

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

Parish Office: 01827 769403

HoT Phone Number: 01827 259955

Fr Michael: michael@tamworthrc.church

Fr Karun: karun@tamworthrc.church

Fr Venkat (Charles): venkat@tamworthrc.church

Deacon Bob: bob@tamworthrc.church

Deacon Brian Cox and Nora: nora@tamworthrc.church

Catechesis/liturgy: alex@tamworthrc.church

Admin - Wendy: office@tamworthrc.church

Rebecca Downes: rebecca@tamworthrc.church

Terry (Bookings): terryobrien@heartoftamworth.org

Kelly-HoT worker: kelly@heartoftamworth.org

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

Rhiannon (youth): rhiannon@tamworthrc.church

Fourth Sunday of Easter (C) 11th May 2025

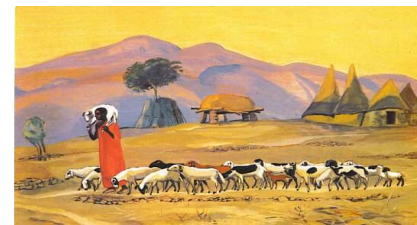
Readings:	Acts 13:14, 43b-52	Psalms 100	Revelation 7:9, 13a, 14b-17	John 10:27-30
Saturday 10 th May Fourth Sunday of Easter	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Holy Souls Irene Whelan		
Sunday 11 th May Fourth Sunday of Easter	9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Joseph Leyden – Michael Costello Pope Frances – Riszard Holowenko Sylvia & Kevin Williams – Raul Selgado		
Tuesday 13 th May Weekday of Easter	10.00am (S.H.)	Ian & Val Haywood		
Wed 14 th May St Matthias	10.00am (S.J.)	Peace in the world		
Thursday 15 th May Weekday of Easter	10.00am (S.H.)	Josephine Snowdowne		
Friday 16 th May Weekday of Easter	9.00am (S.G.) 12.00noon (S.G.)	St Gabriel's Mass Mass for the sick and housebound of the parish		
Saturday 17 th May Fifth Sunday of Easter	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Deacon Tony Rigby Christine Breedan – William & Margaret Gallagher		
Sunday 11 th May Fifth Sunday of Easter	9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Celia Goodeve – Deacon Brian Cox Frank Blaxham – Stephen O'Mara Michael Murray – Joan Dunne		

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, 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, Kathleen Donoghue, James Derty, Paul Heseltine, David Jarrett, Mark Whitehouse, Joan Hill, Mandy Duffy-Godfry, Eugene Reilly, David Smith, Brenda Shaw, Margaret O'Donovan, Henry Smith, Paul Vincent Argamosa, Judith Cunningham, Fr Michael White, Geraldine Lee, Matthew Downes, Nelly Jones, Drew Taylor-Hunt, Gillian Satchel, Bert Branagan, Pete McNaughton, Eileen Facer, Flor Masters, Ryan O'Doherty, Patricia Devlin, Phyllis Dillon, David Purslow, Irene Whelan, Anna Flynn, Carol Dolan, Rachel Scarnell, Sandra Massey, Susan Hall, Chito Sutton, Robert Gene Legaspi Jr, Briget Landers, Rory Downes, Janine Nolan, Derek Dillion, Bridie Petricca, Brian Cox, Denise Howell.

Reflection: Jesus is our Shepherd and protector who guards and guides us, who feeds us with his love and protects us from all that everyday life can throw at us. He defends us from anyone who tries to take us away from him. We can keep ourselves close and connected to God through our prayer time. This is a precious time where we can experience a loving intimacy which God longs to give us.

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world." C.S. Lewis



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: William Chapman, Patrick Tracey, Ellen Calaghan, Molly Smith, Annie Dormer, John Gallagher, Frank Tricklebank, Margaret McDaid, Ella Doherty, John O'Mahony, Henry Nevin, Bernard Hillgman, Leo Porter, Phyllis McGinty, Anthony Prendergast, Francesco Agatiello, Hemley Haiste, Theresa Shears, James Brightman, Olive Fogg, Stephen McLaughlin, Ellen Harte, Jessie Gee, Frances Creaney, Nora Coleman, Arthur Vaughan, John Byrne, David Ilsley, Frank Ensor, Kathleen Carrington, Harry Black, Christopher Courtney, John Forde, Robert Green, Barbara Treadwell, James Gerrard Ronayne, Joe Murphy, Kathleen Sweeney., Joseph Laffan, Thomas Larvin, Fredrick Sedgely, Rosemary Barron, Finn William, Christopher McEvoy, Leonard Welch, Brendan Malone, Madeline Culbertson, Mary Tysall, Joseph McNeill.



