

Sunday 5th April 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

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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

TIMES OF HOLY MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - Lectionary Cycle A, Weekday Mass Cycle 2 Psalter week 2

Day	Date	Mass Time	Church	Liturgical Day	Mass Intention
Sat	4 th	pm	St Anne's	Vigil Mass <i>No Congregation</i>	People of the Parish
Sun	5 th	am	“ “	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord <i>No Congregation</i>	Mary Atkinson RIP & In Thanksgiving(Golden Wedding)
Mon	6 th	am	“ “	<i>No Congregation</i>	Monday of Holy Week Peggy Toner RIP
Tue	7 th	am	“ “	<i>No Congregation</i>	Tuesday of Holy Week Jennie L Burke
Wed	8 th	am	“ “	<i>No Congregation</i>	Wednesday of Holy Week John & Elizabeth Galvin
Thu	9 th	7:00 pm	“ “	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper(Maundy Thursday) Watching & Adoration	People of the Parish
Fri	10 th	3:00 pm	“ “	Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion (Good Friday)	
Sat	11 th	8:00 pm	“ “	Vigil Mass <i>No Congregation</i>	For all those suffering from the World's pandemic
Sun	12 th	10:00 am	“ “	Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord <i>No Congregation</i>	John Rennie (3 rd Ann.)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM By Appointment

Prayers for the departed loved ones whose anniversaries occur at this time: [St. Patrick's] Jon King, Marie Foster, John Mulholland, Mary Matthew, Michael McLuckie, Kathleen Tiernan, Kathleen Jensen, Veronica Gregory, Michael Creamer, Dennis Ennis, Reginald Cooper, Christine Sargeant, Georgina Meegan, Terence Baker, Barbara Cooke, Thomas Dunleavy, Josephine Kavanagh, Don Oddy, Patrick O'Connor, John Rennie, Margaret Hardy, Patrick Collins / **St. Anne's** / Mary Davis, Bertha Arriagade, John Callaghan, Badia Geadam, Muriel Sandy, Edward Machaj, Sean McDonnell, Catherine O'Sullivan, Catherine O'Sullivan, Catherine O'Sullivan, Kathleen Foy, Tony Grantham, Bridget Walsh.

Prayers for the sick: St Patrick's Phylis Bowers, Kath Read, 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, Colin Wilkinson, Richard McMahon, Patsy Connelly Smith, Colin Wise and Shaun Gilbride.

Income 29 th March	Source	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Standing Order	Total	Attendance
St Anne's	Offertory		£	£	£	
St. Patrick's	Offertory	£	£	£	£	

ST. ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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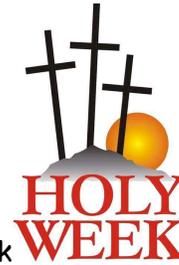
Parishes Social (Fundraising Events) DATES UP TO SUMMER: Due to our present emergency situation all such events

Parish Tote 150 Club. Thank you all for your support. Numbers are available at £4 per number per month. Further

Our recently deceased: Please remember in your prayers **Ken Fenton** and **Ray Brough**, of **St Anne's** and **Joan Roe**, of **St Patrick's**, who have died recently. We pray also for their families at this sad time.
May Ken, Ray and Joan rest in peace and rise in glory.

St Patricks: We have received the figures from **Missio** for the Red Box collections and other donations from St. Patrick's Parish in 2019. We raised £390.16. **Missio** would like to thank everyone for their donations in the past year. Thank you.

Divine Renovation have produced a Parish Response Kit to the current 'coronavirus' situation that we are all in. It can be downloaded for free here: <https://divinerenovation.org>



Hello Parishioners of St Patrick's and St Anne's, and a Blessed Holy Week

I hope and pray that we are gradually becoming aware of our new mode of living lives as Eucharistic faithful. For all of us, such a significant change in how we worship as Catholics is unprecedented. But, like every experience thrown to us in life, we take it as it comes. As our faith keeps telling us, and as we keep reminding ourselves, God's creation, God's universe, God's world and God's people fit in with His 'blueprint' for the kingdom He has prepared for us, no matter what turmoil or disaster afflicts our precarious lives. If we keep steadfast and, most importantly, take advantage of the prayer time we will be offered, our Church will come through this 'crisis' humbled and with greater awareness of our utter dependency on God. Meanwhile, during our time of 'waiting' upon the Lord, we offer our prayers for all who have been, are, and will be affected by this pandemic.

So, to parish practical matters:

The bulletin will appear on the websites of both parishes weekly and this space will give me a chance to share with you all sorts of concerns, from how we might keep in touch with the housebound, to how we might continue to provide food etc for those in great need. Unfortunately, all church buildings remain locked. This is mainly to discourage folk from venturing out and potentially coming into proximity with others unnecessarily. But, the parish office/presbytery will be open as usual and, in so far as we are able, be a source of information for any who wish to know what is happening in regard to our two parishes. Marie, as you will understand, like many of you, will be working from home as far as it is possible and we shall still be in communication regarding particular parish concerns, especially where I may need information or advice; I shall be available in the presbytery for first point of phone contact. There is also little excuse now for me not uploading the bulletin earlier, at least by Friday at the latest (I'll see how I get on).

