

# St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

## Third Sunday – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Readings:	<i>Acts 3:13-15, 17-19;</i>	<i>Psalms 4;</i>	<i>1 John 2:1-5;</i>	<i>Luke 24:35-48;</i>
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Weekday of Easter	10.30am (S.J.)	Holy Souls	
	Third Sunday of Easter	6.00pm (S.J.)	Lynda Sanders – David Burford	
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> April		9.00am (S.H.)	Alan Bentley – Mark Rhead-Corr	
	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>	10.30am (S.J.)	Caolan Devlin – Anne & Robert Burke	
		12.00noon (S.H.)	Sylvia & Kevin Williams – Ronnie Kelly	
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Weekday of Easter	10.00am (S.H.)	Communion Service	
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Weekday of Easter	10.00am (S.J.)	Communion Service	
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Weekday of Easter	10.00am (S.H.)	Communion Service	
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Weekday of Easter	12.00noon (S.J.)	Mark Anthony Feighan	
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday of Easter	10.30am (S.J.)	Special Intentions	
	Fourth Sunday of Easter	6.00pm (S.J.)	Rosie McKenny – George McGuigan	
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> April		9.00am (S.H.)	Nigel Brindley – Ken Tansey	
	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	10.30am (S.J.)	Julie Morris - Kit Liversidge & Joe Ironmonger	
		12.00noon (S.H.)	Orlando Cortez – Nancy Gunn	

**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, Mary Hackett, Dave Purslow and Maureen.

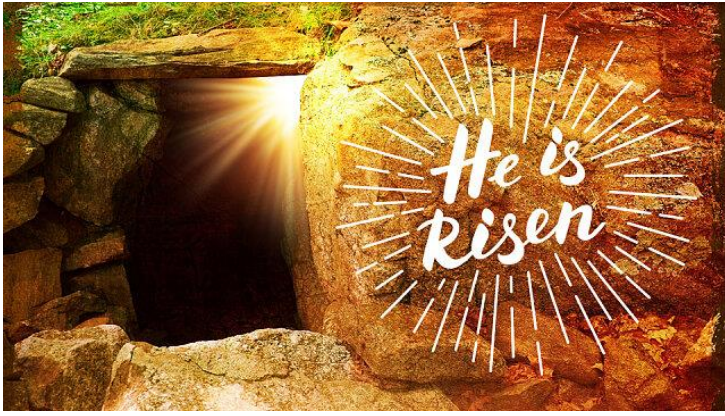
**Reflection:** In our relationship with Jesus, as in the Gospel today, we too can be tempted to think of Jesus as a ghost. We need to remember, he shares everything we experience and offers us a share in everything he experiences, including his resurrection.

His resurrection breaks down all barriers, removes all divisions - within us, between us and others, between us and God. His true disciples are ambassadors of reconciliation. Today we can ask ourselves; Am I a source of unity or division for others? Do others encounter the power of his resurrection through me?



**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:** Margaret Weatherall, Ambrose Holland, Laurence Jackson, Thomas Lane, Anne Gould, John Wood, William Oughton, Terence Rabone, Richard Blackmore, Bernadette Fitch, John Cunningham, John Walker, Mary Fitzimmons, James Davidson, John Leonard, Millicent Smith, Albert Fenn, William Smith, Mary Black, Sandra Flaherty, Agnes Sharpe, Peter Carey, Cathleen Doherty, Marie Flemming, Maurice Saunders, Lawrence Lee, Thomas Tulip, Margaret Sirr, Nora Heffernan, Kenneth Tansey, Sarah Cafferty, Ida Simpson, John Burne, Winifred Young, Gerard Karey, Elizabeth Murphy, Marjorie Mary Wilkins, Martha Elizabeth Hodgkinson, Doris Blakeman, Patrick Baker, Madge Black, Peter Lawley, Cameron Devenney, Gabriel Joseph Costello, Mary Bonning, Linda Croot, Maurice James, Kelvin Poulton, Mary Brady, Marian Cook, Alan Hurley, Stephen Brindley, Margaret Gallagher, Bodhi Dainty, Joan Dunne, Patrick Dunbar, James Dunbar.

**Thanks to All our Gardeners at both churches.** They are doing a great job. Can anyone spare two hours on Wednesday from 9.30am at Sacred Heart please?



**Deaths:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Natalie Page** (daughter of Julie) whose funeral Mass will be at Sacred Heart on Thurs May 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am. May she rest in peace. Amen.

**Communion Preparation** for Children at non-Catholic Schools is on Mon 15<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00pm.

**Confirmation for children at non-Catholic schools:** The next session is on Mon 15<sup>th</sup> April at 5.45 in the Kenelm Room upstairs at Sacred Heart. Don't forget permission slips for Bowling at Strykers the following week.

**Confirmation Dates for your diary** are Monday July 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 at St John's for St Elizabeth's and non-Catholic Schools children; and Tuesday July 2<sup>nd</sup> at Sacred Heart for St Gabriel's children.

**Communion Parents' Catechesis** will be the week beginning the 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Your leader will be in touch this week to remind you of the times. Contact [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) for more information.

**Café Liturgy Group meet on** Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm, exploring scripture for the next Sunday's Mass.

**The Summer Fayre** will be on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Has anyone got anything we can use as main prizes for the raffle. What works are prizes like meals, adventure activities, holiday homes, cash. Please let Fr Michael know if you have any ideas.

