



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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Tamworth, B77 2EA

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

Thirteenth Sunday of the year (A) –2017

Psalm Response: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord

Saturday 1st July Thirteenth Sunday of the Year	Feria	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Kerry Siddon George Clack – Family Intentions
Sunday 2nd July Thirteenth Sunday of the Year		9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	William O'Connor - Earle Laska Mary Beth Flynn – Joyce Bartram Rita Armstrong – John Morley
Monday 3rd July	St Thomas	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 4th July	Feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Funeral Mass for Florence Adderley
Wednesday 5th July	Feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Barbara Hopkins
Thursday 6th July	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Holy Souls
Friday 7th July	Feria	9.15 (S. E.) 12.30pm (S.J.)	Peter Richie Mass for the sick and housebound of the parish
Saturday 8th July Fourteenth Sunday of the Year	Feria	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Patrick Ballinger Clare L'Amie – Nellie Mattison
Sunday 9th July Fourteenth Sunday of the Year		9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Brenda Kennedy – Pat Taws Margaret Reardon – Kieran Hernan Theo Castanheira – Irena Staszewska

Confessions: Saturday 11 – 11.30 at St John's and 5.15 – 5.45 pm at St John's



Please pray for the sick: Chad Williams, Teresa Woodcock, Gill Horsley, Margaret Thompson, Mary Pullen, Julie Orme, Nikolas Atkins, Stephen Morley, Jaden Walker, Frank Ryan, Gillian Solanky, Mary Miller, Winnie Claridge, Sarah Gillen, Anne-Marie Purslow, Ann Bernes, Joan Trevis, Tony Soden, Pablo Claveria, Adam Coxhead, Tom Clibbery, Eileen D'Arcy, Sarah Spencer, Gladys Cuffe, Kingsley Bayley, Beryl Smith, Sheila Mulligan, Mary Williams, Joyce Anderson, Agnes Buckley, David Foxall, Leslie Roe, Olive Ahern, Sadie Porter, Michelle McGrotty, Nancy Finn, Teresa Kearney, Tony Borman, Yvonne Mattison, Monica Gallagher, Stella Moseley, Christopher Wheeldon, Maureen Gallagher, Colin & Joan Pickup, Frank Hill, Theo Castanheira, Iris Bishop, Michael Dwyer, Gemma Vine, Corinne Collins, Christine Breeden, Nuella Enright, Ailbe O'Bric.

Reflection: Many of us are guilty of doing what is sufficient to get by and many of us fall to that temptation in our Christian lives.

Jesus however went to the extremes of love. An extreme of love for the Father and for us that landed him on the cross and he asks us to follow him; **"Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me."**

Think of people who have taken up their cross - Theresa of Calcutta, loving the broken image of Christ in those dying on the streets of Calcutta, Oscar Romero of El Salvador, who in his love for the downtrodden of his land, accepted death rather than be silent. Today's Gospel challenges us all, to evaluate our lives, take up our cross and follow him.



Na każdej niedzielnej mszy dostępne są **polskie tłumaczenia** czytań i Ewangelii. Można je znaleźć w p zredsonku kościoła. Miłej i owocnej lektury!

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Eileen Hurley, Anthony Callaghan, Charles Callan, Joseph Roberts, Bridget Minihane, William Sharratt, Joseph Checkley, May Sheldon, Albert Mason, Ellen Moss, Esther Gunn, Leslie Grazier, Joseph Hegarty, Jack Flanagan, Margaret Royal, Frederick Raymond, Lionel Hughes, Edith Bennett, Thomas Smith, Eugene Coogan, Elsie Holden, Iris Garry, Ivy Hopley, George Bentley, Jozef Goroll, Clare L'Amie, Michelle Allen, Sean O'Connor, Stephen Mason, Robert Davies, Stephen Mason, Josephine Dicken, Christopher Bartram.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Florence Adderley**, funeral Mass will take place in Sacred Heart on Tuesday 4th July at 10.00am and **Karen Davidson** (Moiras Daughter), funeral arrangements to be confirmed. May they rest in peace.

Pilgrimage to Poland – The balance of £300 for the Poland trip is now due. Please make cheques payable to St John the Baptist and put in an envelope with your name. Also remember to add £50 if you have to pay a single room supplement. There will be a meeting for all pilgrims on Monday August 7th at 7pm at Sacred Heart. Thank you.

New Altar Servers: Any children wishing to become altar servers should hand in their parents' permission slip as soon as possible. It doesn't matter if you go to different Churches each weekend, you are welcome to serve at either or both. More letters are in the porch.

