

# St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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



## Fifth Sunday of the Year A – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023

*Psalm Response: The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright*

**Readings:** Isaiah 58:7-10 Psalm 111 St Paul to Corinthians 2:1-5 Matthew 5:13-16

Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30 am (S.J.)	Henry Ardis
<b>Fifth Sunday of the Year</b>	6.00 pm (S.J.)	Dolores Kennedy - William and Jane Matthews
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	9.00 am (S.H.)	Kathleen O'Dwyer – George King
<b>Fifth Sunday of the Year</b>	10.30 am (S.J.)	James McKeefry – Pamela Woods
	12.00 noon (S.H.)	Sylvia & Kevin Williams – Dara Coyne
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Feria 10.00am (S.H.)	John Kelly
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Feria 10.00am (S.J.)	Henry Ardis
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Feria 10.00am (S.H.)	Maureen Gallagher
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Feria 11.00 am (S.J.)	<b>Funeral Mass for Monica Gallagher</b> (Note time change)
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30 am (S.J.)	Margaret McCrink
<b>Sixth Sunday of the Year</b>	6.00 pm (S.J.)	Monica Gallagher – Keith Richardson
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	9.00 am (S.H.)	Philip Scarratt – Liam Ryan
<b>Sixth Sunday of the Year</b>	10.30 am (S.J.)	Patricia Bryant (Nee Hawkin) – Philip Harwood
	12.00 noon (S.H.)	Beryl Smith – Janet Perry

**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, Beryl Smith, Joy Espanta, Maria Alcuaz, Mandy Williamson, Anthony Hayes, Gillian Aoife Sage, Margaret Wainwright, Jemma Vine, Corrie Walker, Fay Bishop, Rose Limm, Raymond Walker, Maureen Walker, Julie Tranter, Augusto Mayores, Edwin Catli, Sheila Bonser, Fr Jim McCormack, Mary Coady, Patricia Burton, Muriel Lawley, Joan Barber, Dominic Hesper, George Williams, Ray Newbold, Nicole Thomson, Mandy Sheridan, Gary Ealing, Marie Purslow, Emma Downes, Sini Thomas, Pat Machin, Joan Hill, Connie de Guzman, Joyce Greer, Tolentino Fabian, Maurice Murdanaigum, Paul Connell, Bob Walker, Marie Cole, Clara Counsell, Jo Hawker, Joan Dauncey, Imogen Sylvester, Olive Arrowsmith, Stan Merryweather, Mark Nelson, Olive Stewart, Kathy Warren, James McKeefry, Ruth Faulds, Michelle Padmore, George McGuigan, Sheila Fullbrook, Brian McCourt, Michael Boulstridge, Felix Sutton-Whittle, Rosie McKenny, Alan Hopper, Matilda (Tilda) Doherty and Pat MacDonald, Peter Scott, Joe Kelly, Maria Freeman, Jane Harper, John Doherty, Nigel Brindley, Michael Ayasamy, Janet Tansey.

**Reflection:** Riches, power and control are valued highly in our world. But Jesus draws on little things to teach deeper values. Salt preserves food: in the hands of a skilled cook, it adds flavour to food. But its work is hidden. As salt of the earth, we can be effective in bringing more taste to life for others.

Light does not change a room: it enables us to see what is in it. It helps us appreciate what is good and beautiful, just as it facilitates avoiding pitfalls. We are children of the light: our lives are illumined by Jesus, the light of the world (John 8:12). This light helps us to see the hidden hope of glory that is in us. So we can rejoice even in the darkness of the world.



**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:** John Whyles, Gladys Ballard, Lucy Beck, Margaret Flynn, Agnes Miles, Maria Brittain, Mary Tousy, Ernest Titterton, Mary Dowling, Christina West, Magdalene English, Hugh Creaney, Bill McCafferty, Reginald Tateman, Owen Cuffe, Joseph Smith, Sarah Plant, Olive Petricca, Ada Beech, Gemma Eaves, Helena Smith, Hetty Constable, Mary Longdon, Irene May, Kathleen Payne, Philip Summers, Dennis Ward, Charles Murray, Douglas Stait, Fr Pat Duffy msc, Kathleen Reed, Margaret White, John O'Rourke, Stanislaw Jarosz, Frederick Bissell, Diane Armstrong, John Alexander, Margaret Simpson, Anne Johnston, Margaret Fenn, Constance Jarvis, Bridget Ball, Irish Bishop, Sheila Field.

