

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

Office: Sacred Heart Church, Silver Link Rd, Tamworth, B77 2EA

Parish Office: 01827 769403

HoT Phone Number: 01827 259955

Fr Michael: michael@tamworthrc.church

Fr Ramesh: ramesh@tamworthrc.church

Deacon Brian Cox and Nora: nora@tamworthrc.church

Deacon Bob: bob@tamworthrc.church

Admin: Wendy: office@tamworthrc.church

Catechesis/liturgy: alex@tamworthrc.church

Terry (Bookings): terryobrien@heartoftamworth.org

Kelly-HoT worker: kelly@heartoftamworth.org

Jen Martin (HoT Manager): jen@heartoftamworth.org

Rebecca: rebecca@tamworthrc.church

Rhiannon (youth): rhiannon@tamworthrc.church

St John's Church is on St John St, Tamworth, B79 7EX

Fifth Sunday – 28th April 2024

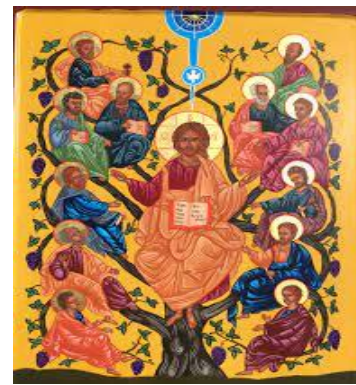
Readings:	<i>Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31</i>	<i>Psalms 21</i>	<i>John 3:18-24</i>	<i>John 15:1-8</i>
Saturday 27 th	Weekday of Easter Fifth Sunday of Easter	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Tony Soden James McKeefry – Fr Kevin McNamara	
Sunday 28 th April	Fifth Sunday of Easter	9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	The Fitzgerald Family – Maria Cortez Paddy Burke – Josephine Kavanagh Milly Bailey – Natalia Lisek	
Tuesday 30 th April	Weekday of Easter	10.00am (S.H.)	Bernadette Cope	
Wed 1 st May	Weekday of Easter	10.00am (S.J.)	Lin Peevor	
Thurs 2 nd May	St Athanasius	10.00am (S.H.)	Communion Service	
Friday 3 rd April	Ss Philip & James	12.00noon (S.J.)	The sick and housebound of the parish	
Saturday 4 th May	The English Martyrs Fifth Sunday of Easter	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Mylo Bailey Margaret Gallagher – Peter Sharratt	
Sunday 5 th May	Sixth Sunday of Easter	9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Sheila Wilkinson – Patrick Keogh Paddy Joe McGuigan – John Henry Crilly Bolger Family – Elaine & Graham Gordon	
Confession Saturday 11.00- 11.30 am St John's Church 5.15 – 5.45 pm				

Please pray for the following who are sick: Mary Collins, Joy Espanta, Maria Alcuaz, Mandy Williamson, Anthony Hayes, Gillian Sage, Jemma Vine, Fay Bishop, Raymond Walker, Julie Tranter, Augusto Mayores, Edwin Catli, Sheila Bonser, Fr Jim McCormack, Mary Coady, Patricia Burton, Joan Barber, Dominic Hespe, George Williams, Ray Newbold, Nicole Thomson, Maurice Murdanaigum, Paul Connell, Bob Walker, Clara Counsell, Marie Purslow, Jo Hawker, Olive Arrowsmith, Stan Merryweather, Olive Stewart, Kathy Warren, Ruth Faulds, Michelle Padmore, Sheila Fullbrook, Brian McCourt, Michael Boulstridge, Alan Hopper, Peter Scott, Jane Harper, John Doherty, Janet Tansey, John McDermottroe, Vincenzo Gizzi, Lisa Smith, Bro Donie Hallissey, Kathleen Donoghue, James Doherty, Paul Heseltine, Kobe Lennox Coverson, David Jarrett, Mark Whitehouse, Rachel Scarnell, Joan Hill, Jean Padmore, Mandy Duffy-Godfry, Eugene Reilly, David Smith, Michael McMahon, Patrick Keogh, Brenda Shaw, Joe Kelly, Margaret O'Donovan, Henry Smith, Paul Vincent Argamosa, Judith Cunningham, Geraldine Lee, Matthew Downes, Nelly Jones, Kay Hearn, Drew Taylor-Hunt, Gillian Satchel, Bert Branagan and Tess Vigus.