A Prayer Group at Sacred Heart Thursdays at 8pm. Some singing and praising, shared prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament - aimed at deepening our relationship with God in prayer - in silence, hymns of praise, open prayer and psalms, adoration and will last up to 1 hour. Open to all.

Reboot and The Mercy Tour - St Catherine of Siena Church on Monday 17th July 6.30pm to 9pm. Chris Stefanick is a highly acclaimed Catholic (evangelical speaker). He was widely admired at the last World Youth Day. Tickets for young people and retired are £5 and then £10 for others. Please see noticeboard for more info. We do have some tickets here since a group are going from the parish.



Friendship Group: are you fed up of being alone day after day? If you would like some company join us. It's important that if it is going to work we do it in a way and at a time that suits most people. Josie Kavanagh is going to take a lead on this. We are meeting again this Wednesday at 10.30 (after the 10.00 Mass). Future meetings would be at a time of the group's choosing. Please join us.

Bereavement Support: We provide a bereavement support service at Sacred Heart on Fridays (10 – 12.00). We work together with a number of organisations which includes St Giles Hospice. If you know of anyone grieving, please invite them to join us.



Memory Café –Heart of Tamworth in partnership with Home Instead are running a Memory Café in St John's Community Rooms every Tuesday, 10.30am – 12.30pm, offering a friendly place where people with memory loss and carers can come together in a safe and supportive environment. There is no need to book, just pop in. Please pick up the first Newsletter at the back of church

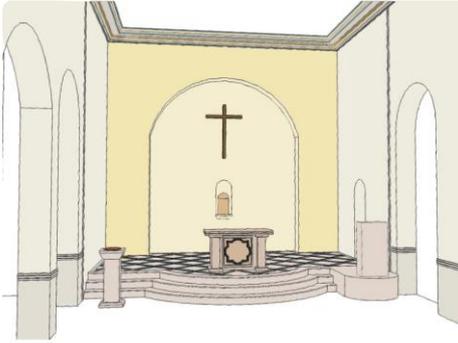
Starfish Volunteers Required: The Starfish Project Tamworth is growing and needs new volunteers. If you can make a cup of tea and are able to listen, we need you! Starfish has centres open every day, except Friday and Sunday. Please contact John Larkin, if you are interested on 07967928282. Why don't you come and see what we do, and speak to John on a Monday at St Editha's church 2.00 till 4.00 pm or 7.30 till 9.30 pm. You will find it very exciting and rewarding to be part of the team.

Starfish: Our Starfish 'breakfast club' runs from the Sacred Heart. It's held every Sat from **10 till 12.00 am**. Please let anyone know who may wish to come along.

Foodbank: Summer holidays can be very difficult for parents in poverty who struggle when they have to buy food for children normally on free school meals. Thank-you to all who remember this each week.

The Parish Council are meeting on Wednesday July 5th at 8.00 pm at Sacred Heart.

Re-ordering Our Church



St John's Church Designs: It is high time that we all had a chance to see some of the latest ideas the architects have for St John's. These will be on display today. If you remember, we showed some about 2 years ago. Certain alterations have been made as a result of comments when consulting back then and since then. These include:

1. *Moving the pulpit – it cannot be seen from the side and the liturgy of the Word is a vital part of the Mass. Readers/clergy can be heard, but not being able to see them separates the proclamation from the people. Moving it across would return it to where it once stood and enable nearly everyone to see, as well as hear.*

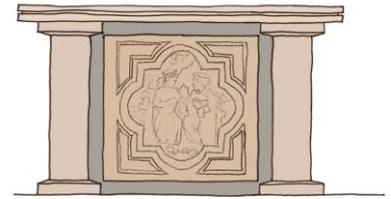
2. *Shape of steps. This was suggested by someone who thought that it would be a missed opportunity if we did not do something that*

added style and grace to the sanctuary area. The circle emphasises the importance of the altar and gives a sense of God's people gathered round it.

3. *The altar reuses the same fine stone that is there now but incorporates the old stone carving of the Coronation of Mary that was in our old Pugin altar.*

4. *Part of the consultation was with the Diocesan Art and Architecture Committee whose approval is essential. They like the curved steps, the existing altar adapted as shown but they were not happy with the existing pulpit (or 'ambo' as it is often called). They feel the design is disappointing but agreed that it should be moved. They did not like the new designs put in front of them either. What you are being shown are 11 other possibilities we received this week.*

5. *If the pulpit is moved then the font would need to be moved too.*



There are two colour schemes from which to choose. Use the simple form to say what you think. Please complete it today and leave it behind or return it next week.