**Fr Pat Duffy** This week marks the anniversary of Fr Pat death, always lovingly remembered. May he rest in peace.

Check out the new website: [www.tamworthrc.church](http://www.tamworthrc.church)

Registered as a charity 234216

**Deaths:** please pray for the repose of the soul of **Rosemarie McDonald** whose funeral service will take place at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00pm; **Monica Gallagher**, who will be received into St John's on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 5.00pm followed by the funeral Mass on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am; **Kathleen Richardson**, will be received into Sacred Heart on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 3.30pm followed by the funeral Mass on 14<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am; **Marilyn Page** whose funeral service will take place at the Robin Hood Crematorium, Shirley on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am; **Marie Daly** whose funeral will take place in Sacred Heart on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am; **David Haynes** whose funeral service will take place at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 10.30am; **Denis Reardon** whose funeral will take place in St John's on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am; **Elsie Newbold** whose funeral Mass will take place in Sacred Heart on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 11.30pm; **Irene Taylor** whose funeral service will be on Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Feb in St John's at 10.30 and **Mark Adams** who died this week. May they rest in peace. Amen



## Praying

**Maranatha Prayer Chain:** If you would like to seek prayers for someone, contact Terry - [terryvobrien@icloud.com](mailto:terryvobrien@icloud.com) or Sylvia 01827 65264 who will organise others to pray for your intentions.

**Celebration Choir:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 7.00pm-7.45pm Sacred Heart Church. New members welcome- just turn up. Not only will you be helping us to prepare for the Liturgy at Mass and other Services but it is a chance to make new friends and become a close part of the Parish Community.



**Lent Begins in three weeks:** Any new ideas on how we might challenge ourselves this coming Lent? Maybe it is something we can do together. What works best for you? Please let us know and we will see what we can arrange.

**Magnificat:** Spiritual Lenten journey for women which aims to bring us closer to God. Across the 40 days of Lent you can develop a healthy routine of prayer, meditation, self-discipline and nurture in your daily life. You can take it at your own pace. Meditating each week through the eyes of women in scripture with the option of Podcasts and Art to reflect on you can build on your relationship with Jesus going deeper in prayer and spiritual exercises. If you would like to know more or to sign up please speak to Alex, email [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) or phone 01827 769403. There is a meeting on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 6pm at Sacred Heart.

**Exodus 40 is a Lenten exercise for men.** It is challenging mentally, physically and spiritually but offers the weekly support of meeting with the other men in the group, as well as the promise of coming closer to God. The combination of exercise, some fasting and prayer but also looking at other areas of life that we can become too attached to makes it a journey for anyone wishing to do something a bit more radical. Any men up for it? Please email [michael@tamworthrc.church](mailto:michael@tamworthrc.church) if you are.



**CAFOD Walking Challenge:** Lent will be here before we know it! CAFOD are asking people to get involved in their 'Big Lent Walk' to help fight global poverty. There are many ways you can get involved, whether you're taking on the 40-day challenge by yourself or as part of a school or community/parish group, CAFOD would love you to take part.

Anyone can take part. If part of your day involves walking: - the school run, if possible leave the car and walk, walking to mass, or your work involves walking, such as a postmen. We also thought we would be

generous with the word 'walk' and include those using mobility scooters could also take part.

For those who are unable to walk or are housebound they can also get involved by praying for relief in global poverty and, if you can sponsor someone who is doing the Big Lent Walk.

There will be sponsorship forms available soon.

For more information or to sign up: <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Big-Lent-Walk>

**Irish Night Coming up** on Friday March 17<sup>th</sup> to celebrate St Patrick's Day. Tickety Boo will be playing some Irish music alongside other popular songs. Tickets £5 and we bring our own food and drink. Tickets will be available this weekend

**Union of Catholic Mothers** - There will be a meeting of the UCM on Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm in the lower meeting room at St John's.

# Teaching - Catechesis

**Journey in Faith:** continues on Thursdays from 7.30-9.00pm If you are interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith please contact [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) or speak with Fr Michael. 01827 769403.

**First Holy Communion Preparation** for children at non-Catholic Schools continues on Mondays 6.00-7.00pm at Sacred Heart.

**Confirmation:** For children in non- Catholic Schools, the next session is on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 5.45-7.00pm when we continue with the Youth Alpha Sessions.

**Confirmation Parents Catechesis:** Please note that the sessions on the 6<sup>th</sup> February for St Gabriel's Parents and 7<sup>th</sup> for St Elizabeth's parents will be in person not on Zoom as previously planned.

6<sup>th</sup> February- Sacred Heart 7.15-8.30pm St Gabriel's Parents.

7<sup>th</sup> February -St John's Church for St Elizabeth's and Non- Catholic School Parents.

These will use the Sycamore videos to explore the Power of Prayer. If at least one parent can try to attend.

**Home Group in the Café-** The next meeting is on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in the HoT café from 7.30-9.00pm. we will be focussing on St Paul's Letter to the Philippians. If you would like to join us you would be most welcome. Optional preparation - have a look at the Summary of the Letter to the Philippians on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oE9qqW1-BkU>

You can, of course, also read the four Chapters which make up this letter in your Bible.

# Teaching - Youth Ministry

**Working With Young people in their teens** has started - next session is on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00 pm at Sacred Heart. It will be led by Rhiannon and Emily.



We are inviting young people aged 14-16 to that first evening. On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, young people can find out what it's about and also say what they want. This is their chance to make sure it is exciting and delivers the sort of activities that suit them.