Parish A.G.M. Sunday May 11th at 1.00pm. Following our report including accounts and alongside our Parish Consultation, we will hold our Annual General meeting to discuss the reports and listen to any of your concerns and ideas moving forward. Please do attend we would welcome your feedback. There will be some light refreshments.

Deaths: Please pray for all those who have died recently; **Geoffrey Mephram** whose funeral will take place in St John's on Friday 23rd May at 1.30pm; and **Elizabeth Doherty**, Simon's sister-in-law, who passed away during the week. May they rest in peace: Pray also that their families will be consoled by their faith.

Deacon Tony Rigby: We were all saddened to hear about Tony's passing during the week. Tony served our parish faithfully for half of his 33 years as a deacon and then was a real blessing to Haunton and Barton. Many will fondly remember him baptising their children, doing weddings and funerals, visiting the sick, leading catechesis – all done with enthusiasm and a smile. Please pray for Helen and family as they grieve.



Readers Training: We are blessed to have so many amazing readers across the Masses. We would like to offer a session for all ministers of the word (readers) to come forward to hone our skills and receive tips to develop and improve our reading. There will be a session soon. To register an interest please email Alex.

Eucharistic Ministers taking communion to the housebound need an up-to-date DBS. Please contact Anne Goodeve on sg.sjtb.tamworth@rcaob.org.uk to arrange.

Confirmation Group: The next session is on Monday 12th May at 5.45-7.00pm at Sacred Heart.

Communion Group: The next session will be on Monday 12th May due to Bank Holiday.



First Holy Communion Masses will take place next weekend on Saturday 17th May and Sunday 18th May 2025.

May Procession: The following weekend on Sunday 25th May after the 9.00am Mass there will be a May Procession where the children who have made their First Holy Communions may dress in their special outfits and lead the procession.

Confirmations for St Gabriel's School Children is Friday 13th June 2025 at **Sacred Heart** and for St Elizabeth's children and those at non-Catholic schools the Confirmation will be at **St John's Church** on Thursday 19th June 2025.

Pilgrims of Hope- Jubilee 2025 Pilgrim's Passport: If you fancy visiting some local Pilgrimage places, we have a family challenge for you. Try to complete our small booklet visiting as many of the places listed and finding the answers to our clues and questions. The Pilgrimage Year lasts until the Feast of the Epiphany 2026 so there is plenty of time. Let us know how you are getting on!

Journey in Faith next session is on Thurs 15th May at 7.30-9.00pm and **Sat 17th May** 8.30-10.00am

In Simple Faith is on Mon 19th May at 7.30-9.00pm at Sacred Heart in the HoT cafe. Please note the date is three weeks from the last session. An opportunity to explore scripture in a relaxed environment.

Teas and Toys after 9.00am Mass at Sacred Heart in the upstairs Kenelm Room. This is a lovely way to meet other parents and have a chat while the young children enjoy some play together.

Choir: The next practice will be on Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7.00pm.

Maranatha Prayer Chain: If you would like to ask others to pray for someone, please contact terryvobrien@icloud.com or Sylvia Geldard 01827 65264 with a simple prayer request.

Lichfield Cathedral Mass with Bishop Timothy: Can you help to welcome and signpost the children to the Cathedral. Please email alex@tamworthrc.church for more information.

If you have made your first holy communion, why not become an altar server and get involved in the Mass in a new way? We will offer training. Just speak to any priest or deacon or email Fr Michael asap. It's open to all ages. If you are a parent, can you encourage your son or daughter to serve please?

Senior Gentlemen's Club: Tues 10.00-12.00 St John's for dominoes, chess, bowling, trips. Subs **£3**.



Money Matters	
Envelopes:	85.50
Standing Orders:	1100.00
Loose:	744.56
Tap & Go	99.00
Total:	£ 1931.05
Thank-you	

Youth meet every Wednesday 6pm – 7.30pm. Have you got a young person in years 6 – 13, that would like to attend? We meet in the upstairs Kenelm Room, £1 per child, includes snacks and refreshments. Contact rhannon@tamworthrc.church for more info.

The games club on Thursday at the Holiday Inn. You do not need to commit to every week but we could do with two more volunteers. If you would like more info, contact Kelly on 07422 721835.

St Gabriel's requires a Caretaker: If you are interested then the school would be very keen to hear from you. For more information, please contact St Gabriel's 01827 213910

This weekend sees the culmination of Cleft Awareness week. Charlotte Hall would like to thank all Parishioners for their kindness and support. She has been walking a mile each day to raise awareness with her young family and baby Lilac. If you wish to help CLAPA (Cleft Lip and Palate Association) charity support other families too by using this link to donate https://www.justgiving.com/page/charlotte-hall-3?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=015



Summer Scheme Volunteers: Are you able to do a day or two? The more volunteers we have, the more fun it is for all the volunteers and children. If you have received the **volunteer registration pack** from Rebecca, please email them back **ASAP** to ensure DBS checks are completed. If you would like to know more, and get involved please contact via email rebecca@tamworthrc.church many thanks 😊

Heart of Tamworth is dedicated to combatting social isolation, alleviating food poverty and taking care of the most vulnerable in our community. We are always looking for volunteers to help in our Community Cafe, Pre-Loved Clothing

Shop and Community Pantry, as well as our groups supporting those who are bereaved or living with dementia, parent and toddlers, people with addictions and more. If you are interested, please contact jen@heartoftamworth.org.

