

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

Parish Office: 01827 769403

Parish Centre Queries: 01827 288226

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

Safeguarding: sg.sjtb.tamworth@rcaob.org.uk

Rebecca: rebecca@tamworthrc.church

Rhiannon (youth): rhiannon@tamworthrc.church

HoT Phone Number: 01827 259955

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

Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year – 1st October 2023

Psalm Response: Remember your mercy, Lord

Readings: Ezekiel 18:25-28 Psalm 24 St Paul to Philippians 2:1-11 Matthew 21:28-32

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| Saturday 30 th September | St Jerome | 10.30am (S.J.) | Ken Tansey |
| Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year | | 6.00 pm (S.J.) | Br Donie Hallissey – Ralph Garbet |
| Sunday 1 st October | | 9.00 am (S.H.) | Alison Staires – Frances Tansey |
| Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year | | 10.30 am (S.J.) | George McGuigan – Joanne Burton |
| | | 12.00 noon (S.H.) | Sylvia & Kevin Williams – Eddie Byrne |
| Tuesday 3 rd October | Feria | 10.00am (S.H.) | Amanda Wayne |
| Wednesday 4 th October | St Francis Assisi | 10.00am (S.J.) | Holy Souls |
| Thursday 5 th October | Feria | 10.00am (S.H.) | Christine Breeden |
| Friday 6 th October | Feria | 12.00noon (S.J.) | CAFOD Family Fast Day |
| Saturday 7 th October | Our Lady of the Rosary | 10.30am (S.J.) | The sick and housebound of the parish |
| Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year | | 6.00 pm (S.J.) | Anne & Sidney Green |
| Sunday 8 th October | | 9.00 am (S.H.) | Nigel Brindley – Derek Brotherhood |
| Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year | | 10.30 am (S.J.) | Ken Tansey |
| | | 12.00 noon (S.H.) | Veronica Ann Johnson – Billy Fitzgerald |

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, Rose Limm, 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 Mordanaigum, Paul Connell, Bob Walker, Marie Cole, Clara Counsell, Marie Purslow, Jo Hawker, Olive Arrowsmith, Stan Merryweather, Olive Stewart, Kathy Warren, Ruth Faulds, Michelle Padmore, Sheila Fullbrook, Brian McCourt, Michael Boulstridge, Rosie McKenny, 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, Carol Ayasamy, Rachel Scarnell, Joan Hill, Jean Padmore, Mandy Duffy-Godfry, Eugene Reilly, David Smith and Michael McMahon, Patrick Keogh, Brenda Shaw.

Reflection: Jesus is really challenging us in today's gospel. Many of us have said yes to God by our baptism, but can we say that we always carry out what God is asking us to do? Do we think that because we are practising Christians we are in a privileged position? Do we find ourselves speaking in a critical or condescending way of people who do not seem to be very moral by our standards? Possibly, after some honest reflection, we may have to admit that we are not really in a position to sit in judgement of others. Let us commit today to be followers of the Lord in deeds as well as words.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Frances Wale, Margaret Sharratt, Winifred Chapman, Margaret Moran, Benjamin Hunter, Mary Cash, William Tracey, John Hunt, Albert Cotterill, Jack Towey, Marcus Hopkins, Leslie Mear, Mary Nallen, Michael Leonard, Arthur Hughes, Anne Cleary, Kathleen Sneering, George Pegg, Catherine Whelan, Frances Lyons, Harry Taylor, Esme Lee, Bill Davis, Vicky Galbraith, Betty Roberts, Christina Dunbar, Margaret Collins, Patrick Healy, Marion Longhorn, Thomas McCalliom, Valeria O'Hara, Kenneth Griffiths, Patrick McCann, Mary Windsor, John O'Brien, Hugh Osborne, Doreen Lawrence, Eileen Roach, Winifred Inskip, Peter Gleeson, Charles Lawley, Mary Quibell, Ann James, Pauline Bryans, Anne Green, Andrew Lawlor, Joyce Hall, Mary Gillen, Nancy Turner, Arthur Hateley, Derek Brotherhood, Christine Breeden, William Bonser, James McMahon.

CAFOD's Family Fast Day is on Friday 6 October, a day we can pray, give, and eat simply, in solidarity with our global family. CAFOD rep's will say a brief word about this at Mass this weekend.



Deaths: please pray for the repose of the soul of **Helena Mooney** whose funeral will take place at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium on Tues 10th October; **Patricia Kelly** whose funeral will take place at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium on Fri 20th Oct at 11.30am; **Joan Deakin** who will be received into St John's on Tues 24th Oct at 3.30pm followed by the funeral Mass on Wednesday 25th October at 10.00am. A Memorial Mass for **Fr Michael Serrage msc** RIP will be held in St John's on Fri 20th Oct at 10am followed by the burial of ashes at Wigginton Cemetery, followed by light refreshments at Sacred Heart.

We welcome children and families to weekend Masses who are preparing for the Sacraments this year. We also welcome staff from our two schools. This weekend children and parents are committing themselves to

getting to know Jesus better in preparation for First Holy Communion or Confirmation. We all have a big part to play as parents and as members of God's family. Today we begin by praying for the children.