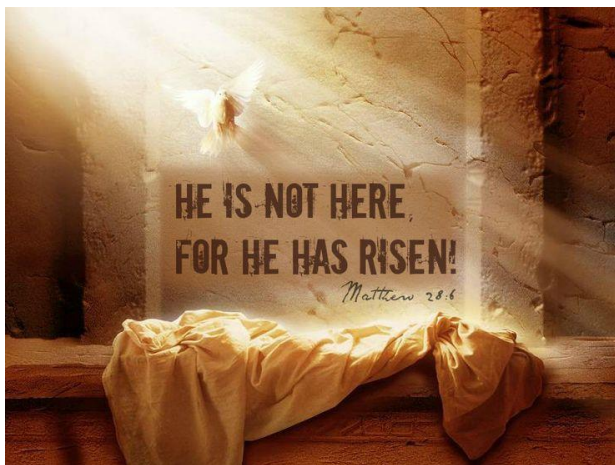
Reflection: This time of year, many of us will be looking at our gardens and know that they need to cut out all the dead wood from our plants! So why is it, sometimes we resist to prune? We understand that pruning is vital if we are to bring new life to our plants, but is it that we just don't trust the process?

Life itself can prune us too. Most often, we do not like the pruning. It can be painful and difficult but, after time, we come to realize that it has enabled us to bear fruit in new and different ways.

Today in John's Gospel we hear Jesus say "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower..." The vine grower that knows better fruit will grow because the vine has been pruned. Do we trust God the "vine grower?" Do we trust that he only desires goodness, happiness and abundant fruit for us? Most often "being pruned" is difficult. However, if we trust our vine grower and believe that growth and plenty will come from the pruning, we will bear abundant fruit in our lives.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: John Egan, Louise Walker, Bernard Flanagan, Joshua Evans, Joan Johnson, Winifred Lee, Henry Morris, Henry Carr, William Yates, Frank McKenny, Peggy Hunt, Annie Brittle, Kathleen Jennett, Jimmie O'Mahony, Winifred Flavin, Peter Day, Nancy Walker, Albert Morris, Ashley Lonergon, Raul Chacon, Gerald Roberts, Jim Poulton, Veronica Welch, George Jones, Jennie Moss, Mary Little, Hilda Larvin, Patrick Iredale, William Tysall, Alexander McCaffrey, Terence Paul, Franciszek Olearczyk, Paul Jordan, Helen Foley, Marie Gassy, George Renshaw, Michael Walsh, Ruth Harris, Julie Carey, Elizabeth Eddy, Roger Barker, Marguerite Heap, Paul Dearne, Patrick McDonnell.



Deaths: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Natalie Page**, funeral will take place at Sacred Heart on Thursday, 9th May at 10.00am; **Paul Dominic Bourke** whose funeral will take place at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium on Thursday 16th May at 1.00pm. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Communion Preparation for Children at non-Catholic Schools: Sessions continue on Monday 29th April at 6.00pm-7.00pm at Sacred Heart. There is no session on 6th May. The final session will be on 13th May.

Confirmation for children at non-Catholic Schools: Sessions continue on Mon 29th April from 5.45-7.00pm.

Confirmation Dates for your diary: Monday July 1st 2024 at St John's for St Elizabeth's and non-Catholic

Schools children; and Tuesday July 2nd at Sacred Heart for St Gabriel's children.

Journey in Faith: The next session is on Thursday 2nd May at 7.30-9.00pm at Sacred Heart. It will be on the Community of the Church.

Café Liturgy Group: Next meeting is Monday 13th May due to Bank Holiday. It is at 7.30-9.00pm at Sacred Heart in the HoT Cafe. We will explore the scripture for the next Sunday's Mass. Anyone is welcome to come along. Please email alex@tamworthrc.church for more details.

The Summer Fayre will be on June 9th. Has anyone got anything we can use as main prizes for the raffle. What works are prizes like meals, adventure activities, holiday homes, cash. Does anyone work for a company /Bank who offers match funding? Please have a think and let Fr Michael know if you have an idea.

