



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 A – 15th January 2023

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

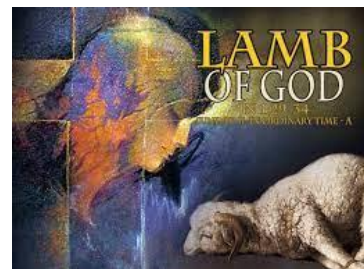
Readings: Isaiah 49:3,5-6 Psalm 39 St Paul to Corinthians 1:1-3 John 1:29-34

Saturday 14 th January Second Sunday of the Year	10.30 am (S.J.) 6.00 pm (S.J.)	Communion Service (no confessions) Renee Shawcroft – Arkadiusz Wasilik
Sunday 15 th January Second Sunday of the Year	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Paddy & Agnes Banks & Gerard Bank – Jane Scally George O'Reilly – Alan Hopper Coleen Tunney – Tom Johnson
Tuesday 17 th January St Anthony	10.00am (S.H.)	Kathleen Forde
Wednesday 18 th January Feria	10.00am (S.J.)	Sean Bolger
Thursday 19 th January Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Helen Boger
Friday 20 th January Feria	12.00 noon (S.J.)	Funeral Mass for Martin Buckley
Saturday 21 st January St Agnes Third Sunday of the Year	10.30 am (S.J.) 6.00 pm (S.J.)	Mass for the sick and housebound Catherine Matthews – Joyce Farrington
Sunday 22 nd January Third Sunday of the Year	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Fitzgerald Family – Meldred Simpkins & Family Marie Daly – Private Intentions Amelia Wayne – Ruth Faulds

Confession Saturday 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, Mandy Sheridan, Gary Ealing, Marie Purslow, Emma Downes, Sini Thomas, Pat Machin, Joan Hill, Connie de Guzman, Joyce Greer, 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, George McGuigan, Sheila Fullbrook, Brian McCourt, Michael Boulstridge, Felix Sutton-Whittle, Rosie McKenny, Alan Hopper, Matilda (Tilda) Doherty and Pat MacDonald, Peter Scott, Joe Kelly, Maria Freeman.

Reflection: Why does John the Baptist use the title Lamb when referring to Jesus? The central feature of the Jewish Passover feast was the lamb. It recalled the lamb which the families of the Israelites ate on the eve of their escape from Egypt and whose blood was painted on the doorposts of their houses. This became a symbol of liberation and one of the most important celebrations in the Jewish calendar. "I saw the spirit descending from heaven". Each one of us has also received the same Spirit in our baptism. It was that Spirit which inspired Jesus in all his work. We are the hands and feet of Jesus on earth today. May the same Spirit inspire us to follow in Jesus' footsteps and join him in his work.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Margaret Mattison, Patrick Gibbons, Thomas Connell, Walter Shears, Roderick Gleeson, Joseph Carroll, Maria Agatiello, Mary Berns, Michael Reardon, Frank Patrick, Giovanni Amato, Margaret Minchin, Andre Freeman, Teresa Wooton, Anne Jewkes, Alice Fitzpatrick, Agnes Sheridan, Margaret Plunton, Miss Meomartini, Brian Kerslake, John Mason, Anne Cuffe, Patricia Pitt, Judith Gibson, Cornelius Flynn, Ivy Hardwick, James Scott, Maureen Taylorson, Paul Weir, Patrick Hunt, Peter Mattison, Joseph Lee, John Hopkins, Anthony Yourell, Ewald Burg, Rose Green, Louis Nealon, Olive Ranayne, Jean Crowley, Winifred Latham, Norman Northall, Kathleen Read, Teresa Hynes, Cyril Hodgkinson, Nancy Chadwick, Joachim Lehmann, Angela Connolly, Phyllis Wiltshire, Gerrard Quinn, Frederick Chadwick, Jack York, Arthur Thomas, Coleen Tunney, Helena Sidwells, Denise Haynes, John Hever, Francis James, Annette Beech, Mary Cutler, Michael Davis, Annie Dearne, Joyce Farrington, Yvonne Cotterill, Lawrence Tomson.



