

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

Office: Sacred Heart Church, Silver Link Rd, Tamworth, B77 2EA

Parish Office: 01827 769403

Parish Centre Queries: 01827 288226

Fr Michael: michael@tamworthrc.church

Fr Ramesh: ramesh@tamworthrc.church

Deacon Brian Cox and Nora: nora@tamworthrc.church

Deacon Bob: bob@tamworthrc.church

Admin: Wendy: office@tamworthrc.church

Catechesis/liturgy: alex@tamworthrc.church

Terry (Bookings): terryobrien@heartoftamworth.org

Kelly-HoT worker: kelly@heartoftamworth.org

Safeguarding: sg.sjtb.tamworth@rcaob.org.uk

Rebecca: rebecca@tamworthrc.church

Rhiannon (youth): rhiannon@tamworthrc.church

HoT Phone Number: 01827 259955

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



Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year – 24th September 2023

Psalm Response: The Lord is close to all who call him,

Readings: Isaiah 55:6-9 Psalm 144 St Paul to Philippians 1:20-24,27 Matthew 20:1-16

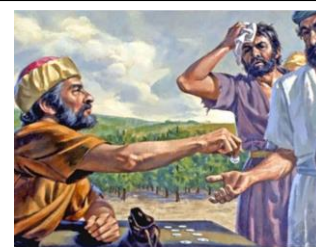
Saturday 23rd Sept	St Pio of Pietrelcina	10.30am (S.J.)	Victims of natural disasters
Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year		6.00 pm (S.J.)	Kieran Kennedy
Sunday 24 th September		9.00 am (S.H.)	Peter McKernan – Deidre O'Grady
Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year		10.30 am (S.J.)	Tony Soden
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Margaret Smith – John White
Tuesday 26 th September	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Holy Souls
Wed 27 th Sept	St Vincent de Paul	10.00am (S.J.)	Jane McSweeney
Thursday 28 th September	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Thanksgiving
Friday 29 th Sept	Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	12.00noon (S.J.)	Mass for the sick and housebound
Saturday 30 th September	St Jerome	10.30am (S.J.)	Ken Tansey
Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year		6.00 pm (S.J.)	Br Donie Hallissey – Ralph Garbet
Sunday 1 st October		9.00 am (S.H.)	Alison Staires – Frances Tansey
Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year		10.30 am (S.J.)	George McGuigan
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Sylvia & Kevin Williams – Eddie Byrne

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, Rose Limm, 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, Tolentino Fabian, Maurice Mordanaigum, 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, Carol Ayasamy, Rachel Scarnell, Joan Hill, Jean Padmore, Mandy Duffy-Godfrey, Eugene Reilly, David Smith and Michael McMahon, Patrick Keogh.

Reflection: Jesus' parables are meant to get us to think critically about the world we have constructed and free us from our cultural shackles and self-deceptions. This enables us to discern more clearly how God works in the world.

Today we see the generosity of God. As the ultimate "landowner," God will use what is good for all, even when we fail to view the world through God's eyes. Everyone comes to the vineyard (faith) at different points in their lives. Some people are lifelong disciples of Jesus, and some people convert only toward the end of their lives. In the kingdom of God, both groups are treated with the same generous love.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Joan McMahon, William McGuinness, Joseph Tomson, John Scott, Beatrice Duffy, Clement Hadley, Basil Perchancyz, Catherine Walker, Cecilly Miller, Angela Mallaber, Josephine Barber, Michael Hegarty, Thomas Tyson, Kathleen O'Gara, James Croke, George McClean, Beryl Jagger, Harry Marchant, Mary Gallagher, David Lynch, John Hadley, Francis Shepherd. Albert Wilkins, Patrick Doyle, Sarah Smith, Catherine Sumner, Olive Inskip, Joseph Pasley, Jean Troden, Michael Reilly, Mary Belcher, Derek Brotherhood, Patrick Noble, Maurice Wainwright, Linda Shale, Joseph Obi, Winifred Pugh, Teresa Morley, Audrey Nichols, John Buchan, Doreen Wright, George Croot, Leonard Royds, John Dale, Celia Broom, Heather Crook, David Lunn, Philip Edmonds, Veronica Williams, Anne Bernes, Christopher Booth, Giuseppina Heathcote, Sheila Fisher.

CAFOD's Family Fast Day is on Friday 6 October, a day we can pray, give, and eat simply, in solidarity with our global family. CAFOD rep's will say a brief word about this next weekend.

