

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent A – 26th March 2023

Psalm Response: *With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption*

Readings: Ezekiel 37:12-14 Psalm 129 St Paul to the Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45

Saturday 25 th March	10.30 am (S.J.) 6.00 pm (S.J.)	Kay & Glyn Reed Monica Gallagher – George McGuigan
Fifth Sunday of Lent		
Sunday 26 th March	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
Fifth Sunday of Lent		
Tues 28 th March	10.00am (S.H.) 7.00pm (S.H.)	Frank Saxton Sarah White
Weekday of Lent		
Wednesday 29 th March	7.00am (S.H.) 10.00 am (S.J.)	Ruth Perry Stuart Parker
Weekday of Lent		
Thursday 30 th March	10.00am (S.J.) 7.00pm (S.H.)	The sick and housebound of the parish RCIA Candidates
Weekday of Lent		
Friday 31 st March	9.15 am both schools 11.30 am (S.H.) 12.30 pm (S.H.) 7.00pm (S.J.)	Bro Donie and Fr Mike Serrage Michael Ayasamy Funeral Mass at Sacred Heart <i>Followed by CAFOD Soup Lunch at Sacred Heart</i> Stations of the Cross – Led by the UCM
Weekday of Lent		
Saturday 1 st April	10.30 am (S.J.) 6.00 pm (S.J.)	The people of the parish Jane McSweeney
Palm Sunday		
Sunday 2 nd April	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Monica Gallagher – Olive & Dennis O'Connor Andrew Morton – Denis Reardon Sylvia & Kevin Williams
Palm Sunday The Passion of the Lord		

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

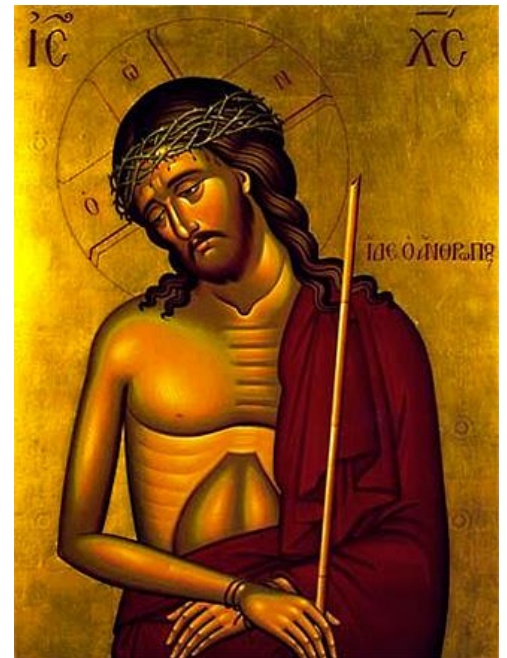
Please pray for the following who are sick: Mary Collins, Beryl Smith, Joy Espanta, Maria Alcuaz, Mandy Williamson, Anthony Hayes, Gillian Aoife Sage, Margaret Wainwright, Jemma Vine, Corrie Walker, Fay Bishop, Rose Limm, Raymond Walker, Maureen Walker, Julie Tranter, Augusto Mayores, Edwin Catli, Sheila 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, Fr Mike Serrage.

Reflection: Jesus reminds us many times that, if we have faith, nothing is impossible. Martha's faith is unflinching, impossible to defeat. Knowing that the tomb contains the decomposing body of her beloved brother, she can still summon up the words, "even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him". Do we truly believe that anything is possible for one who believes? When we feel entombed in hopelessness, do we hear the voice of Jesus, as Lazarus did. Let us pray that we hear those blessed words he uttered at Lazarus' grave: "Unbind him - let him go."



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: James Walker, Alan Orrell, Ean Sharratt, Bernard Bartram, John Robinson, James Weir, Thomas Hennessy, Agnes Tracey, Pauline Law, Bernard Wilkinson, Michael Garry, Lilian Gillespie, William Pywell, William Fleming, Freda Tracey, Oswald Fitzpatrick, Kitty Nicholson, Joseph P. Murphy, Peggy McSharry, Elizabeth Hughes, Roy Downes, Elizabeth Foy, Michael O'Brien, Mary Dow, Martin Cafferty, Karel Vind, Ellen Gibbons, John Roach, Philip George Bates, Dorothy McDonald, Godfrey French, Lefzek Chrusciel, Janet Armstrong, William Reardon, Norah Waterhouse, Patrick Nixon, David Jones, Francis Fallon, Veronica Anderson, Bernadette Black, Andrea Blunt, Matthew Cuffe, Florence Chyla, Dennia Field, Davina Montgomery, Matilde Sarno, James Armstrong, Evelyn Roberts, Josephine Gough.

