

# St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

## Fourth Sunday – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

Readings:	Acts 4:8-12	Psalm 117	John 3:1-2	John 10:11-18
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday of Easter	10.30am (S.J.)	Special Intentions	
	Fourth Sunday of Easter	6.00pm (S.J.)	Rosie McKenny – George McGuigan	
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> April		9.00am (S.H.)	Nigel Brindley – Ken Tansey	
<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>		10.30am (S.J.)	Julie Morris - Kit Liversidge & Joe Ironmonger	
		12.00noon (S.H.)	Orlando Cortez – Nancy Gunn	
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	St George	10.00am (S.H.)	Dan Linehan	
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Weekday of Easter	10.00am (S.J.)	John Bradford	
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> April	St Mark	10.00am (S.H.)	Ann Marie Purslow & Dec members of the Miller Family	
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Weekday of Easter	12.00noon (S.J.)	Paul Cadwallader	
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Weekday of Easter	10.30am (S.J.)	Tony Soden	
<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>		6.00pm (S.J.)	James McKeefry – Fr Kevin McNamara	
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April		9.00am (S.H.)	The Fitzgerald Family – Maria Cortez	
<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>		10.30am (S.J.)	Paddy Burke – Josephine Kavanagh	
		12.00noon (S.H.)	Milly Bailey – Natalia Lisek	
<b>Confession Saturday 11.00- 11.30 am St John's Church 5.15 – 5.45 pm</b>				

**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-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, Nelly Jones, Kay Hearn, Drew Taylor-Hunt, Gillian Satchel, Bert Branagan.

### Reflection: 'The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep'

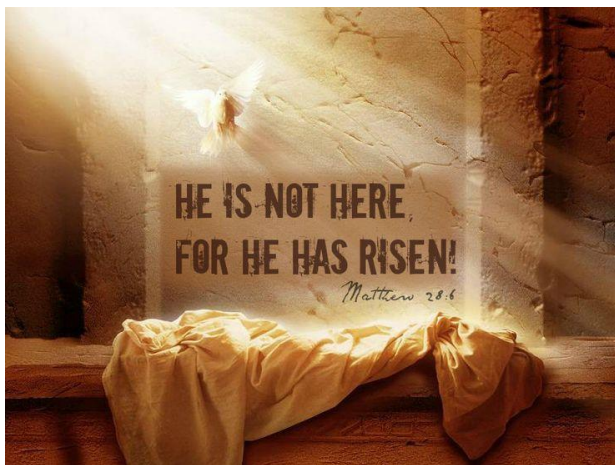
The love of Jesus is love onto death. It is the self-sacrificing love which we see on the cross. It is the love which never sits down under feelings of failure but can always see the resurrection ahead in some form or other. In caring for all people, Jesus knew something of the resurrection, for in love are the seeds of resurrection. We rise above the self-centredness that confines and narrows us, to the outgoing love which expands our hearts and minds, as our hearts and minds grow to be like the heart and mind of Jesus.



**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:** Laurence Lunn, John Doyle, Arthur Wood, Arthur Tricklebank, William Oughton, Ernest Osborne, Ann Lee, Neil McGough, Delia Gildea, Tom Cassidy, John Tinsley, Peter Jones, Elizabeth Sunter, Mary Kelly, William Brown, Fr. Joe Colbert, M.S.C., Joe Iremonger, Geoff Spooner, Ron Couchman, Mary Parker, Paddy Burke, Arthur Betteridge, Frances Howard, Agnes Leonard, John Ward, Margaret Hill, Tedeusz Markowski, Charlie Iies, John Fowley, Michael Hunt, Lawrence Spooner, Hubert John Cockeram, Brian David Albone, Patricia Mitchell, Lester Jones, John Heaslip, Barrymore Jones, Donald Petricca, Colleen Wilson, Martin Fitzpatrick, Vera Felton, Keith Brown, John Jordan, Theresa Weir, Raymond Barber, Anne Williams, Patrick McNicholas, Ignas Eidukas, Richard Rowles, James Mitchell, Raymond Hicky, Janet O'Rourke, Dolores Smart, Vincent Tomson, Richard Wilson.

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

**Lent Prayer Bags:** It is great if they are being used, **but could you please return them next week.** New prayer bags will be available in May.



