

# St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

## Second Sunday of the Year– 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024

*Psalm Response: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will*

**Readings:** Samuel 3:3-10,19 Psalm 39 St Paul to Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20 John 1:35-42

Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Second Sunday of the Year</b>	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00 pm (S.J.)	James McKeefry Joyce Farrington – William Matthews
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Second Sunday of the Year</b>	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Roger Bickford – Mary Devine & Family Sean Bolger – Edwin Pope Mary Collins – Carol Ayasamy
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Val Dickens
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January St Anthony	10.00am (S.J.)	Kevin & Una Bolger
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Rosaleen Addison
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January Feria	12.00noon (S.J.)	<b>Funeral Mass for Marie Cole</b>
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Third Sunday of the Year</b>	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00 pm (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.H.)	Mass for the sick and housebound of the parish Coleen Tunney – Margaret & Patsy Murphy & Family Waladyslaw & Jadwiga Gada – <i>Mass with Polish Readings</i>
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> January <b>Third Sunday of the Year</b>	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Kelly Family – Gee Bernstein & Kathleen Ford Tony Martin Holy Souls – 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, Marie Cole, Clara Counsell, Marie Purslow, Jo Hawker, Olive Arrowsmith, Stan Merryweather, Olive Stewart, Kathy Warren, Ruth Faulds, Michelle Padmore, Sheila Fullbrook, Brian McCourt, Michael Boulstridge, Rosie McKenny, 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.

### Reflection: 'Look, there is the Lamb of God'

In a loving look you know that you are loved - perhaps by your child, grandchild, boy or girlfriend, friend, parent, husband, or wife. Jesus looked hard at them - looked right into them - and called them. They were affirmed and loved in that look. Prayer can start with you looking at God looking at you. Take in the look, allow the look to warm you and invite you. The look of Jesus says in its own way, 'Come and see'. Prayer is our time to come and see who the Lord is, and who we are ourselves.



**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:** John Larvin, Catherine Turner, Charles Inskip, Daniel McCarthy, Fr. Kennedy, Jeremiah Walsh, Margaret Doyle, Ruth Beirne, Catherine Faulkner, Raymond Davis, Betty Delaney, Simon Burke, Doreen Coleman, Esther Record, Glyn Reed, Katherine Windsor, Kathleen Price, Jean Cuffe, Antoni Czech, Michael Lynch, Sheila Invine, Evelyn Metcalf, Chris O'Hara, Harriet Baimbridge, Nellie Wingfield, Catherine Counsell, Winifred Kiff, Eileen Smallman, Frank Baker, Michael Johnson, Annie Miles, Peggy Standen, Robert Cuffe, Denis Tierney, Anthony Hunt, Kevin Hynes, John Prosser, Lilian Davis, Marjorie Brennan, Catherine Watson, Mary Whelan, Anthony Fisher, Patrick Brady, James Salt, Margaret Lawrence, Bridget Shanley, William Heffernan, Nancy Lynch, Br. Martin Morris, Maureen Dunhill, James O'Reilly, Olive Aherne, Ann Chinn, Tracy McLean, Patricia Shewell, Rose McKiernan, Paul Cadwallader, Marilyn Page Denis Reardon.

**Deaths:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Marie Cole** who will be received into St John's on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 3.30pm followed by the funeral Mass on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 12noon; **John Isaac Hill** whose funeral will take place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at Sutton Crematorium at 11.30am. May they rest in peace. Amen.

**First Holy Communion:** The next session is on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00pm-7.00pm at Sacred Heart for children attending non- Catholic Schools.



**Confirmation:** For the Confirmation group the next session is on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 5.45-7.00pm unless you need to prepare for Communion as well in which case, please come on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00pm-7.00pm at Sacred Heart.

**Confirmation Dates** 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.

**Parents Catechesis for Confirmation** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January at Sacred Heart at 7.30-8.45pm for Parents of confirmandi at St Gabriel's School and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January at St John's from 6.15-7.30pm for those at St Elizabeth's and non-Catholic Schools. We will be using The Sycamore Videos and discussion prompts on The Power of Prayer. Note

these are intended for parents only.

**Journey in Faith;** For those interested in becoming a Catholic or finding out about the Catholic Faith the course continues on Thursday January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30-9.00pm at Sacred Heart in the Kenelm Room (Upstairs). This week we will learn more about the Mass. If you would like to find out more or book your place on the course, please contact [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church)

**Home Group** The next session will be on Monday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30-9.00pm at Sacred Heart in the HoT Café. Anyone is welcome to join us. A simple way to explore the Bible together and get to know others in our Parish Community. Please email [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) for more information.

**Parents, there is a Children's Library in both churches.** Just borrow a book of Bible stories for use during the week and swap it next week.



**Born for this-** There is a rehearsal this Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30-12.00 Noon with actress Nichola Burley and then Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00pm-8.30pm at Sacred Heart Church. Thank you to all involved and to the latest recruits for stepping forward. It might take you out of your comfort zone, but we could still do with some more people to act a simple part of being an apostle at the Last Supper and then some more weeping women of Jerusalem. For these parts fewer rehearsals would be required. Please contact [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) for more information. It will be presented on Friday evening 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024. Please speak to Alex if you can help with lighting, sound, or props.

Four or five strong people needed to come to just a few rehearsals to carry the cross and lift Jesus during the presentation. Please get in touch with Alex soon. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please ask around especially if you know someone in a drama group who might like to get involved.