Deaths: please pray for the repose of the soul of **Patricia Kelly** whose funeral will take place at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium on Friday 20th October at 11.30am. A Memorial Mass for **Fr Michael Serrage msc** RIP will be held in St John's Church on Friday 20th October at 10am followed by the burial of ashes at Wigginton Cemetery. There will be light refreshments served at Sacred Heart afterwards.

Are you or your child ready to receive a sacrament this year?



First Holy Communion for Parents: Wednesday 27th September at 6.00pm at Sacred Heart in the Kenelm Room (upstairs). For children making their First Holy Communion next May, **we need at least one parent for each child to attend.**

Confirmation: Wednesday 27th September at 7.00pm at Sacred Heart in the Kenelm Room. For children making their First Confirmation next in 2024, **we need at least one parent for each child to attend.**

Enrolment Masses: Could all those wishing to prepare for Sacraments this coming year please attend an Enrolment Mass on October 1st. St Gabriel's are leading the 9.00am and St Elizabeth's are preparing for the 10.30am Mass that day.

Alpha 21 Day Prayer Campaign: Do you know someone who may be searching? Have you a neighbour who would like to know more about the Faith? Or someone who has lapsed and asking questions? Please jot their names down on one of our prayer campaign cards and pray for them at 11.02 each day. Why 11.02? Luke 11:2 is where Jesus teaches his disciples to pray 'Our Father...' so it connects us with that instruction from Him. We will try to do that for 21 days helping us to discern who we need to invite and how to approach them. You would be welcome to do Alpha with them too.

Alpha: Alpha starts this week. Would you like to try it yourself? It is a great way to build a relationship with Jesus. Food provided, video and discussion. A simple but effective way to develop your understanding of faith. Please email alex@tamworthrc.church to book a place.



Youth Alpha: Starting this Monday 25th September.

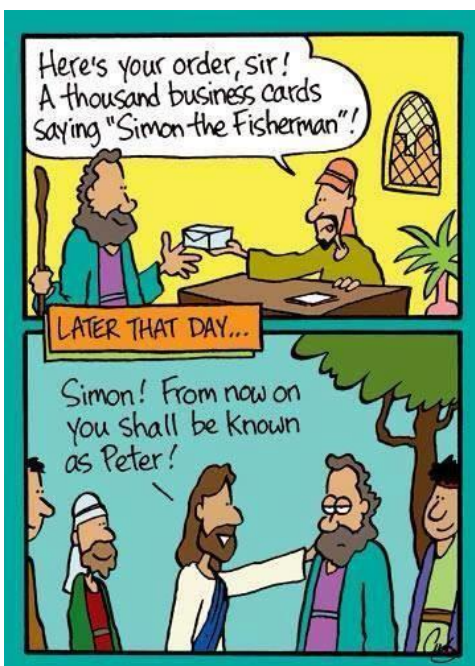
Life - Is this it? Do you know any young people Y6 and above who would like to deepen their faith and explore some of those big questions we have about Life and faith. The format is light refreshments - Hot Chocolate and snack bar, video, discussion, and a simple activity. 5.45-7.00pm on Monday evenings at Sacred Heart. Email alex@tamworthrc.church to sign up. This would be great for those who are being Confirmed or who have been confirmed and would like to explore their faith further.

Thank you: We have leafletted two thousand families in the past few weeks. Please pray that a seed of faith or interest will grow. A huge thank you to all those who helped.

Alpha Cooks: We need 2 more cooks for Alpha! We really appreciate the wonderful food cooked for Alpha. If you can help to cater for about 35 people or lend a hand in the kitchen, please get in touch with alex@tamworthrc.church

Home Group The next session will be on Mon 25th Sept 7.30pm-9.00pm at Sacred Heart with a new series of Bible Studies. All welcome to a simple way to explore the Bible together and get to know others. Please email alex@tamworthrc.church for more information.

Maranatha Prayer Chain: If you would like to ask others to help you to pray for someone, please contact - 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.



Prayer Partners: As we start a new academic year, we are looking to pair up both existing and new prayer partners with the children in our parish who are preparing for First Holy Communion or Confirmation. The only commitment is simply to pray for a child and maybe send some simple correspondence to the child via the Parish Office. If you are interested in this prayerful ministry, please take an envelope with forms inside and return it asap. (If you've done it in 2022 then you do not need to fill another form in).



Working With Young people in their teens: Rhiannon needs a few more leaders so if you are interested in helping out please let her know. It will be an exciting programme with lots of lovely young people. Email rhiannon@tamworthrc.church if you want to know more.

The Phoenix Youth group will restart again next month. We meet on Wednesdays. If you have any questions, then email rebecca@tamworthrc.church.