Confirmation: Are you in Y6 or above, at a non-Catholic School, baptised and would like to be Confirmed in the Catholic Faith? Please sign up for the Youth Alpha Course as a first step towards preparing for this Sacrament. More details above and email alex@tamworthrc.church

First Holy Communion: For those in Year 3 or above at non-Catholic Schools who would like to receive communion, there will be sessions on Mondays 6.00pm-7.00pm at Sacred Heart starting on Mon 16th Oct. Please contact Alex as soon as possible alex@tamworthrc.church or phone 01827 769403 for more details.

Alpha: Alpha has started but it is not too late to join. The first session on Thursday was a great introduction. Next, we will explore 'Who is Jesus?' It is a great way to build a relationship with God. Try it & see if it inspires you. Food provided, video; email alex@tamworthrc.church to book a place.

Alpha Help with Setting up tables: Could you spare some time on Thursdays from 4.30pm to help set up the tables? Thank you to all our leaders and cooks for stepping forward to help with Alpha this time. The course couldn't be run without you.

Youth Alpha: After a fantastic start with 16 young people present, our next session is on Mon 2nd Oct. Do you know any young people Y6 and above who would like to deepen their faith and explore Life's big questions. The format is light refreshments - Hot Chocolate and snacks, video, discussion and a simple activity. 5.45- 7.00pm on Monday evenings at Sacred Heart. Email Alex to sign up.



Alpha Cooks: We need two more cooks! We are always amazed at the wonderful food cooked for Alpha. If you can help to cater for about 35 people or lend a hand in the kitchen, please get in touch with alex@tamworthrc.church

Home Group: The next session will be on Monday 9th October 7.30pm-9.00pm at Sacred Heart. We will be starting a new series of Bible Studies. Anyone is welcome to join us. A simple way to explore the Bible together and get to know others in our Parish Community. Please email Alex for more info.



Prison Week 9-15th October. A Corporal Work of Mercy: Visit the prisoner: God calls each of us in different ways to serve Him and our neighbour. This prisons week, you are invited to join a live Zoom meeting online to hear the testimony of how a lay prison chaplain became involved in prison ministry and evangelization. Those over the age of 18 are welcome and there will be time for Q&A and prayer. These hour-long informal talks will happen this October and will contain the same content: Tuesday 10th at 20:00, Wednesday 11th at 20:00, Friday 13th at 12:30. For the Zoom link, please email claz.gomez@justice.gov.uk with your preferred day to attend, and roughly where you are located. You'll be emailed back with the link.

Maranatha Prayer Chain: If you would like to ask others to help you to pray for someone, please contact - terryvobrien@icloud.com or Sylvia Geldard 01827 65264 with a simple prayer request which will be passed on to our chain of people who will then pray for your intentions.

Prayer Partners: We are looking to pair up prayer partners with the children who are preparing for First Holy Communion or Confirmation. It's just a commitment to pray for a child and maybe send some simple

correspondence to the child via the Parish Office. If you are interested, please take an envelope with forms inside and return it asap. (If you've done it in 2022 then you do not need to fill another form in).



The Mercian Singers concert at Sacred Heart on October 21st 7pm start – doors will open at 6.30pm. Tickets £5 adults £3 children are available after each Mass or from the reception at Sacred Heart. This is being done to help support us in our work so when you come along to this event, you will not just enjoy some wonderful music and singing but also be supporting our work as a parish and charity project.

Celebration Choir: Do you like singing? We are recruiting more members to help prepare for Christmas Masses and Carol Service. Do come along and join us. We heard some fantastic singing at the Sacramental Parents evening, it would be lovely to have some new voices in the choir. 7.00pm-7.45 pm at Sacred Heart Church. The next rehearsal is on Wednesday 4th October.

Choirs: If you can't make Wednesday evening choir practice but would like to be part of the choir, please come to any Mass half an hour early

as we go through the music for the Mass then. Just introduce yourself to Annie (10.30am) or Alex

Working With Young people in their teens: Rhiannon needs a few more leaders so if you are interested in helping out, please let her know. It will be an exciting programme with lots of lovely young people. Email rhiannon@tamworthrc.church if you want to know more.

The Phoenix Youth group will restart again next month. We meet on Wednesdays. If you have any questions, then email rebecca@tamworthrc.church.

Proud 2 Profess - 14th Oct: This is a **FREE** event for young people in year 9+ and consists of the perfect chance to come together to celebrate faith in an engaging and relevant way. This year we will be partnering with **Aid to the Church in Need** and our focus will be mission and social action, and awareness of young people's experience of faith across the globe. The event is held at Sacred Heart, Tamworth, from 11am-4pm. For more information and to book a place, visit www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/proud2profess



Limitless 17-19th November is a retreat running at Soli, our diocesan retreat centre next to Alton Castle, aimed at young people in year 10 and above. It aims to grow in faith and leadership skills, and is a great way to learn new skills, take part in outdoor activities and get a leadership certificate from the diocese. Bring a friend and join us for our heavily subsidised retreat - only £55 per person! Visit our website for more info and to book www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/limitless *any young people wishing to go on this will receive a parish subsidy of 50% of cost.*

In 2023 the Union of Catholic Mothers marks 110 years of unbroken service in our parish. This will be celebrated at Mass on Sat 14th Oct at 6pm in St John's Church. All past and present members welcome.