Deaths: please pray for the repose of the soul of **Martin Buckley**, funeral service will be at 12 noon at St John's on Friday 20th January; **Isobel Wallis**, funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday, 25th January at Sacred Heart 12.15; **Walter (Wally) Debono**, funeral service will be on Thursday 2nd February at St John's, 1.30pm; **Monica Gallagher**, who will be received into St John's on Thursday 9th February at 4.00pm followed by the funeral Mass on Friday 10th February at 11.00am; **Kathleen Richardson**, will be received into Sacred Heart on Monday 13th February at 3.30pm followed by

the funeral Mass on 14th February at 10.00am; We also remember **Dennis Reardon, Elsie Newbold, Rosemarie McDonald, Marie Daly** and **Graham** who passed away recently. May they rest in peace. Amen

Praying

At the Request of Some Parishioners there will be a mass with Polish readings and the people's prayers also said in Polish on Sat 28th Jan at 6pm, at Sacred Heart. The music will be provided by a Polish musician and will include Polish and English verses. This is open to all and is an opportunity for a more 'charismatic' style of worship and praise. The priest's prayers will be in English and English translations of readings will be available.

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

The Choirs are always recruiting. It was St Augustine who once said: '*Whoever sings, prays twice*'. If you like to sing, please join us and use your voice to praise God. Contact Alex for more information. Choirs practise for half an hour before Mass- just come along and join us.

Celebration Choir: The next practice will be on Wednesday 18th January 7.00pm-7.45pm at Sacred Heart Church. New members welcome. This gives us an opportunity to practise less familiar hymns and work towards special Feast Days and other Services.

Worship as One- Thursday 26th January 7.00-8.30pm at Sacred Heart Church. Come and join all the choirs as we learn new music for the coming term and sing a few favourites too.

Prayer Partners: Most people will have received a letter in the post from their prayer partner. To reply please put: "from and your name" on the envelope so that we can match you with the child and hand the envelope into the Parish office marked "Prayer Partner".

Fr Subba is now in India. He was very sad leaving the parish and, as he said, felt part of the family here. We will miss him. On his return he will be hoping to start work in St Augustine's Birmingham. Fr Ramesh will be coming to work in our parish. It will be his first time outside India. We know you will give him a warm welcome.

I, Fr Michael have also been invited to India to spend time with the Missionaries of Faith Community. They have been pressing me to go for a few years now. I will leave at the end of the month. I hope to strengthen still further our relationship with a religious order that has so blessed our parish.



Vocations Weekend for Women: Discerning God's Call in your life the 3rd – 5th February 2023 in London - The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the

weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

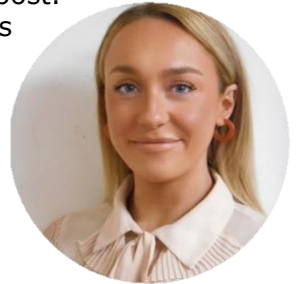
Teaching - Youth Ministry

This is another area where teaching takes place. But here it is informal, negotiated with our young people and voluntary (unlike school, they choose to come). It is vital to the work of the Church.

Working With Young people in their teens is starting up in February. We delayed it because we needed a new co-ordinator and two more volunteer leaders. Would you be up for helping on Friday evenings? We will be offering support and a little training. You just need to like young people, listen, enjoy their company and help organise some good activities. We have lots of ideas already. You might be all that's missing? No experience needed.

Welcome on Board to Rhiannon Goodeve who is taking on the Teens youth work post. Rhiannon will be leading this on Friday evenings and hoping to recruit some volunteers to help her. Our thanks to Rhiannon for taking this on. For any young people or volunteers watching, we will have an email address for Rhiannon next week.

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.



Leaders: We need people who enjoy working with young people, work well as part of a team and are free on Fridays. Can you help? We can offer training. Contact Rebecca for more info.

Thank-you to all who have recently done standing orders and gift aid. If you give cash, please consider doing it by standing order. It helps save us time counting and banking it and the cost of banking it too (they charge for banking cash!!). Just contact Wendy or Fr Michael if you are interested. There are forms in the porch.

