volunteer to wash a few purificators (altar linen) on a regular basis I would be very grateful. There would not be many at all.

Many thanks. F. Bob

MASSES

SATURDAY 29th August 6:00pm St Anne's

**SUNDAY 30th August 9:30am St Patrick's
11:15am St Anne's**

MONDAY 31st August 9:30am St Anne's

TUESDAY 1st September 9:30am St Patrick's

THURSDAY 3rd September 6:30pm St Patrick's

FRIDAY 4th September 6:30pm St Anne's

FOLLOWING WEEK:

SATURDAY 5th September 6:00pm St Anne's

**SUNDAY 6th September 9:30am St Patrick's
11:15am St Anne's**

MONDAY 7th September 9:30am St Anne's

TUESDAY 8th September 9:30am St Patrick's

THURSDAY 10th September 6:30pm St Patrick's

FRIDAY 11th September 6:30pm St Anne's

St Austin's Parish [Masses]

SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST 10:30am

WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 7:00pm

FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 7:00pm

(FOLLOWING WEEK)

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 10:30am

WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 7:00pm

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 7:00pm

[Fr. Michael will be streaming his Masses on the other days also.]

The most important requirement is that each parish has plenty of volunteers, as part of teams, for helping to 'steward' and to clean pews and various touch points after each Mass. The sensible (distancing) capacity of each church is 50, but, between the two parishes there should be 7 Masses during one week, potentially allowing for a total of 350 parishioners. I am asking for your help in making this happen as smoothly as possible by assuming that any parishioner who is 'able' may offer their assistance in cleaning a bench or chairs after Mass. (Many hands make light work). We as a church venue need to have a safe cleaning regime.

This is why it is very important for sufficient volunteers to be able to cover Masses. Many Thanks for your patience and understanding. Regarding safety and distancing, we have been told to operate the 1m+ guideline so all those coming to Mass must wear a face covering, but it means we don't have to be 2m apart. Holy Communion will be distributed as parishioners leave church. There will be stewards to guide people to seats and to help with communion arrangements. If you have not set up a standing order/direct debit for parish offerings please do so if you are able. (I can supply you with all the details you need). There will also be large offertory 'bins' for folk who give their envelopes and cash placed at the entrance and exit points of church. From the outset, I offer my humblest apology for potential situations that may arise. Remember, a family group may sit together on one bench or in neighbouring chairs. Once our maximum capacity has entered either church, a notice will be placed outside the door to that effect. There will be a Mass on another day of the week that will be able to accommodate.

HOMILY FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

In recent weeks and months, we've had our fair share of pretty awful news, haven't we? Whether it's the ongoing pandemic, tensions and conflict in world hotspots, or the threat of social breakdown in our cities and of law and order nearer home' or 'the actions of 'INTERNET TROLLS'. What we hear about all seems

pretty grim, not to mention the natural disasters. But, through all this darkness, we do hear snippets of news about various examples of the indomitable human spirit. No matter what attempts to knock us down morale-wise, the human spirit continues to 'pick itself' up and keep 'going forward'. Amid all the terrible disasters that have affected various unfortunate places, people also have resilience. Current examples include the aftermath of the Beirut blast, where volunteers and residents from near and afar offer help in extreme circumstances. There is something about us that does keep striving no matter what comes at us. There's a striving within us to re-build and keep going forward. Although it's the spirit of 'picking up, repairing and rebuilding, it's not that dissimilar to the spirit of dedicated athletes. Obviously, they do what they do for different reasons and are particularly focused on being the best at an activity. There's something about what they achieve which brings out of us admiration. Each one of them must be driven. They see some sort of potential in themselves and dedicate their lives to an intense training regime.

All of us have a thirst or a longing to achieve something, but is it actually to be first in something? – It's all very well reaching out for the success of the top spot (the medal or the cup) but if we ever did achieve this, what next? More Golds? Don't we really, deep down, yearn for more than success? The prophet Jeremiah is an example of what we might be longing for as he reveals his personal crisis. WHAT AN EPISODE! He's cursing his lot – making out that God seduced him. "I can't stand what you've asked me to do!" "Everyone's abusing me". Jeremiah's really having a tough time doing what God wants. But, what does he say right at the end of this passage? – "There's a fire burning in my heart and it's irresistible". So, even through all Jeremiah's fear and complaining he recognises the driving force that's keeping him going.

Even Jesus, in Matthew's Gospel, recognises His driving principle because He (in a sense) cries out against what's going to happen to Him. He tells His disciples that He's going to suffer and be put to death. Was Jesus 'thinking aloud' here and expressing His anxiety? He certainly did in Gethsemane when He asked His Father if He could let Him off. Jesus was stressing to His disciples that, even though pain, suffering and death awaited Him, there was no way He could avoid doing what He was sent to do. Jesus' driving force was God the Father and His will. And this is where true LIFE is found. All this talk about losing our lives and finding them – gaining the world we live in, but losing everything sounds like a riddle. But, what Jesus is telling us is that we'll never find our CORE, our DRIVING FORCE or PRINCIPLE in the affairs of this world we live in. All the success in the world that we ever achieve can still never be the motivation or reason for our existence as human beings.

We live out our lives and we compete in a totally different OLYMPICS. And if we understand what our true life is and where it will be fully achieved, then we'll also realise what our main competition is – and it's the lure and temptations of the empty successes and achievements of this world. Because in the end everything we touch turns to dust.

So, let's train and strive for the true and 'real' gold – which is the building and re-building of the world we live in with others; always with our eyes on the next world. It is nothing less than our glorified selves. And the food for our effort can be nothing less than the bread of Christ Himself.

On 26-27 September, next weekend, the second collection bin will be for Father Hudson's Care to support their mission of supporting vulnerable people across the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Father Hudson's reaches out to people of all ages who need support at times of adversity. Please Call 01675 434000 if you would like to donate outside of Mass this year. Please give generously to this worthy cause.