Deaths: please pray for the repose of the soul of **Debbie Hamilton** funeral service will take place at Nuneaton crematorium on Tues 28th March at 10.15pm; **Desmond Ryan** whose funeral Service 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 Forshaw** and **Christopher Jennett** who also passed away recently. May they rest in peace. Amen.



Praying in Lent

What's On in Lent?

- **Stations of the Cross**- The UCM will be leading Stations of the Cross on Friday 31st March at 7.00pm at St John's reflecting through the eyes of Mary.
- **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.
- **Pray As You Go** - Take a look at <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/>



Easter Cards have been printed. These are available in the church porch. Please take a card for those you know who are not here regularly. Having a card from you will encourage them to come this Easter.

Promoting what we do through Facebook: lots of people are on Facebook. You may be 'on it' but don't use it. We use it to reach people who do not attend Church. At the moment we are trying to touch more lives with positive images of Church. If you are on Facebook, can you make sure you are connected to our site and then share what we put out there with your friends. There will be a video this week (just 2 mins) about **Palm Sunday**. It might just help people connect with God and with us.



Palm Sunday is next weekend. It marks the start of Holy week. There will be palms but if anyone has their own more ornate palms, then please bring them (A Polish tradition).



Easter Vigil - Buffet food to Celebrate: Please can you help us to celebrate with those who will have been newly received into church on Saturday 8th April after the 8.00 pm Vigil Mass. Could you sign up for one of the items on the buffet list and bring it along on the Saturday. Help setting up or serving drinks would also be appreciated. Please contact alex@tamworthrc.church if you can help.

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday morning so please let your children and grandchildren know. The 6.00pm Saturday evening Mass at St John's is moved on Holy Saturday to 8pm at Sacred Heart for the vigil.

Friday Soup Lunch for CAFOD will be at Sacred Heart this Friday immediately after Michael Ayasamy's funeral – due to their already being 3 masses that day.



Celebration Choir: Wednesday 29th March we will be practising at Sacred Heart Church from **7.00-8.00pm**. New members welcome to help us prepare for Lent and Easter. Please note that next week choir will be on Tuesday 4th April at **7.30pm-8.30pm** after the evening Mass due to the Penitential Service on the Wednesday.

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.

Journey in Faith: The next session is on Thursday 30th 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 for children at Non- Catholic Schools continues on Monday evenings 6.00pm-7.00pm at Sacred Heart.

Confirmation for those in non-Catholic schools. Sessions continue on Mondays 5.45-7.00pm at Sacred Heart.

Father Hudson's are offering three online workshops about 'Being a Welcoming Church'. Last week was an excellent hour on Older people. our parish was well represented. The next evening is Monday 17th April at 7.30pm and will focus on Refugees. To book for that click on <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-welcoming-church-refugees-tickets-546156447637>. Further evenings will cover disability on 22/05/23 and Homeless on 19/06/23. 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.



What's Happening in the Church outside our parish? 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.

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.

Prayer Partners: You might wish to send an Easter Blessing to the child/ren that you are praying for. Any correspondence needs to be at the parish office before Thursday 30th March so that it can be delivered to the children before Easter.

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 Provides 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 alone 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. Thankyou everyone for your continued and vital support.

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

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 & wish to talk to someone, 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 info email 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



Some Reflections on the Future: The Church in our Diocese is about to change. Whether it is for the better will depend on us. We know that we face declining numbers of priests. In our parish, thank God, we still have a strong community but how will we manage in the future with one priest and, maybe, another parish to cover?

The opportunity here 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?

For many years, we have, as a parish, been trying to organise ourselves to do this. We are all witnesses to how challenging this has been, but

it has also born fruit.

This has involved employing more people, developing buildings, liturgy, evangelisation and developing our charity work. With the parish council, we 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.

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

Registered as a charity 234216

Money Matters

Envelopes	93.60
Standing Orders	1000.00
Loose:	686.22
Total:	£1779.82

Thank-you