Teaching - Catechesis

All our teaching is about God and his Mission. So, we teach children preparing for the Sacraments, especially those making their first Confessions, Holy Communion or Confirmation. We teach about the true meaning of Christmas but also what Jesus did at Easter and what it means for us. But we also recognise there is a great hunger for adults to learn about our faith too. So, we do Alpha, Journey in Faith, talks in Lent



Parents Catechesis:

The session for parents of Confirmation children attending St Elizabeth's or non-Catholic Schools is now on Tuesday 17th January 6.15-7.30pm at St John's Church.

Journey in Faith: This course continues on Thursdays from 7.30-9.00pm. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or wish to find out more about the Catholic Faith please get in touch with us to arrange to discuss this. Contact alex@tamworthrc.church or speak with Fr Michael. Phone 01827 769403.

First Holy Communion Preparation for children who attend non-Catholic Schools continues on Mondays 6.00-7.00pm at Sacred Heart.

Confirmation: For children in non-Catholic Schools, the next session is on Monday 16th January 5.45-7.00pm when we continue with the Youth Alpha Sessions.

Book Libraries are available for children and adults to help us learn about God. Many of these are Bible stories for children. These can be read and then exchanged for a different one. The libraries are open before and after Mass for you to borrow books. Please ask if you need assistance.





The Incarnation is 'Love in Action' and the Gospel asks us to do the same. That means making concrete the love of God, especially for those in need. These are some of the things we do.

The Housebound are visited by our wonderful team of 25 Eucharistic ministers with communion, each week/month. Currently there are 90 people. This is part of what the parish does to carry out its pastoral responsibilities. If you know anyone who wants communion but is housebound then please let us know.

1 John 3:18

Provide Great opportunities to meet new people in a warm, sociable environment and enjoy free soup, 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 are also running a Winter Warmth group on Saturdays and Sundays - 1-3pm, at St John's Church community rooms. Everyone is welcome to come along.



Building a New Shop is to make the experience more dignified but also to create a community environment so we can engage more with people who visit. The plan is also to develop space for clothing, children's books and toys. The £5000 raised at the Christmas Fayre recently will be for the new shop. Thank-you to so many individuals and businesses who have also donated thousands of pounds to our food project in the last few weeks.

Thank-you to those who have offered to help collect food. If you can help, please contact Kelly asap.

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

Bereavement Help Points on Friday from 10.00am till 12 noon, at Sacred Heart and on Thursday evening 5.30pm – 7.00pm, held in the café. If you are struggling with loss and wish to talk to someone, just come along (Thursday evening is quieter); you are welcome to simply turn up.

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 or tgbdeltic@hotmail.co.uk

Sacred Heart Craft Group will be meeting on Tuesday 17th January at 1pm. All are welcome

Games Club: Every Thursday at Sacred Heart 1pm – 3pm, now with hot soup and a roll. A great way to meet new people while playing your favourite board games. Open to all, free to attend, no need to book.

Please continue to support the Hygiene Bank so that we can help local people that really need our help. We need: toilet paper, deodorant, shower gel, clothes wash tablets/sachets and period pads. There are drop-off points at Church and at Boots store.

Senior Gentlemen's Club: Meet on Tuesday morning 10.00 – 12noon at St John's Community rooms (at the side of St John's Church). Other activities: put the world to rights, dominoes & chess, crown green bowling, trips, annual Christmas meal. £2 per week for the kitty for the trips and events. Contact Bill Field on 07985581794 – billfield123@btinternet.com

The Walking Group: please check with your own networks for what is happening this week.

Money Matters	
Envelopes	67.51
Standing Orders	1000.00
Loose:	790.19
Total:	£1857.70

Thank-you
Would those giving cash consider
giving by direct debit to help the
parish?
Speak to Fr Michael or Wendy for info



CAFOD Walking Challenge - Not to make the year go any faster than it already will but, Lent will be here before we know it! CAFOD are asking people to get involved in their 'Big Lent Walk' to help fight global poverty.

There are many ways you can get involved, whether you're taking on the 40 day challenge by yourself or as part of a school or community/parish group, CAFOD would love to you take part.

For more information or to sign up:
<https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Big-Lent-Walk>