Afternoon Tea will be held on Sunday 1st Oct at 2pm at Sacred Heart, in aid of HCPT. The Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust provides "life changing pilgrimage holidays" to Lourdes for thousands of young people every Easter. We are gearing up for our 50th anniversary pilgrimage in 2024 with this afternoon tea. Come along to help us make our 50th year golden and learn more about what we do. Tickets: £10 adults, £8 children available by speaking to Annie Hopper or email group83@hcpt.org.uk.

The Lichfield Group of the Charity Friends of the Holy Land are holding an information evening on 27th September, at 7 pm in the community room at Holy Cross church, Lichfield. You are all invited to learn more about our work and the plight of our fellow Christians in the Holy Land, please come and join us. We would love to see you. For more information, please email fhl.lichfield@gmail.com

Heart of Tamworth offers various volunteering opportunities from the helping in the Hot Café, Reception/Admin as well as volunteering for the many groups that we have. There will be many more opportunities once the new Hot Clothes and Food Shops open, especially if you have retail experience.

The HoT Lunch Club has secured some funding to extend the support available to guests. We are looking to recruit someone to help our guests over the next twelve months. Duties will include home visits, taking people to the supermarket and arranging "get-togethers" for 2/3 guests, as well as helping at the Lunch Club each Wednesday.

Payment is £10.90/hour plus reimbursement of mileage costs and other expenses. A successful DBS check is required, as is a vehicle insured for business use.

If you are interested in this role please contact Catherine Smith (csmith145@btinternet.com).

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.

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

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



October is World Osteoporosis Month. The University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust will be running a FREE Bone Health and Exercise Session on the 21st of October 2023 from 09.30-11.30am at Sacred Heart in the Kenelm Room. To register, please email EndocrineNursesQEHB@uhb.nhs.uk or call 0121-371-6950 and quote: Tamworth Bone Health Session and provide your full name, email address and contact number.

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.

If you are New to the Parish, please introduce yourself. Maybe you have already done that but not had a chance to spend time with one of the parish team so that we can get to know you. Just get in touch so we can do that and if you want your house blessed then speak to one of the clergy and we will arrange that.

The Second Collection this weekend will be for **Father Hudson's Care.** Father Hudson's mission is to provide Catholic Social Care in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, reaching out to support vulnerable people in need in communities near you. As inflation rises the challenges faced by those with the least are multiplied. Please give generously to support those with nowhere else to turn.

Money Matters	
Envelopes	50.50
Standing Orders	1040.00
Loose:	747.69
Card:	305.00
Total:	£2143.19
Thank-you	

Dates for your Diary: On the right are some key 'events' up till Christmas. All these events need your support in one way or another.

One of the dates in that Diary is for **the Christmas Fayre on Dec 3rd.** It is still early but raffle prizes always need to be sorted at this time. If you have access to any good prizes, then please let us know asap. Just email michael@tamworthrc.church. We also need people to run stalls, catering, help with set up, cake baking, and many other things.

Event	Date
Alpha Begins	Sept 28th
Tamworth Mercian Singers Concert	Oct 21st
Bonfire Night	Nov 3rd
Advent Begins	Dec 3rd
Christmas Fayre	Dec 3rd
Feast of Mary (Immaculate Conception)	Dec 8th
Carol Service	Dec 13th
Advent Penance Service	Dec 20th
Christmas	Dec 24/25th

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 16th October 2023. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.



Facebook – are you on it? If you are then please 'follow' us. But don't just follow, please share what we are doing. Facebook has its faults, but for the Church it is a great way to reach out to the many who are not part of any Church. Our articles, pictures and reflections might just be a tipping point in someone's life, helping them turn to God. It is a simple and easy way to spread the Good News.

https://www.facebook.com/StJohnTamworth/?locale=en_GB

Shop Update and Progress: *New Look* have kindly stepped forward to help design the interior and layout of the clothes 'shop' using their expertise and resources. Already, they have put some time into this and made visits and are ready to supply equipment too. The food facility is on its way too and the roof sheets arrived during the week. So, it is all taking shape. We will look to order windows soon.

The Mercian Singers concert at Sacred Heart on October 21st 7pm start – doors will open at 6.30pm. Tickets £5 adults £3 children are available after each Mass or from the reception at Sacred Heart. This is bring done to help support us in our work so when you come along to this event, you will not just enjoy some wonderful music and singing but also be supporting our work as a parish and charity project.

The By-Election is on October 19th in Tamworth. Please remember we have a Christian duty to vote. It's often hard to decide but the outcomes we want is that God's will be done.