**Celebration Choir:** The next practice is on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00pm- 8.00pm. We will look at some of the chorus parts for Born for this in the second part of the rehearsal for those interested in being part of the static chorus. For more details, please contact [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church)

**Choirs:** If you can't make Wednesday evening choir practice but would like to be part of the choir, please come to any Mass half an hour early as we go through the music for the Mass then. Just introduce yourself to Annie or Alex.



**We Are Looking for New Readers** at all Masses. There is a rota so you would not be on every week. We can also offer a chance to try it out first and get some training. Reading the scriptures in Church is a vital ministry. When we read, we are sharing the Word of God. Anyone, any age can put themselves forward. If you would like to give it a try, then email Alex or Fr Michael and we will get the ball rolling. We are keen to introduce more young people to reading too, so, if you feel you can read well and project your voice in Church, then age is no barrier. Speak to Fr Michael, Alex or Fr Ramesh after Mass

**Maranatha Prayer Chain:** If you would like 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 simple prayer request which will be passed on to our chain of people who will then pray for your intentions.

**Working With Young people in their teens:** Rhiannon needs a few more leaders so if you are interested in helping, please let her know. It will be an exciting programme with lots of lovely young people. Email [rhiannon@tamworthrc.church](mailto:rhiannon@tamworthrc.church) if you want to know more. If any young adults are looking for voluntary work as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award, then please get in touch too.

**Phoenix Youth Group:** The next meeting is on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January** from **6.30-8.00pm**. It is for those young people in Y6 and Y7. Enrolment consent forms must be completed first for them to attend. These will be available to be signed on the night. 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. A new contact email has been set up. If you have any questions, please email Becky or Liz using the new email address: [phoenix@tamworthrc.church](mailto:phoenix@tamworthrc.church)

**Sacred Heart Craft Group's** next craft meeting is on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 from 1.00pm-3.00pm. If you enjoy being creative and have a bit of time to meet other like-minded people, bring your favourite crafting materials or just turn up to find out more.

## Volunteer Opportunities



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

There will be many more opportunities once the new 'HoT' Clothes and Food Shops open,

With the opening of the 'Vintage Clothing' shop, we need to recruit volunteers to help run it. While we will be able to make affordable clothing available to families and individuals, we also need to make some money to pay for the running costs of Heart of Tamworth. Up to now we have depended on grants and donations but those are drying up. So:

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

or if you just want to know more then, 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. We do appreciate it.

### What's on in Sacred Heart and St John's Centres –

**Senior Gentlemen's Club:** Meet on Tues mornings 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.



**Bereavement 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](mailto:karen.wilkinson@homeinstead.co.uk)

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

**The East Staffs Diabetes UK** Patient Network is a support group for people living with diabetes and their families. For info, contact: John Bridges: 07590379892 Email: [bridgesjohn763@gmail.com](mailto:bridgesjohn763@gmail.com)

**Sacred Heart Craft Group's** next craft meeting is on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 from 1.00pm-3.00pm. If you enjoy being creative and have a bit of time to meet other like-minded people, bring your favourite crafting materials or just turn up to find out more.



**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. Interested in volunteering? For more info, please email: [Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk](mailto:Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk)

**Winter Warmers** – Come along to Sacred Heart Wednesday Thursday and Friday between 1pm – 3pm. Hot soup and a chat are always available. A warm welcome to everyone

**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. Come along and see for yourself.

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)

**Building Update:** most of the windows and doors are now in. The paving outside is almost complete and looking good. The guys have worked really hard this week in the cold (not enviable this week!) The main post for the canopy is up but we still await that new electricity supply. It should start to come together quickly now with opening being planned for March. Thank-you for all your support.

Money Matters	
Envelopes	61.34
Standing Orders	1040.00
Loose:	697.55
Card:	65.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1863.89</b>
Thank-you	

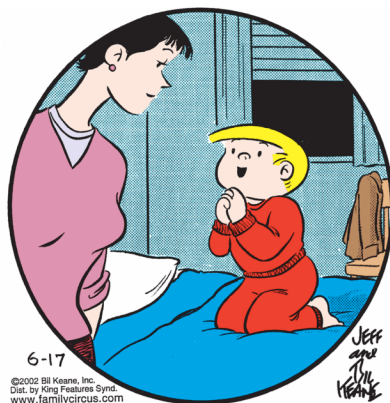
**Cultural Evening** – sadly, due to unforeseen circumstances we need to postpone the cultural evening. This will happen later on in the year, so get ready with your culinary ideas.

### **The Big Lent Walk – Walk 200km in 40 days to help fight global poverty**

- Challenge yourself and take on the CAFOD Big Lent Walk. 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 which will include a pair of 'Big Lent Walk' laces to help you on your way. For more information search for 'The Big Lent Walk'

**Tamworth Hygiene Bank:** We supply 'school packs' to most primary schools in Tamworth, including our 2 Catholic schools, so that they can help families in need. We also distribute packs through all our project partners such as CAB, CIC, HoT. We know that so many more local people are having to make difficult

choices. We hear of children sharing toothbrushes and unable to buy soap. If you can, please donate unopened items into the **yellow bin** at Sacred Heart or the **basket** at St Johns. We need shampoo/shampoo bars, shower gel, soap bars, children's toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, packs of 'Magic Leaves' clothes detergent.



**Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo**, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).