Please also start saving prizes for tombolas – unwanted gifts, bottles etc. It will be on the same day as the Fire Walk so we expect a good crowd. We would also welcome any entertainments (dancers, music etc). All funds will go to the work of the parish.

There will be a meeting on Tuesday 30th April for anyone wishing to help organise the fayre. 8pm at Sacred Heart or contact Julie Charles on juliecharles26@hotmail.com.

Maranatha Prayer Chain: Please contact - terryvobrien@icloud.com or Sylvia Geldard 01827 65264 with a prayer request which will be passed on to our (prayer) chain of people.

Celebration Choir: The next Wednesday evening Choir Practice will be on 1st May at 7.00pm. New members always welcome. For more details, please contact alex@tamworthrc.church

Young Readers needed for the weekend of 1st and 2nd June. Contact alex@tamworthrc.church or speak to Fr Michael if you can help. We hope to have a workshop to have fun exercises for diction and projection of voices for readers soon. Valuable life skills. Watch this space!

Sudan Crisis: There are so many countries struggling with the affects or war and natural disaster that it can be overwhelming. CAFOD have brought it to our attention that Sudan yet again is in crisis and in need of our prayers and support. More detailed information can be got on the CAFOD website; www.cafod.org.uk

A 'New Parishioners Evening' is being planned.

If you consider yourself a new parishioner, please let us know. We will soon be handing out invitations for this evening on Friday June 22nd. If you can help organise this, we would welcome that too. This is open to people who have just become Catholics, those who have moved into Tamworth or anyone who has returned to the Church.

Parents, there is a Children's Library in both churches. Take a book and swap it next week.

Teas and Toys: An opportunity for young families to meet together for a chat and a coffee after 9.00am and 12.00Noon Masses in the Kenelm room upstairs. We are looking for more volunteers to help with serving teas and coffees. Could you perhaps do it on a rota?





The New HoT Shops have had a public (media) launch and are just about ready for opening. However, like the Manchester Arena, the electric supply is not yet in!

The parish has played a massive part in this via volunteering, finance and fundraising. It would not be happening without that parish input. We have done it because it's a way of living out the Gospel by helping people who are struggling. So many families in need really appreciate it.

Next Sunday is an opportunity for parishioners to have a look around at each shop, the community garden and composting project. This will happen at 10.00am and 1pm with someone on hand to answer questions.

Thank-you to everyone who has helped via volunteering in any

way, doing the Firewalk, donations and prayers. We also thank the Lambe family and the trusts who have supported this project.

Please return Lent Prayer Bags: New prayer bags will be available in May.

Phoenix Youth Group: The next gathering is on **Wednesday 1st May** from **6.30-8.00pm**. It is for those young people in Y6 and Y7. New members welcome. If you have any questions, please email Becky or Liz phoenix@tamworthrc.church.



Youth Leaders: There are 4 amazing volunteer Youth Leaders at the Wednesday Group but occasionally some can't make it. We need a backup person to help occasionally. Please contact alex@tamworthrc.church if you would like to be considered (subject to DBS).

The Friday Youth Group too need more leaders as there are currently 30-40 teenagers coming with the expert help of Rhiannon and Carmel. If you could give time regularly here that would be fantastic.

Please get in touch with rhiannon@tamworthrc.church We also need: Speaker, Pool table, Picnic blanket, Basketball hoop and Mini bowling set. Have you one you don't need?

Safe Haven is a Crisis Café for people aged 18+ with mental health problems: 5pm to 11pm Wed to Fri and 9am to 5pm on Sat and Sun. For info, email: Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk

Senior Gentlemen's Club: Meet on Tues 10.00 - 12 at St John's. Activities: dominoes, chess, bowling, trips. £2 per week subs. Contact Bill Field on 07985581794.



Help Points: Thurs evening 5.30pm - 7.00pm, in the café and on Friday from 10.00am till 12 noon, at Sacred Heart. If you are struggling with loss & wish to talk, just come along.