**Deaths:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Mary Hackett**, John's mother; **Natalie Page**, funeral will take place at Sacred Heart on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am and **Maureen Binfield**. May they rest in peace. Amen.

**Communion Preparation for Children at Non- Catholic Schools:** Sessions continue Monday 22nd April at 6.00pm-7.00pm at Sacred Heart.

**Communion Parents' Catechesis:** The groups for Communion parents are meeting this week. Emails have been sent reminding you of your times. If you haven't received an email, please contact [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church)

**Confirmation** for non-Catholic School children. This week we are bowling at Strykers from 5.45-7.00pm. Please

remember to drop off your young person at Strykers and collect them at 7.00pm from the bowling alley too.

**Confirmation Dates for your diary:** The dates for Confirmation of children 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.

**Journey in Faith:** We welcome Femi and Vivian Shobugun and their family who were received into the Church this weekend: 5 Baptisms and 2 Confirmations. Femi and Vivian will make their First Holy Communion at Mass this weekend too. Keep them all in your prayers please.

**Café Liturgy Group:** Next meeting is Monday 22nd April at 7.30-9.00pm at Sacred Heart in the HoT Cafe. We will explore the scripture for the next Sunday's Mass. Anyone is welcome to come along. Please email [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) for more details.

**The Summer Fayre** will be on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Has anyone got anything we can use as main prizes for the raffle. What works are prizes like meals, adventure activities, holiday homes, cash. Please have a think and let Fr Michael know if you have an idea.

Please also start saving prizes for tombolas – unwanted gifts, bottles etc. It will be on the same day as the Fire Walk so we expect a good crowd. We would also welcome any entertainments (dancers, music etc). All funds will go to the work of the parish.

**Maranatha Prayer Chain:** 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 prayer request which will be passed on to our (prayer) chain of people.

**Celebration Choir:** The next Wednesday evening Choir Practice will be on 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm. New members always welcome. For more details, please contact [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church)

**Spreading the Good News:** That's our mission, clearly given to us by Jesus and what a joy it is to have received 25 people into the Church this Easter. How can we keep this going? Between now and September we have time to invite more people to hear about the Good News, or visit our parish and then, if they wish, join the next Alpha course.



Lots of new people are also moving into the parish. That can be difficult for them. Maybe they are leaving a parish where they feel at home. It can easily lead to them stopping church attendance. We need to be welcoming but also brave enough to invite neighbours and others to join us.

**Young Readers:** Thank you to all the young readers who have read or sung this weekend at the four Youth Masses. Your contribution to the liturgy is important to us. If any young people would like to read at one of the next Youth Masses, they will be the weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> and

2<sup>nd</sup> June. Contact [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) or speak to Fr Michael if you can help.



**A 'New Parishioners Evening' is being planned.** If you consider yourself a new parishioner, please let us know. We will soon be handing out invitations for this evening on Friday June 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you can help organise this, we would welcome that too. This is open to people who have just become Catholics, those who have moved into Tamworth or anyone who has returned to the Church.

**Teas and Toys:** An opportunity for young families to meet together for a chat and a coffee after 9.00am and 12.00Noon Masses in the Kenelm room upstairs. We are looking for more volunteers to help with serving teas and coffees. Could you perhaps do it on a rota?



**Phoenix Youth Group:** The next gathering is on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April** from **6.30-8.00pm**. It is for those young people in Y6 and Y7. New members welcome. If you have any questions, please email Becky or Liz [phoenix@tamworthrc.church](mailto:phoenix@tamworthrc.church).

**Safe Haven is a Crisis Café** for people aged 18+ with mental health problems: 5pm to 11pm Wed to Fri and 9am to 5pm on Sat and Sun. For info, email: [Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk](mailto:Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk)



**Senior Gentlemen's Club:** Meet on Tues 10.00 – 12 at St John's. Activities: dominoes, chess, bowling, trips. £2 per week subs. Contact Bill Field on 07985581794.

