

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent A – 19th March 2023

Psalm Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want

Readings: Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13 Psalm 22 St Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

Saturday 18 th March Fourth Sunday of Lent	10.30 am (S.J.) 6.00 pm (S.J.)	Rosemarie McDonald Mary Lane – Jane McSweeney
Sunday 19 th March Fourth Sunday of Lent	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Monika, Robert & Family – Nancy Gunn Peter Khiv – Mark Feighan Thanksgiving – P.K.D.J Margaret
Tues 21st March Weekday of Lent	10.00am (S.H.) 10.45am (S.J.) 7.00pm (S.H.) 7.30pm (S.H.)	Bridie Funeral Mass Alina Frymus People of the Parish- <i>followed by the Lenten Talk by Fr Michael Dolman from Oscott College</i>
Wednesday 22 nd March Weekday of Lent	7.00am (S.H.) 10.00 am (S.J.)	George McGuigan Geraldine Gault
Thursday 23 rd March Weekday of Lent	10.00am (S.J.) 7.00pm (S.H.)	Richard Carty Mark Anthony Feighan
Friday 24 th March Weekday of Lent	10.00am (S.J.) 12 noon (S.J.) 7.00pm (S.J.)	Funeral Mass David Flanagan The sick and housebound of the parish Stations of the Cross
Saturday 25 th March Fifth Sunday of Lent	10.30 am (S.J.) 6.00 pm (S.J.)	Kay & Glyn Reed Monica Gallagher – George McGuigan
Sunday 26 th March Fifth Sunday of Lent	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Elsie Newbold – Kit Liversidge Jim Barnwell – Tony Soden Sally Fell – Bernadette Sharp

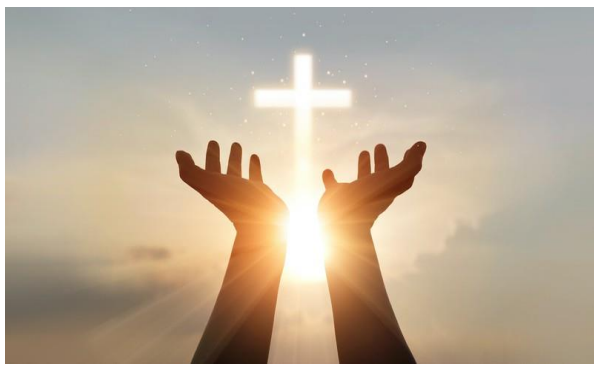
Confession Saturday 11.00- 11.30 am St John's Church 5.15 – 5.45 pm

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 Hespe, George Williams, Ray Newbold, Nicole Thomson, 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, Sheila Fullbrook, Brian McCourt, Michael Boulstridge, Felix Sutton-Whittle, Rosie McKenny, Alan Hopper, Tilda Doherty, Pat MacDonald, Peter Scott, Joe Kelly, Maria Freeman, Jane Harper, John Doherty, Nigel Brindley, Janet Tansey, John McDermottroe, Vincenzo Gizzi, Patrick Smart, Bro Donie Hallissey.

Reflection: The man in today's Gospel was born blind. He encountered Jesus and was healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. What did he see when his eyes were opened? His eyes were opened to the light of faith, that Jesus was the son of Man. He comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple. Can we be like the Pharisees who remain blind? Or can we have our eyes opened to see the face of God in everyone we meet, friend or foe?



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Terence Brady, Mary Wherle, Brigid Hegarty, Mary Walsh, James Armstrong, Margaret Byrnes, Matthew Cuffe, William O'Connor, Edward West, Gladys Harwood, Frances Williamson, Michael Davy, Carmel O'Brien, Thomas Blount, Andrew Dow, Thomas Tooley, Charles Hartree, Cyril Sheldon, Percival Grove, Ray Morris, Tommy Bradley, Jack Vaughan, Graham Hughes, Simon Steggles, Frederick Green, Joseph Smith, James White, Josephine Willams, Kathleen Perchanycz, Vincent SIRR, Shirley Raspe, George Phillips. Eric Denis Douglas, Karl Croft, Robina Hickey, Lucy Bates, Joseph Hunt, Teresa Bury, Trevor Slater, Winifred Dunleavy, Ada Malloy, Margaret Singleton, Kathleen Knight, Christopher Siddals, Marguerite Beard, Vincent Murphy, Katherine (Kit) Liversidge, James Moody Mack, Paul Doherty, John Reilly.



Deaths: please pray for the repose of the soul of **Alina Frymus** will be received into St John's on Mon 20th March at 3.30pm followed by the funeral Mass on Tues 21st March at 10.45am; **David Flanagan** will be received in to St John's on Thurs 23rd March at 3pm followed by the funeral mass on Fri 24th March at 10am; **Debbie Hamilton** funeral service will take place at Nuneaton crematorium on Tues 28th March at 10.15pm; **Desmond Ryan** whose funeral Mass will take place in **St John's** (not Sacred Heart) on Monday 27th March at 12 noon; **Michael Ayasamy** whose funeral Mass will take place in Sacred Heart on Friday 31st March at 11.30am;

George McGuigan will be received into St John's on Thursday 13th April followed by the funeral Mass on Friday 14th April at 10 am. We keep in our prayers **Beryl Smith**, **Cyril John Francis Forshaw** and **Christopher Jennett** who also passed away recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Praying in Lent

What's On in Lent?

- **The Penitential Service** will be On Wednesday 5th April at 7pm at Sacred Heart. 7 priests will be present to hear our confessions. Please use this opportunity to receive the Sacrament and prepare well for Easter.
- **Lent talks on Tuesday evenings** in Sacred Heart. Tues 21st March at 7.30pm. Guest speaker this week is Fr Michael Dolman speaking about prayer and worship. This is a great chance to learn about the Gospel and the call of Jesus to prayer.
- And take a look at **Pray As You Go** - <https://pray-as-you-go.org/> It's gentle, reflective and offers a thought every day. An alternative follows the Gospel of each day and is also good: <https://hallow.com/blog/daily-readings/>



Father Hudson's are offering three online workshops about 'Being a Welcoming Church'. Monday evening 20th March, 7.30 -8.30 p.m. there is an online Zoom session for anyone interested in how parishes can support older people and those who experience dementia. It has been prepared by Father Hudson's Care working with a number of local parish groups. The session is free. Please sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/a-welcoming-church-1741579>

Further evenings are covering Disability on 22/05/23 and Homeless on 19/06/23. Book through <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-welcoming-church-homelessness-tickets-546205333857> These are aimed at sharing some great project ideas and encouraging each other in social action projects. There is no charge, simply email kevinhateley@fatherhudsons.org.uk to register and a link will be sent.



Walk for CAFOD. There is still time to join in with CAFOD Big Lent Walk. Our **Wonky Walkers Group** are walking as part of parish commitment as well as individual parishioners. You can join in by walking and being sponsored or sponsoring another parishioner. If you can't do the walking, please pray for those affected by climate change. Sponsorship forms for individuals are available in church. Please return forms and money in a clearly labelled envelope to parish office or Sacred Heart reception.

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

Celebration Choir: 22nd March we will be practising at Sacred Heart Church from 7.30-8.30pm. New members welcome to help us prepare for Lent and Easter.

Journey in Faith: The next session is on Thursday 23rd March at 7.30-9.00pm. **Home Group in the Café:** The next session is on Monday 27th March at 7.30pm.

First Holy Communion preparation continues on Monday evenings 6.00pm-7.00pm at Sacred Heart.

Confirmation for those in non-Catholic schools. Sessions every Monday 5.45-7.00pm at Sacred Heart.

Mass with Polish Prayers will take place on Saturday 25th at 6pm at Sacred Heart. It is open to everyone, and much is still said in English, but prayers can be said in either language and some hymns are in Polish.

Please take a card, write the date of the Mass on it and pop it through the letter box of a Polish neighbour.

What's Happening in the Church outside our parish? The answer is 'a lot'. One issue that the Diocese is facing is the shrinking number of people and priests in parishes. In 12 years, the Diocese will go from 127 priests to 60 – covering 240 parishes. In response to this, the Diocese is revisiting its mission and has developed a pastoral plan. However, the way in which any plan is implemented requires the ideas, leadership and prayers of lay people.

The Archbishop is speaking about this in his pastoral letter today. Copies of this are available in the porch or can be watched on our Youtube channel.

If you want to know more and feel you can bring ideas or energy, prayers or wisdom then please contact Fr Michael asap so we can meet and discuss.

Saturday 25th March at St Mary the Mount Parish Centre Walsall:

Day of prayer, reflection and fellowship **10.30am-2.30pm** (lunch provided). It's an Encounter Day run by members of Cursillo and is aimed at lay leadership. Interested to find out more or to book contact Paul at the office for Mission: office.mission@rcaob.org.uk As a parish, we would encourage anyone interested to attend this day and let us know how valuable it is.



Just occasionally, Fr Michael wondered if he had gone too far in his quest for publicity.

Teaching - Youth Ministry



Working With Young people in their teens every Friday at 6.00 pm at Sacred Heart. It will be led by Rhiannon and her team. We are inviting young people aged 14-16 to come along and 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.

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.

Craft Group: next meeting - Tues 28th March at 1pm. All are welcome. The Group will have a table of Easter goodies, all made by the group, on Sunday 26th March after Mass.

Sacred Heart Provide Great opportunities to meet new people in a warm, sociable environment and enjoy free 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 also run a Winter Warmth group on Saturdays and Sundays - 1-3pm, at St John's Church community rooms. All welcome.

Tamworth Hygiene Bank: In February our parish collected over 35kgs of items for Tamworth's Hygiene Bank. This also included dozens of beautiful handmade fabric bags from the Craft group. Thank-you everyone.

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

The Irish Night on Friday was a lovely evening. Thank-you to our band Tickety-Boo for organising and leading it and to all who came. We raised approximately £750 for HoT.

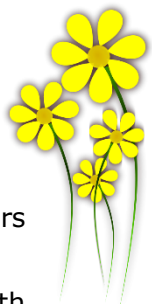
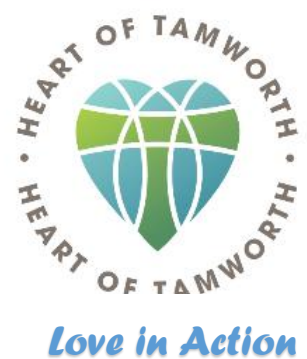
The Memory Café meets Tues 10.30am-12.30pm - email karen.wilkinson@homeinstead.co.uk

Happy Mother's Day to all our Mums.

Please, pray for all Mums today including those who have gone to God.

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

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 - tgbdeltic@hotmail.co.uk



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. If you require any further info, contact: John Bridges: 07590379892 Email: bridgesjohn763@gmail.com

Safe Haven is a Crisis Café situated 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 will provide a safe, supportive, and therapeutic environment helping individuals in their recovery through promotion of self-empowerment and independence. Currently we are looking for volunteers. For more information; Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk.



We need your help! Due to the cost-of-living crisis the HoT Community Shop has seen a significant increase in people needing our support. Could you, your workplace or business help please? How about committing to a regular cash donation no matter how big or small? Or perhaps you could add a donation point in your shop, office or workplace? If you would like to offer support, please contact: kelly@heartoftamworth.org

Fr Hudson's Care, Situation

Vacant - Estates Manager position working across multiple sites in Coleshill. The role is full time (37 hours). If you would like to discuss the position please call our CEO Andy Quinn on 07966 935533 (no agencies), or download an application here <https://www.fatherhudsons.org.uk/vacancies/facilities-manager/337.htm>

Money Matters	
Envelopes	58.60
Standing Orders	1000.00
Loose:	663.25
Total:	£1721.85

Thank-you

CAFOD: This week we have sent cheques to CAFOD amounting to £3105.61. This was made up of the Turkey / Syria earthquake appeal of £2059.38 and £1046.23 from the Family Fast day. Thank you so much for your generosity at these challenging times for so many people.

Some Reflections on Archbishop Bernard's Letter

The archbishop's message today highlights some of the challenges we face, looking ahead. It is a crisis, but they say that in Chinese writing the word 'crisis' is made up of two symbols – one is for danger and the other is opportunity. The danger is clear – the closure of churches and loss of mission. We could end up just managing a declining Church.

But the opportunity is to be creative, less dependent on priests and enable lay people to fulfil their baptismal calling. It is an opportunity to return to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus, something we may have, partly, lost sight of? There are so many in need of hearing the Good News of Jesus.



For many years, we have, as a parish, been trying to organise ourselves to do this. This has not been easy, but hopefully, we can see how it has also born fruit.



This has involved employing more people, developing buildings, our liturgy, evangelisation and developing our charity work. We have developed the parish council, brought in annual reports, more consultation and more opportunities for people to get involved.

This also fits in with what Pope Francis is calling us to, a renewed Church in which we are mission focussed and respecting the calling of every baptised person.

Please pray about this. In our parish it would be good to hand on a vibrant church community, that is doing God's will, to future generations. There is no way of responding to a world where faith is not valued, other than to love, pray and serve as Jesus loved, prayed and served.

Thank-you for your time, your prayers and your financial contributions. They make a huge difference to what we can do in the service of the Gospel.

Thank-you to all those who have recently started giving regularly or increased their giving, by standing order and the many who have been doing standing orders or envelopes for a long time.

If you have not yet read the annual report there are copies available, with accounts, in both churches. We had our AGM last Sunday but if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.