Thanks to Hieu Nguyen (See Matthew 14:24-33)
IT'S GOTTA BE THE SANDALS

Synod in Rome: This is taking place this month with clergy and laity. It is about the Church working in a way that respects the voice of God speaking in each other, not just clergy. It will also focus on how the Church brings Good News in a changing world. There is a really informative video <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/previewing-the-synod-a-historic-moment-in-the-life-of-the-catholic-church/> where Fr. Jan Nowotnik and professor Anna Rowlands preview the Synod.

Cake Sale/ Bracelet Sale after Masses at Sacred Heart this weekend 1st Oct to raise money for a trip to Kenya. Hosted by Sofia Nelson, thank you for your support.

COVID-19 vaccination Walk-in vaccination clinic - St John's RC Church Hall, Tamworth 7th November 2023 10am – 4:00pm. Who is Eligible for autumn COVID-19

vaccination? Care home residents and staff over 65; 12-64 years in clinical risk category; 16-64 years household contacts of immunosuppressed.

Heart of Tamworth offers various volunteering opportunities from the helping in the Hot Café, Reception/Admin as well as volunteering for the many groups that we have. There will be many more opportunities once the new Hot Clothes and Food Shops open, especially if you have retail experience.

Senior Gentlemen's Club: Meet on Tues morning 10.00 – 12noon at St John's Community rooms (at the side of St John's). Other activities: put the world to rights, dominoes, chess, crown green bowling, trips. £2 per week for the trips and events. Contact Bill Field on 07985581794.

Bereavement Help Points on 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 to someone, just come along.

The Memory Café meets Tues 10.30am 12.30pm - email karen.wilkinson@homeinstead.co.uk

The Tamworth Stroke Patients and their Carers Group meet on the first Friday of the month at St John's at 1-30pm. Contact Trevor Baker - 07934351144 - tgbdelic@hotmail.co.uk

Welcome To the East Staffordshire and Surrounds Diabetes UK Patient Network A local support group for people living with diabetes and their families. If you require any further info, contact: John Bridges: 07590379892 Email: bridgesjohn763@gmail.com



October is World Osteoporosis Month. The University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust will be running a FREE Bone Health and Exercise Session on the 21st of October 2023 from 09.30-11.30am at Sacred Heart in the Kenelm Room. To register, please email EndocrineNursesQEHB@uhb.nhs.uk or call 0121-371-6950 and quote: Tamworth Bone Health Session and

provide your full name, email address and contact number.

Safe Haven is a Crisis Café at Sacred Heart, for people aged 18+ with mental health problems: 5pm to 11pm Wed to Fri and 9am to 5pm on Sat and Sun, and bank holidays 1.30pm to 9pm. SafeHaven provides a safe environment helping people recover through promotion of self-empowerment and independence. Interested in volunteering? For more info, please email: Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk.

If you are New to the Parish, please introduce yourself. Maybe you have already done that but not had a chance to spend time with one of the parish team so that we can get to know you. Just email Fr Michael.

Dates for your Diary: One date coming up is Bonfire Night on Friday Nov 3rd. It's a community event with live music, games, food and fireworks. Tickets available soon.

One of the dates in that Diary is for **the Christmas Fayre on Dec 3rd**. It is still early but raffle prizes always need to be sorted early. If you have access to any good prizes, then please let us know. Just email Fr Michael. We also need people to run stalls, catering, help with set up, cake baking etc.



Facebook – are you on it? If you are then please 'follow' us and share what we are doing. Facebook has its faults, but for the Church it is a great way to reach out to the many who are not part of any Church. Our articles, pictures and reflections might just be a tipping point in someone's life, helping them turn to God, a simple way to spread the Good News. https://www.facebook.com/StJohnTamworth/?locale=en_GB

Shop Update and Progress: *New Look* have kindly stepped forward to help design the interior and layout of the clothes 'shop' using their expertise and resources. Already, they have put some time into this and made visits and are ready to supply equipment too. The food facility is on its way too and the roof sheets arrived during the week. So, it is all taking shape. We will look to order windows soon.

The By-Election is on October 19th in Tamworth. Please remember we have a Christian duty to vote. It's often hard to decide but the outcomes we want is that God's will be done.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Maureen Hopper. They can be contacted at: sq.sjtb.tamworth@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Registered as a charity 234216

Volunteers



...are there when you need them

| Money Matters | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Envelopes | 73.00 |
| Standing Orders | 1040.00 |
| Loose: | 549.49 |
| Card: | 49.00 |
| Total: | £1711.49 |
| Thank-you | |