**Help Points:** 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, just come along.

**The Memory Café** meets Tues 10.30am 12.30pm - email [sally.clough@Tamworth.homeinstead.co.uk](mailto:sally.clough@Tamworth.homeinstead.co.uk)

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

**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](http://www.heartoftamworth.org) or contact the HoT office on 01827 259955 or email [jen@heartoftamworth.org](mailto:jen@heartoftamworth.org)

Money Matters	
Envelopes	52.00
Standing Orders	1050.00
Loose:	633.93
Card:	77.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1812.93</b>

*Thank-you*

**The Craft Group** meet every fortnight in the Modwen room from 1pm-3pm doing lots of different crafts such as paper folding, sewing, macrame, collage etc. You don't have to be an expert! We next meet on Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Please join us.



licence who are experienced drivers who could assist with the Scheme perhaps give a day to help with transport.

**Summer Scheme:** We hold our Summer Schemes for young people in the first two weeks of the school holidays. This year it is July 22<sup>nd</sup>- August 2<sup>nd</sup> (weekdays). We are recruiting volunteers to help. If you would like to get involved, please contact [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) as soon as possible so that we can arrange for DBS checks etc.

We are looking for minibus drivers with a clean driving

**Land's End to John O'Groats Bike Ride 2024:** Michael Henry, guitarist at the 9.00am Mass, is undertaking this 1000 mile challenge in mid-May. He will be raising money on behalf of the Heart of Tamworth Charity. There will be a Just Giving Page available soon if you wish to support him.

**Chris Bain** 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.

**An invitation to married couples** to attend our annual thanksgiving Mass for Marriage. Archbishop Bernard Longley will be celebrating the Mass at St Chad's Cathedral on Saturday 4th May at 12 Noon (to be followed by light refreshments). I'd be very grateful if you could make this event known.

# 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](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. Thankyou.

**Legionella Risk Assessment:** Has anyone the knowledge to do this for the parish? It is part of our health and safety requirements. If you can help, please contact [bob@tamworthrc.church](mailto:bob@tamworthrc.church)

**The Firewalk** we did last year will be remembered by many, especially the 80 people who took part. It was a great event that really helped our charity project with the shop and food distribution. We are doing it again this year on Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>.

So, will you think about doing it? We would welcome those who did it last year but hope that others might feel inspired by the help we provide to people in need and the challenge and do it this year. If you are interested, please email [michael@tamworthrc.church](mailto:michael@tamworthrc.church).

It is open to anyone over the age of 8. We welcome people from outside the Church, maybe someone who values our community work and wants to support that. All funds raised through the Fire Walk will go to Heart of Tamworth. Maybe you know someone who would accept the challenge?

The entry fee is £10. To register your interest, contact Margaret at [Margaret@heartoftamworth.org](mailto:Margaret@heartoftamworth.org)

**Manchester United Fans:** We have a number of Limited Edition 'books' telling the story of Duncan Edwards and Manchester United. Has anyone any expertise of ebay selling to see what value they have? If you can help, please contact the office.

**NHS Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Urgent Healthcare Services** in our local area. We all want the quickest route to urgent healthcare – but we're not always sure where to turn.

NHS 111 is often the best starting point, as you'll be directed to the best service for your needs. Did you know they can book you urgent appointments with a GP outside normal opening hours? Go online, phone 111, or use the NHS App. For more information : <https://staffsstokeics.org.uk/urgent-and-emergency-healthcare/>

**Church Giving:** We are doing the accounts for 2023 and will present these in due course. Thank-you for supporting the parish. 'Loose money' in the collection has increased. It makes a big difference. But can people who give this way please swap to standing orders? It means no counting, banking and security issues. That way, it can also be gift aided (government adds 25% from taxpayers to increase the donation). Whether it's £1 a week or £20, if all our loose money was gift aided it would increase our collection by **£7,000 per annum** at no cost to those who donate. That's a big increase and would cover a loss we made last year. Forms can be found in the church porch.



This QR code will also take you to a site where you can donate online.

**Changing Signs:** With the growth in our outreach work, we will soon be changing the entrance signs. Everyday hundreds of people are visiting Sacred Heart looking for company, food, support of some kind. All of this is done through HoT, under the umbrella of the Church. It is something of which we should be proud, as a parish. The new sign will reflect that these services take place in our parish centre and enable visitors to know that they have arrived at the Church offering them the help they need.

We pray that in visiting our Church many will also discover the love of God.

**Thanks to All our Gardeners at both churches.** They are doing a great job. Can anyone spare two hours on Wednesday from 9.30am at Sacred Heart please?