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.



**Maranatha Prayer Chain:** To ask others to help you to pray for someone, please contact - [terryvobrien@icloud.com](mailto: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 Wed 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm. New members always welcome. For more details, please contact [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church)



**Spreading the Good News:** That's our mission, clearly given to us by Jesus and what a joy it is to have received 25 people into the Church this Easter. How can we keep this going? Between now and September we have time to invite more people to hear about the Good News, or visit our parish and then, if they wish, join the next Alpha course.

Lots of new people are also moving into the parish. That can be difficult for them. Maybe they are leaving a parish where they feel at home. It can easily lead to them stopping church attendance. We need to be welcoming but also brave

enough to invite neighbours and others to join us.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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.

**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?



**Phoenix Youth Group:** The next gathering is on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April** 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](mailto:phoenix@tamworthrc.church).

**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](mailto: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 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 [sally.clough@Tamworth.homeinstead.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:bridgesjohn763@gmail.com)

**Games Afternoon:** Thursday afternoon at the Sacred Heart, 1pm - 3pm. Great chance to meet new people and play some favourite games. Soup and/or a cup of tea/coffee are available.

**Friendship Friday:** Another great chance to meet new people or catch up with old friends. Chats, quizzes, games - each week is different. Sacred Heart Friday 1pm - 3pm. For any information about the above check our website [www.heartoftamworth.org](http://www.heartoftamworth.org) or contact the HoT office on 01827 259955 or email [jen@heartoftamworth.org](mailto: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! We next meet is on Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Please join us.

**Our Lent collection for CAFOD** this year was £2392.30, from Family Fast £1129.40, Lenten Soup Lunch £447.90 & Born For This Ticket donations £815. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way.

**We hold our Summer Schemes** for young people from July 22<sup>nd</sup>- August 2<sup>nd</sup> (weekdays). We are recruiting volunteers to help. If you would like to get involved, please.

**Chris Bains** the local Councillor for Glascote 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 4<sup>th</sup> May at 12 Noon (to be followed by light refreshments). I'd be very grateful if you could make this event known.

Money Matters	
Envelopes	52.00
Standing Orders	1050.00
Loose:	627.80
Card:	68.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1,797.80</b>
<i>Thank-you</i>	
Fr Michael and Fr Ramesh do thank everyone for your generous Easter offerings too.	

## Volunteer Opportunities



**Heart of Tamworth** offers many opportunities to volunteer in the centre - Drivers, café, reception...

With the opening of the 'Vintage Clothing' shop, we need to recruit volunteers to help run it. So:

- if you have any retail experience or just an interest
- if you want to support a good local charity
- if you can sell clothing online

To know more, contact [jen@heartoftamworth.org](mailto:jen@heartoftamworth.org) as soon as possible to be part of a team that can make a difference and have good fun at the same time.

If you are among those saving good quality clothing for us, then please hold on a little longer. Thankyou.

**Legionella Risk Assessment:** Has anyone the knowledge to do this for the parish? It is part of our health and safety requirements. If you can help, please contact [bob@tamworthrc.church](mailto:bob@tamworthrc.church)

**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 Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto: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 Justgiving link for signing up is <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/hotfirewalk>

**Manchester United Fans:** We have a number of Limited Edition 'books' telling the story of Duncan Edwards and Manchester United. Has anyone any expertise of ebay selling to see what value they have? If you can help, please contact the office.

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

**The Governing Board of St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School** are pleased to announce the appointment of a new Headteacher, Mr William Bright, with effect from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. A comprehensive recruitment process was undertaken over recent weeks.



Applications were assessed and a small number of candidates were interviewed, which took place at school and Sacred Heart Church on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March. This stage included Governors, representatives from the Diocese and Staffs County Council.

After a period of deliberation, Mr Bright was chosen as the successful candidate and we are pleased to announce this to you now. You will know Mr Bright as our current Deputy Headteacher. He has been at the heart of school improvements and instrumental in a number of whole-school initiatives while in his current role. School leaders will now work to ensure a smooth transition.

We would like to congratulate Mr Bright on behalf of the parents, staff, children and Parish community and wish him well as he takes the school forward from September 2024.

Please pray for My Bright and St Gabriel's. Appointing a headteacher is a big responsibility and he will need all our prayers and support. We also thank Mr John Hayes for the dedication he has shown to this role over the last 15 years. He has been an inspiration to many staff, parents and children.

**Church Giving:** We are doing the accounts for 2023 and will present these in due course. Thank-you for supporting the parish. 'Loose money' in the collection has increased. It makes a big difference. But can people who give this way please swap to standing orders? It means no counting, banking and security issues. That way, it can also be gift aided (government adds 25% from taxpayers to increase the donation). Whether it's £1 a week or £20, if all our loose money was gift aided it would increase our collection by **£7,000 per annum** at no cost to those who donate. That's a big increase and would cover a loss we made last year. Forms can be found in the church porch.

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



**Changing Signs:** With the growth in our outreach work, we will soon be changing the entrance signs. Everyday hundreds of people are visiting Sacred Heart looking for company, food, support of some kind. So much of this is done through HoT, under the umbrella of the Church. It is something of which we should be proud, as a parish. The new sign will reflect that these services take place in our parish centre and enable visitors to know that they have arrived at a Church offering them the help they need.

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