The Memory Café meets Tues 10.30am 12.30pm - email sally.clough@Tamworth.homeinstead.co.uk

East Staffs Diabetes UK Patient Network is a support group for people living with diabetes and families. Contact John 07590379892 Email: bridgesjohn763@gmail.com

Friendship Friday: Chats, quizzes, games - each week is different. Sacred Heart Friday 1pm - 3pm. For any information about the above check our website www.heartoftamworth.org or contact the HoT office on 01827 259955 or email jen@heartoftamworth.org

The Craft Group meet every fortnight in the Modwen room from 1pm-3pm doing lots of different crafts such as paper folding, sewing, macrame, collage etc. You don't have to be an expert! Next meet on Tues 7th May. Please join us.

Money Matters	
Envelopes:	69.00
Standing Orders:	1050.00
Loose:	672.13
Card:	63.00
Total:	£1854.13
<i>Thank-you</i>	



Summer Scheme: We hold our Summer Schemes for young people in the first two weeks of the school holidays. This year it is July 22nd- August 2nd (weekdays). We are recruiting volunteers to help. If you would like to get involved please contact alex@tamworthrc.church as soon as possible so that we can arrange for DBS checks etc.

We are looking for minibus drivers with a clean driving licence who are experienced drivers who could assist with the Scheme perhaps give a day to help with transport.

Does anyone have some spare Lego you no longer need that you could donate to the Summer scheme? as soon as possible so that we can arrange for DBS checks etc.



Land's End to John O'Groats Bike Ride 2024: Michael Henry, guitarist at the 9.00am Mass, is undertaking this 1000mile challenge in mid-May. He will be raising money on behalf of the Heart of Tamworth Charity. Just Giving Page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/michael-henry-lejogbikeride>

Chris Bain, the local Councillor for Glascode Ward has his Surgery at Sacred Heart. If you have any local issues do pop in for a chat on Second and Fourth Monday of each month Time: 6.00pm at Sacred Heart.

An invitation to married couples to attend our annual thanksgiving Mass for Marriage. Archbishop Bernard Longley will be celebrating the Mass at St Chad's Cathedral on Saturday 4th May at 12 Noon (to be followed by light refreshments). I'd be very grateful if you could make this event known.

The Board of Governors at St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School are seeking to appoint an inspirational practising Catholic leader to the post of Deputy Headteacher. Contract Type: Full Time Term: Permanent Salary: L9 (£57,482) – L13 (£63,430) Required from September 2024.

The next UCM meeting will be on Wednesday 1st May at 1.30 pm in St John's meeting room.

Games Afternoon: Thursday at the Sacred Heart, 1pm – 3pm. Chance to meet new people and play favourite games with soup/tea/coffee.

The Firewalk we did last year will be remembered by many, especially the 80 people who took part. It was a great event that really helped our charity project with the shop and food distribution. We are doing it again this year on Sun June 9th.

So, will you think about doing it? We would welcome those who did it last year but hope that others might feel inspired by the help we provide to people in need and the challenge and do it this year. If you are interested, please email michael@tamworthrc.church.

It is open to anyone over the age of 8. We welcome people from outside the Church, maybe someone who values our community work and wants to support that. All funds raised through the Fire Walk will go to Heart of Tamworth.

Maybe you know someone who would accept the challenge?

The entry fee is £10. To register your interest, contact Margaret at Margaret@heartoftamworth.org

NHS Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Urgent Healthcare Services in our local area. We all want the quickest route to urgent healthcare – but we're not always sure where to turn.

NHS 111 is often the best starting point, as you'll be directed to the best service for your needs. Did you know they can book you urgent appointments with a GP outside normal opening hours? Go online, phone 111, or use the NHS App. For more information : <https://staffsstokeics.org.uk/urgent-and-emergency-healthcare/>

Church Giving: This QR code will also take you to a site where you can donate online.



New Sign at Sacred Heart: Everyday hundreds of people are visiting for company, food, support of some kind. All of this is done through HoT, under the umbrella of the Church. It is the Gospel in action. Our new sign at the entrance to Sacred Heart which reflects the services that take place in our parish centre and enable visitors to know that they have arrived at the Church offering them the help they need.

We pray that in visiting our Church many will also discover the love of God.

You might see Fr Noel around at the weekend. A warm welcome to him on his short visit.