Rhiannon and Emily would also welcome a couple of more volunteers to help them run the group since it might involve trips out.

**The Phoenix Youth group** is pitched at young people in yrs 6, 7 and 8 we have space, superb leaders, pizza & the opportunity to have fun together. It is open to all and is on Wednesdays from 6.30 till 8.00 pm, upstairs at Sacred Heart. If you have any questions, then email [rebecca@tamworthrc.church](mailto:rebecca@tamworthrc.church).



## Love in Action

**Donate A Bag Appeal for Tamworth Hygiene Bank:** We need clean, Reusable fabric Shopping / Tote bags - Drawstring pump bags, do you have any tucked away in a drawer/cupboard? Since our service started 2 yrs ago we have used over 600 fabric bags to supply individuals and families with much needed items. Simply drop your bags into our donation bins/boxes. Every donation is hugely appreciated.

**The Housebound** are visited by our wonderful team of 25

Eucharistic ministers with communion, each week/month.

Currently there are 90 people. This is part of what the parish does to carry out its pastoral responsibilities. If you know anyone who wants communion but is housebound then please let us know.

**Sacred Heart Provide Great opportunities to meet new people** in a warm, sociable environment and enjoy free soup, snacks and hot drinks on Thursdays at the Games Club, 1-3pm, Sacred Heart Community Centre and at the Friendship Friday group, 1-3pm, Sacred Heart Community Centre. We are also running a Winter Warmth group on Saturdays and Sundays - 1-3pm, at St John's Church community rooms. Everyone is welcome to come along.





**The Memory Café** meets every Tues 10.30am-12.30pm; for info email [karen.wilkinson@homeinstead.co.uk](mailto:karen.wilkinson@homeinstead.co.uk)

**Bereavement Help Points** on Friday from 10.00am till 12 noon, at Sacred Heart and on Thursday evening 5.30pm – 7.00pm, held in the café. If you are struggling with loss and wish to talk to someone, just come along (Thursday evening is quieter); you are welcome to simply turn up.

**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 or [tgbdeltic@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tgbdeltic@hotmail.co.uk)

**Sacred Heart Craft Group** will be meeting on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 1pm. All are welcome

**Games Club:** Every Thursday at Sacred Heart 1pm – 3pm, now with hot soup and a roll. A great way to meet new people while playing your favourite board games. Open to all, free to attend, no need to book.

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

**Welcome To the East Staffordshire and Surrounds Diabetes**

**UK Patient Network** A local support group for people living with diabetes, their families, partners, carers, or anyone with an interest in diabetes. Want to know more? Then please come along to our first face-to-face meeting that is being held on: Mon 27th Feb between 2pm and 4pm at Sacred Heart. If you require any further info, contact: John Bridges: 07590379892 Email: [bridgesjohn763@gmail.co](mailto:bridgesjohn763@gmail.co)



A safe, non-judgemental, evening space, for people experiencing emotional distress.

**Safe Haven is a Crisis Café** situated at Sacred Heart Church, for people aged 18 plus with mental health problems. This service will run between 5pm to 11pm Wednesdays to Fridays and 9am to 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays, and Bank holiday 1.30pm to 9pm.

Safe Haven will provide a safe, supportive, and therapeutic environment helping individuals in their recovery through promotion of self-empowerment and independence. It will be relaxed, informal and supportive, considerate of risk and safety, but focused on de-escalation and recovery. We are also currently looking for volunteers for more information; [Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk](mailto:Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk).

**The Walking Group:** please check with your own networks for what is happening this week.

**Building a New Shop** is to make the experience more dignified but also to create a community environment so we can engage more with people who visit. The plan is also to develop space for clothing, children's books and toys. The £5000 raised at the Christmas Fayre recently will be for the new shop. Thank-you to so many individuals and businesses who have also donated thousands of pounds to our food project in the last few weeks.

**Thank-you to those who have offered to help collect food.** If you can help, please contact Kelly asap.

**Scaffolder Needed:** do you know anyone working in scaffolding who will give us a good price for a job at St John's? Please speak to Fr Michael if you do.

**Fr Subba Collection** – Envelopes are available this weekend for anyone who wishes to contribute to a gift for Fr Subba. We will collect the envelopes back next weekend. Thank you.

**Preparing for Lent** - Before Ash Wednesday catches us unawares, let's make a point of sitting down and giving some thought to how you want to spend this Lent.

If you have no idea where to begin, rest assured, there is a solid foundation to work from.

There are three holy practices which we are called to embrace in penitential seasons such as Lent and Advent. These three practices are **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**.

When you make your Lenten plan, choose something specific from each category—and you're set for a grace-filled journey to Easter.

Money Matters	
Envelopes	84.00
Standing Orders	1000.00
Loose:	779.01
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1863.01</b>
<p>Thank-you</p> <p>Would those giving cash consider giving by direct debit to help the parish?</p> <p>Speak to Fr Michael or Wendy for info</p>	