These images will be available for viewing on our website.

Now that we are moving into the digital age (kicking and screaming?) we should consider **livestreaming our Masses** – allowing parishioners who can't be with us to watch our Mass from home. It would also enable people abroad who can't attend a baptism, wedding, funeral, First Holy Communion etc to watch it in their homes. That requires broadband, camera and a service provider.



Lighting: Please bear in mind that the lighting needs looking at and we will soon raise the chandeliers to see how they look at a different height. The wall lights need updating and the spot lights are overdue a change too. It would be a shame to paint the walls and see those same lights burning more marks into the paint.



Finally, to make local people aware of the Church and call them to prayer we could have a digital bell system? They are not the real thing but they do create an atmosphere or prayer inside the Church and send a message outside. The quality of sound is also very good.

We are trying to be a parish intent on fulfilling our purpose - preaching the Good News to all. Our hope is that this work will help with that.

Cost. It will be easy enough to get a price for the painting (*major cost here is scaffolding*). Work to steps, altar and pulpit will require us to find 3 companies who do this sort of work. We are not a parish that throws money at projects, as we all know, so any contacts would be welcome.

We will do all that we can to ensure best value for money and to limit overheads

Timing: Once consultation with the parish is complete the steering group will review the feedback and it will go to the parish council. If approved, we will ask the Diocesan Art and Architecture Committee for permission to go ahead. We should be able to send it to them in 2/3 weeks. In the meantime we can still seek prices (unless we change it radically from what they have already seen). We could have prices back by September.



Summer Scheme



This year it will run for four days from July 26th to 29th and then the following week for five days (July 31st to August 4th) for years 2 to 7. *This is now full, so we are sorry but cannot take any more bookings.*

Alton Castle: We have now been allowed to sleep in the castle itself for our booking. Anyone who is disappointed and would rather sleep in a tent is welcome to do so. Bookings are closing now.

Calling all teenagers! If you are year 8 - 10, this summer *Teen Scheme* we will be offering some exciting opportunities for you. We met to listen to some of you.

From 26th July – 4th August there will be a chance to take part in activities such as climbing, go-karting, swimming, boxing, water sports, Star City, biking and days out. There are only a few places left.

Summer Fayre: It was a great day last Sunday. A huge number of people turned up and had a great day in spite of mixed weather. We also made in excess of £7,500. Thank-you to everyone for a great parish effort in which over 50 volunteers helped and hundreds of people brought in prizes and sold raffle tickets. Thank-you. Our thanks also go to over 100 businesses who gave prizes showing that our work is valued both inside and outside of the parish. Results of various draws are in the porch.



Poland Pilgrimage: Balance now due please. It is £300 or £355 with single supplement.

UCM - Thank you to all those who turned up for the walk on the 11th June, it was a lovely day and very enjoyable. Special thanks to our supporters, what would we do without you? We will be collecting the sponsor money after the various Masses on 1st/2nd July.

Money Matters	
Envelopes	104.00
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	401.80
Total:	£1305.80
Building Fund	253.67

Thank-you.

Gift Aid: Please increase your giving by 25%; sign a Gift Aid form. Call or email the office please for a simple form.



Congratulations to Deacon Brian Cox

on reaching 25 years as a Deacon in our parish. There was a great turn-out for his celebration on Wednesday night with a moving Mass and great food. There are photos on the website. We extend our congratulations to Deacon Tony Rigby too. He also served in our parish for 15 years before moving to Haunton. We presented a gift of a meal for Tony and Helen Rigby and Papal Blessing for Deacon Tony on behalf of the parish too.

Brian and Nora would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kindness and especially the generous gift presented from the parish to Brian, along with the beautiful Papal Blessing.

St Elizabeth's School welcomes everyone to their **SUMMER FAIR Today Sunday 2nd JULY 2-4pm**. Come and join us for an afternoon of fun! Activities for all the family.

Fantastic prizes of a Family caravan weekend at Haven Mablethorpe for up to 6, and many more prizes. Entertainment from a local dance School. Admission: Adults 50p, children free. All welcome – come and

enjoy the fun.

Parish Questionnaire: thank-you to all those who have returned their parish questionnaires which have made interesting reading. If you have not, then please do so. It is not an easy one to do but all the more worthwhile for giving it some thought.