



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

Fifteenth Sunday of the year (A) – 16th July 2017

Psalm Response: Some seed fell into rich soil, and produced its crop

Saturday 15 th July	St Bonaventure	10.30am (S.J.)	Moira Davidson
	Fifteenth Sunday of the year	6.00pm (S.J.)	Pat Lane – Nora Bolt
Sunday 16 th July		9.00 am (S.H.)	Leon Spicer – Winnie Walker
	Fifteenth Sunday of the year	10.30 am (S.J.)	Patsy Joyce – David Jefferies
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Dan Collins – Nancy Danagher
Monday 17 th July	Feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 18 th July	Feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Leonard Royds
Wednesday 19 th July	Feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Daniel Bradford
Thursday 20 th July	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Michael Fox
Friday 21 st July	Feria	9.15 (S. E.)	Leavers Mass
		9.15 (S.G.)	Leavers Mass
		12.30pm (S.J.)	Mass for the sick and housebound of the parish
Saturday 22 nd July	St Mary Magdalene	10.30am (S.J.)	Ann McNamara
	Sixteenth Sunday of the Year	6.00pm (S.J.)	Jane and Jerry McSweeney – Devlin Family
Sunday 23 rd July		9.00 am (S.H.)	Kathleen Parker – Ann Serridge
	Sixteenth Sunday of the Year	10.30 am (S.J.)	Jim Barnwell – Ann Serridge
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Lorna Kelly – Saya Stanislaw

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, 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, Tony Borman, Yvonne Mattison, Monica Gallagher, Stella Moseley, Christopher Wheeldon, Maureen Gallagher, Colin & Joan Pickup, Frank Hill, Theo Castanheira, Iris Bishop, John White, Michael Dwyer, Gemma Vine, Corinne Collins, Christine Breeden, Judith Timms, Nuella Enright, Christine Bayley, Baby L'Kye, Patrick McGinty (jnr).

Reflection: A sower went out to sow

Today's parable in the Gospel applies to all of us. Each of our lives can be represented by the ground in which seeds, the word of God, fall. We can leave the Word on the path, we can accepted it with great joy on a Sunday but then forget it until the next Sunday because the anxiety of daily life takes over. We can also feel like the rich soil when we feel we are sharing God's love with others, there also can be days in which we regressed into all of these stages at once.

The beauty of this parable is that it gives us an easily understood measure to recognize our shortcomings, and a path to healing as well. We just need to open our hearts, drop our expectations and our preconceived notions, and return to prayer and the Word.



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

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Sydney Sharratt, Percy Cadwallender, Alexander Binnie, Joseph Cahill, Ellen Morrisroe, Harold Morgan, Frances Pickering, Lena Sylvester, John Flanagan, Wilfred Bickerstaff, Elizabeth Quibell, Bridget Brennan, Mary McClean, Sarah-Jayne Williams, Tom O'Dwyer, David Wedge, Michael Leonard, Jan Kwiatkowski, Dorothy Finlan, Daniel Falvey, Jean Garey, Marion Roy, Winifred Airdrie, Clara McAllister, Geroge Mulvey, Michael Connor, Mary French, Agnes Adams, Paul Pattison, Mary & Johnny Fowley, Dennis Jones, Denis Dunbar, John Devenney, Gladys New, Joseph Gilman, Mary & Johnny Fowley, Denis Jones, Marie Parker, Caroline Saunders, Theresa Pegg, William McGregor, James Kivneen, Daniel Collins, Vincent Phillips, Ann Long.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Tom Clibbery**, Clare Davies's brother who died during the week. May he rest in peace.

Poland Pilgrimage: Balance now due please. It is £300 or £355 with single supplement. There will be a meeting for all pilgrims on Monday August 7th at 7pm at Sacred Heart.

HCPT Invitation from Ann-Marie Hopper: "I am going out to Hosanna House with one of our "adult" groups 20th - 27th October. We have space in the group both for helpers and assisted adults at present, but could also do with a nurse. Is there anyone in the parish who could benefit from it or might be interested in being a helper?" If you can help please email Ann-Marie on: anniehops@yahoo.com



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.

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.

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.

Afternoon High Tea was very popular last year with:

- beautifully made & presented food
- classy music (Professional violinist and classical pianist) and
- excellent service - a real treat for someone you love.

This year it will be on Sun 3rd Sept from 2.00 till 4.00 pm at Sacred Heart. Tickets are £10 (children £7). All proceeds to our building fund.

Tickets available today.

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



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.

Chandeliers: Quite a few people have commented in the feedback on the chandeliers at St John's; others have spoken directly to us. They arouse strong feelings but most at least agree that they are too low. We raised them by 750mm (32 inches) on Wednesday. Did you notice? Those who have seen them have been pleased that the crucifix can now be seen when entering the Church and the screen is more visible (although there are still some blind spots). What do you think?

Summer-scheme – is anyone qualified to drive a minibus and can you help occasionally with driving – even just for one day from July 26th to August 4th? Please phone Fr Michael or Alex Parker if you can help.

- **Teen meeting Friday 21st July at 6.30pm**
- **Campers meeting Friday 21st July at 7.00pm**

Summer Fayre – T-Shirts: Could Summer Fayre volunteers please return T-shirts as soon as possible so that they can be put away for the next function. Thank you

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.

Feedback on St Johns: Thank-you to all who have filled in those forms. We have had about 100 returned which is excellent. We can now read and write a simple account of what people are saying and let you know as soon as possible. Thank-you for all the insights you have shared. Many of us are not going to get all that we have requested but hopefully the consultation with all groups will lead to a better result.

The Feedback on Parish Life and Evangelisation has been even more enlightening. The questions are more challenging which explains why we have had fewer responses (about 50 so far). But these 50 have told us much. It doesn't matter how beautiful our buildings are if we are not fulfilling our purpose. This is vital so thank-you for completing these and we invite others to do the same. One again, a report will seek to summarise the responses.

The Parish Council met 10 days ago. The minutes are on display in the porch. It was a full agenda in which, among other things, we discussed the refurbishment of St John's. We await feedback from parishioners before any decision can be made on exactly what work will be undertaken. We hope that most of that will be completed this week.

We also discussed Caritas work in the form of Heart of Tamworth (H.O.T). How HOT works is still confusing to parishioners so we discussed that. There needs to be more clarity on this. We asked why is it separately constituted from the parish? The reasons are:

1. *To enable us to have strong governance surrounding our charity work (we are accountable legally to the Charity Commission and have to comply with laws governing charities).*
2. *Have continuity with a board of 8 Trustees. Most are parishioners. We also have a person from Father Hudson's Care, Sheree People (Chair) and Lee from Community Together. