

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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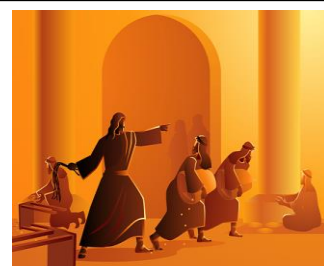
St John's Church is on St John St, Tamworth, B79 7EX

Third Sunday of Lent – 3rd March 2024

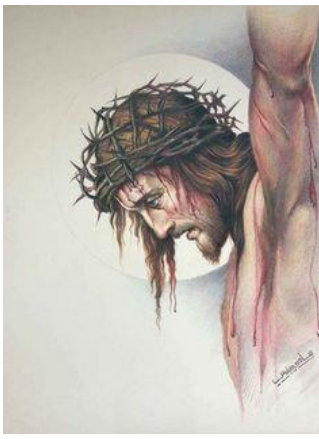
Readings:	<i>Exodus 20:1-17</i>	<i>Psalms 18</i>	<i>Corinthians 1:22-25</i>	<i>John 2:13.25</i>
Saturday 2 nd March		10.30am (S.J.)	Ambrose & Margaret Holland	
Third Sunday of Lent		6.00 pm (S.J.)	Catherine Callaghan – Gabriel Caldwell	
Sunday 3 rd March		9.00 am (S.H.)	Ken Tansey – Tracey Donoghue	
Third Sunday of Lent		10.30 am (S.J.)	Michael Bolger – James McKeefry	
		12.00noon (S.H.)	Steve Pursglove – Goya Weatherburn	
Tuesday 5 th March	Weekday of Lent	10.00am (S.H.)	John Collins	
Wed 6 th March	Weekday of Lent	10.00am (S.J.)	Trish FitzGerald	
Thurs 7 th March	Ss Perpetua & Felicity	10.00am (S.J.)	Funeral Mass for Michael Clancy	
		10.00am (S.H.)	Annie Mary Forde	
Friday 8 th March	Weekday of Lent	12.00noon (S.J.)	Sick and Housebound Parishioners - <i>Soup Lunch for CAFOD</i>	
Saturday 9 th March		10.30am (S.J.)	The Parks Family	
Fourth Sunday of Lent		6.00 pm (S.J.)	Patsy Joyce – Phil Rowlands	
Sunday 10 th March		9.00 am (S.H.)	Maureen Walker	
Fourth Sunday of Lent		10.30 am (S.J.)	Dec Members of the May & Burke Family	
		12.00noon (S.H.)	Ken Tansey – Amelia Wayne	
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-Godfrey, 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.

Reflection: Jesus signed his death warrant when he cast commerce out of the temple. He stood up for the truth about God and about religion and the poor, as the businesspeople of the temple were exploiting the poor with high prices. Lent gives us new insights into how Jesus lived his life, always within the shadow of his death. Even this scene at the start of the gospel has us remembering that this would lead him to death and to glory. The glory of God here is Jesus fully alive to the exploitation of the poor, the mistreatment of the house of God, and fully alive to the faith that was beginning to grow in his disciples. Our prayer today might be to remember all who suffer and are endangered in their commitment to justice and right religion.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Arthur Pallett, Mary Weir, Ernest Cope, Mary Burke, Peter Shakespeare, Patrick Callaghan, Annie Cuffe, Molly Seedhouse, Reginald Slates, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Beardsley, Helen Lilly, Susan Bradley, Francis Fellows, Mary Quinn, James and Marlene Robinson, David Knowles, Frank Newby, Salvatori Pascalis, Pearl Tarpey, Tom Coleman, Eileen McCormack, Doris Nunan, Katherine Perchanycz, Phyllis Luckett, Patrick Fitzsimmons, Joan Moore, Winifred Fitzpatrick, Martin Weir, Peter Peacock, John Davis, Edna Wedgbury, Margaret Whalley, David Ryan, Doreen Smith, Mary Johnson, Stanley Sharratt, Patrick Egan, Agnes Kemble, Bernadette Sheldon, Pauline Cadman, James O'Reilly, Gerald Watkins, Noah Matthew Batchelor, Mary Wyatt, Betty Harding, Eva Howard, Gillian Solanky, Maureen Mole, Morag Deighton, Ann Marie Pyra, Michael Hutchings, Philip Corrigan, Mindaugas Andriulionis, John Cunningham.



Deaths: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Michael Clancy** who will be received into St John's on Wed 6th March at 4pm followed by the funeral Mass on Thurs 7th March at 10.00am; **Mark Feighan** whose funeral will be at Fradley Crem at 2.30 on Friday March 8th; **Peter Sharratt's** funeral will be in St John's on Thursday 14th March at 10.00am; **Margaret Melding's** funeral is 2.30 on Tuesday 12th March at St John's; **Bill Willis** and **Gabriel Caldwell** who died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Communion Preparation for Children at Non-Catholic Schools continue on Monday 4th March at 6.00pm-7.00pm at Sacred Heart.

First Confessions: First Confessions for children at St Gabriel's and St Elizabeth's take place this week. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

Confirmation for non-Catholic School children: For the young people in the Confirmation group from non-Catholic Schools the next session is on Monday 4th March at 5.45-7.00pm at Sacred Heart in the upstairs Kenelm Room.

Journey in Faith; The course continues Thursday 7th March at 7.30-9.00pm at Sacred Heart in the Kenelm Room (Upstairs). If you would like to find out more, please contact alex@tamworthrc.church

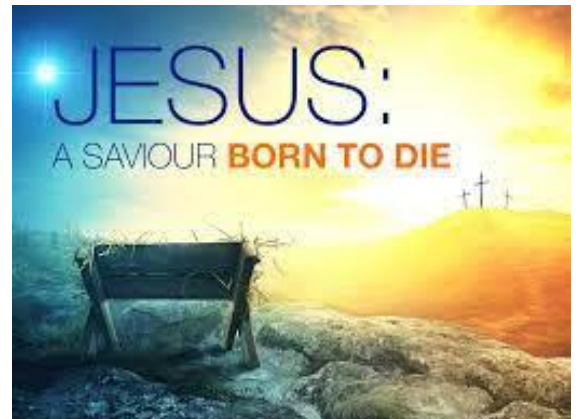
Café Liturgy Group will explore the readings of the Sunday Mass, in historical and cultural context and discuss. The sessions will continue Mon 4th March at 7.30-9.00pm at Sacred Heart in the HoT Café. Anyone is welcome to join us. Email alex@tamworthrc.church for more info. We meet fortnightly.

Young Readers: Thank you to the young readers who have volunteered to read this weekend. There are some spaces at the 6.00pm Mass we need to fill. Please get in touch with Alex if you can help next time.

'Born for This' rehearsals continue this week on Saturday 2nd March for all cast 9.00am -11.30am. There is also a rehearsal on Tuesday 5th March 7.00-8.30pm for all including the static chorus. It will be presented on Friday evening 22nd March 2024. Tickets are available.

Maranatha Prayer Chain: To ask others to help you to pray for someone, please contact - 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 practice is on Wed 6th March at 7.00pm. For details, please contact alex@tamworthrc.church



The Issue of Abortion is very emotive. The position of the Church is not to condemn the mother but to love both mother and child. Enabling vulnerable Mums to get support in our old presbytery is one way of doing this – a project so well run by Homestart with 6 Mums there continuously.

On March 4th Diana Johnson and Stella Creasy want to amend 2 laws: - The Person Act 1861 and Infant Life Preservation Act 1929, that are used to protect the unborn child. Without these acts, there would be no sanction against a doctor or parent who aborts a baby up to birth (even on the grounds of gender).



Most countries in Europe (22 of them) have an abortion limit of 12 weeks gestation. In the UK it is 24 weeks. This amendment would effectively make abortion permissible up to birth.

The Church loves and values the unborn child (the most vulnerable of all) and believes that better ways must be found to support mothers in difficult circumstances. Abortion is damaging for mothers and deadly for unborn children. Please write and express your concerns about this amendment to the law to your local MP this week.

In stark contrast, the BBC announced last week that ministers have listened to bereaved parents who have gone through the painful experience of miscarriage. Campaigners said they were "thrilled" that millions of families would finally get the formal acknowledgement that their baby existed in the form of a certificate. This is for babies up to 24 weeks since those after that are registered as 'still-births'.

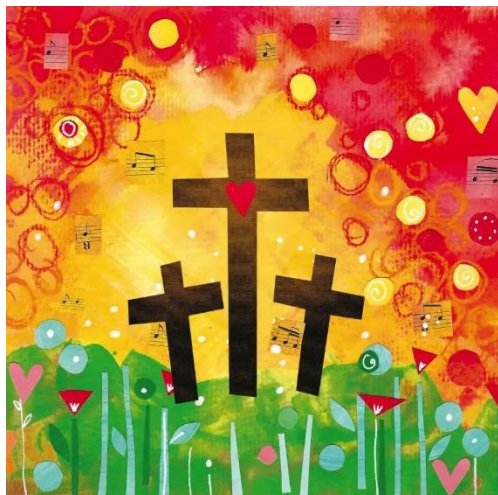
No-one has suggested a certificate for babies who have been aborted.

If we don't speak up for them, who will?

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.

Bibles and Rosaries for sale: There are a collection of Catholic Bibles for sale at a special price of £15 and rosaries for £1. Plus, some Rosary Guides to saying the Rosary at 50p.

St John's Cleaners: this is a very heartfelt appeal for more cleaners for St John's Church. Your commitment will only be once every 3 weeks at most. Please contact the parish office 01827 769403.



1. *Nightly rosary, prayed on our Youtube channel at 8pm every evening – just 15minutes each night for Lent, led by parishioners & children.*

2. *An excellent prayer app called Hallow. It offers all sorts of ways of helping us pray, with daily reflections too, ideas for children and much more. You can join via this QR code or click www.hallow.com/holydaypackage/ When it asks for your parish, enter Tamworth.*

3. *Daily Mass, plus Friday Lenten soup lunch in support of CAFOD – 12 noon Mass at St John's. Please join the Friday mass. It combines prayer, fasting and almsgiving.*

4. *Homilies on prayer for the first 3 Sundays of Lent in which we are encouraged and taught how to pray.*

5. *Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings, 7pm at St John's.*

6. *Sycamore: Inspired and led by Fr Stephen Wang, the Sycamore*

series of videos helps us to reflect on our faith. It gives you space to meet other people, share ideas, explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter. This Lent we will offer two sessions on prayer:

7. *How to Pray: Monday 11th March 7.30-8.45pm in the Kenelm Room at Sacred Heart. Bring a friend. You don't have to be a Catholic to attend! All are welcome.*

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Lent Prayer Bags: There are some prayer bags for children /families. If you would like to borrow one, please do and use it but please make sure you bring them back so others can have a turn!

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

The Big Lent Walk – Walk 200km in 40 days to help fight global poverty. Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. The money raised will help people as they overcome poverty. When you sign up you will receive a welcome pack. For more information search for 'The Big Lent Walk'

Phoenix Youth Group: Next gathering is on **Wednesday 6th March** from **6.30-8.00pm**. It is for those young people in Y6 and Y7. New members welcome. A voluntary contribution of £1 per session would be appreciated each session to help towards the cost of pizza and squash. A chance to catch up with friends, make new ones and enjoy fun activities and games. If you have any questions, please email Becky or Liz phoenix@tamworthrc.church.



Summer Scheme Volunteers Meeting: Mon March 18th 7.30-8.30pm at Sacred Heart in the Kenelm Room. We are running a Summer Scheme for two weeks from Monday 22nd July to Friday 2nd August (Mon- Friday). We are recruiting for volunteers. Can you help? There are lots of jobs to do and some not all involving children like admin and preparation of activities, rooms, grounds, hospitality etc. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact alex@tamworthrc.church and come along to the meeting.

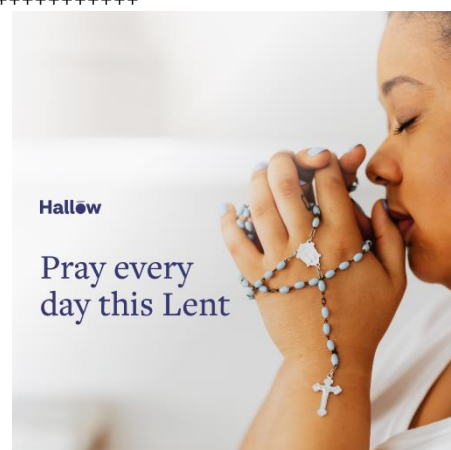
Senior Gentlemen's Club: Meet on Tues 10.00 – 12noon at the side of St John's. Activities: put the world to rights,

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 karen.wilkinson@homeinstead.co.uk

East Staffs Diabetes UK Patient Network is a support group for people living with diabetes and families. Contact John Bridges: 07590379892 Email: bridgesjohn763@gmail.com



There is a Big Gardening day at Sacred Heart on Thursday this week. Can you spare a morning please? We need 12 people to make work easier. Starting at 9am. Email bob@tamworthrc.church

UCM Meeting will be on Wednesday 6th March at 1.30pm in St John's meeting room.



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. For more info, please email: Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk

Winter Warmers: Come along to Sacred Heart Wed, Thurs, and Fri 11am – 3pm. Hot soup & a chat are always available. All are welcome.

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 or contact the HoT office on 01827 259955 or email jen@heartoftamworth.org

Money Matters

Envelopes	80.50
Standing Orders	1040.00
Loose:	394.02
Card:	92.00
Total:	£1606.52
CAFOD	£1040.75

Thank-you

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 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.



Sacred Heart Craft group meet every fortnight from 1pm-3pm. Next meeting on Tues 12th March. You don't need to be an expert. We hope to see you there.

Teas and Toys sessions. We would love to keep them going because it is a way for families to get to know each other. These are at Sacred Heart after 9am and 12.00 Noon Masses. Can you help?

Mill Hill Mission Red Boxes: The Annual National Novena to St Joseph takes place from the 10th- 18th March at St Joseph's Maidenhead. Masses are held at 10.00am and Sundays at 11 during the week of the Novena. Watch on www.millhillmissionaries.com/novea. Thanks to all who support the Missions with their red boxes or through donations. Over a £1000 was raised last year.

Mary was pictured on Facebook last week. She is a young woman who is new to the parish and looking to rent a room. Can anyone help please? She would like to be near church but works at Park Farm Lodge. Speak to Fr Michael if you want to know more.



Church Giving: We are currently doing the accounts for 2023 and will present these in due course. Thank-you for supporting the parish. Loose money on the collection has increased.

But can people who give this way please swap to standing orders?

That way, it can be gift aided (government adds 25% from tax-payers to increase the donation). If all our loose money was gift aided it would increase our collection by **£7,000 per annum** at no cost to you. That's a big increase and would cover a loss we made last year.

Forms can be found in the church porch.

Recently, a parishioner asked by giving via QR code. This is now available. This code will take you to a site where you can donate online.