As you notice above, the Mass intentions are inserted and will be honoured as I celebrate Mass each day; but sometimes I will need to combine intentions from both parishes because I am only saying one Mass a day.

Regarding the **Drop-in** at St Anne's, some may need help now that it is closed. If any need help on Wednesday morning, for example shopping or collecting medication, please contact Liz Harrison between 10:30am and 12 Noon on 07802694580. Many thanks, Liz.

I know that all three Stafford parishes will work as closely as we can, and on that point, I received a request from Joe McCormack from St Austin's. He had returned from the charity BRUSHSTROKES and they are desperate for all supplies. If people wanted to drop donations off at St Anne's Joe can do a regular pick-up, but, since the church will be locked, just phone me first. Many thanks.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday and no palms are to be blessed during our present 'isolation' situation. At a later date in the year we may be able to bless them, but we will probably leave them until next year now.

It is obviously a disappointment for us that the planned social events have had to be cancelled, but I am sure we will make up for it when more settled times return.

Finally, I am very aware that our usual routine, as parish communities, will undergo a considerable change, and we do not know for how long, but nevertheless our parishes will still need supporting as best we can for the foreseeable future. The sustaining and maintenance of the buildings and parish administration has to continue. For those of you who use gift aid envelopes, the new ones for the coming financial year have arrived and Mark (St Anne's) and Margaret St Patrick's) are labelling them and for those who contribute this way. There are a number who regularly use standing order (this is the most efficient way of giving) and if 'gift-aiders' could set up standing orders it would be a great help. Such a crisis as the present one shows the advantage of this method. However parishioners wish to donate, be assured of our grateful thanks and know that the parish office (St Anne's) can always be used as a 'drop-off' for envelopes. * I have just received this communication from the head of Finance from Cathedral House:

You may like to know that we've made available on the Archdiocese website 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>

We are also working on an online giving option for parishes which don't already have this option on their parish website. This is proving challenging due to all parishes sharing one charity number but I hope to have an update for you next week.

A 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. At this time though it makes a 'sink or swim' difference to your church. Over the last two weeks we received about half a dozen envelopes. 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. 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

I shall be remembering you all in my prayers during this most unprecedented of times and have faith that the Lord will be looking after us in a way only He can offer.

Blessings

Fr Bob

PS: Don't forget the plethora of websites you can access if you wish to follow Mass. A good start would be our own Archdiocese of Birmingham website. The Liturgy of the **Triduum** will be able to be accessed from there also (the beautiful focus of our whole liturgical year). Also notice that I, like so many other priests, will be celebrating events of the Triduum on my own. I know you will be with me in Spirit, celebrating the **ONE** sacrifice made by Christ for all time; a truly universal and real remembrance, uniting our sisters and brothers across the face of the earth.

HOMILY FOR PALM SUNDAY

Build them up, and then take them down. You may understand who I'm referring to here. The famous, personalities, celebrities, sporting heroes, entertainers and popular politicians. All of these, in some ways, are placed in the public eye by the media in all its guises. Many, of course, are talented and would achieve 'spotlight' status anyway through their own ability. But a fair number are helped

by the media and enjoy their fame. The problem, though, as we're all aware, is that the very media that make these people famous seem to enjoy demolishing them when they begin to wane or if anything negative like gossip or scandal rears its head. The internet especially can go in for the kill, can't it? It's a sad indictment of our humanity really, but on the other hand we might see these famous people as having used the media to their advantage anyway and perhaps be less sympathetic. But the whole point is that we as society can also demolish heroes; we can be complicit.

So how do we see Jesus' rise to fame in our readings today? He enters Jerusalem to loud acclaim with the population throwing branches before Him. But did He seek this? Did He set out for this type of adulation? After all, Jesus wasn't one of our self-made celebrities or popular leaders – He never used His position, His power or talent to further His own ends. Jesus' role on earth was to express the Father's infinite love in every action of His life, whether in healing, teaching guiding or calling people into His kingdom. And here were the people who must have seen something in Jesus or heard about what He'd done to make them hero-worship Him. Here they are shouting: "Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord". Now let's hear what the adulating crowd shout further on in Matthew when Jesus is before Pilate: "Let him be crucified" and "His blood be on us and on our children". The contrast couldn't be more stark could it? And we might well wonder what changed the followers' minds. Perhaps it was their perceived idea about what their Messiah; their saviour king should be like. The sight of Jesus captive and helpless offended the crowd's sense of kingly power and a leadership that would free them from tyranny. We're the same, here and now! We're looking for a political leadership that'll give us the society that we feel should be fair and take away risk, whether in terms of security or financial. They missed the point, as we also miss the point; that God's plans are not our plans, God's ways are not our ways. The great people we put our hopes in, the role models and society 'stars' won't in the end show us a way; won't show us a way out of our misery, because their way is a yellow brick road to fantasy land. Jesus' way, by contrast, is uncompromising because the truth is always uncompromising. Jesus' way is the uphill slog through a 'Via Dolorosa' and to a Golgotha of blood and death. Jesus beckons us to follow Him there but we need to be courageous because it's a well trodden path, and the only path for which we're promised, and indeed given, all the help we'll ever need.