Can you spare 10 minutes please? Family members have different opinions, and we want to hear from children, teenagers, newcomers and established parishioners. **Please take part.** *Even if you think everything is fine, just say so.*

The consultation with everyone, is initially online. Help us discern how to improve by responding. The online version link is left or on this link Parish Consultation 2025. Please use this or the QR code, if you are able. It's also on Facebook. Just 10 minutes can help shape our parish's future. Thank-you to all who have already filled this in.



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



Sacred Heart Toddlers are back this Thursday 15th May, 10.30am in the upstairs Kenelm room. This week we are exploring Noah's Ark! Please keep an eye out on social media for regular updates. Toddlers have been hugely successful, and we are looking for more volunteers to join the team! Contact rebecca@tamworthrc.church if you want to know more.

If you know of any Catholics who are poorly, please let us know. We can arrange for them to have the blessing of the sick. Just email details to patrickstanden@virginmedia.com who kindly takes charge of this.

Memory Café meets Tues 10.30am and Tues 1.00pm. Email sally.clough@Tamworth.homeinstead.co.uk or contact 01827 259955.

Deacon Brian remains in Good Hope. The medics feel he still needs careful monitoring for a few more weeks. Please keep him in your prayers. While the prognosis with his cancer is not good, he and Nora Phil and Mark have been overwhelmed by the kind wishes and prayers of thousands of well-wishers. Please keep them in your prayers and please allow them space and time to adjust.



Pope Leo 14th: What an amazing few days following the death of Pope Francis. The world has watched with a sense of respect and fascination as we all awaited the choice of the Holy Spirit. Pope Leo is the son of immigrants, born in Chicago but mostly ministering in Peru. Like every authentic disciple, he has a love for those suffering in the world and, of course, a great love for and desire to serve Jesus. In my time as a priest we have been blessed with Popes John-Paul, Benedict and Francis. We will all be praying for this new Pontiff. He faces many challenges.

In Pope Leo we have someone who has chosen to be named after Leo XIII who had a special commitment to Catholic Social Teaching (*Rerum Novarum*), sometimes referred to as the Church's 'hidden gem'. But actually, there's nothing hidden about care for the poor – the Gospels are full of it.



East Staffs Diabetes UK Patient Network supports groups for people living with diabetes. John 07590379892 or bridgesjohn763@gmail.com

Safe Haven is a Crisis Café, now in Market St, Tamworth. Contact Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk

Social media: If you are on social media, please follow us on Instagram and Facebook. We post regular news and updates on there, please 'like' and 'share', the good work that goes on across our Parish.



It's the Summer Fayre on 8th June and we would be grateful for your support. There is a form on the notice board at the back of church, if you can sign up for either volunteering on the day by helping with a stall or running a stall or baking a cake for the cake stall Helping with setup or clearing away. Any or all of these, even for an hour would be greatly appreciated.

Summer Fayre Prizes: can you get anything exciting for our Summer Fayre. Meals, adventure activities, signed Villa or Blues shirt – anything through some connection you have. Email bob@tamworthrc.church.

- Raffle tickets available this week. Can you take and sell a few, please? This gives us a great starting point for the fayre.
- Bottles are always a big hit. Please search the house and bring some **next week**.
- **Then, all those unwanted presents would be perfect for clearing drawers and helping the parish.**
- And do you know a restaurant or business that might, through you, offer a prize? Businesses are often generous towards local community charities. We just need to ask them.



Please start bringing items in and returning Raffle stubs and money



Know and Grow introduction to the Makaton's communication techniques, tailored specifically for use within the Christian setting. All will gain an understanding of Makaton's communication techniques, exploring how they can be employed in church services to ensure they are accessible to all. Sat, 12th July 9:30am – 4:30pm, Sacred Heart Church cost £40 per person. There are only 15 spaces available, so early booking is advisable. For more information and booking

https://bookwhen.com/irismakatontraining?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWQCMTEAR7OTyHy4VNsWMJAL6wJ8zeY40P36p2MdtCJJ1-ePVdD4fMVOKDvxFTyilJWqA_aem_BRQB8yf5WupZRIcxcxK_TA#focus=ev-shdi-20250712093000

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Anne Goodeve, who can be contacted at: sg.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 concerns.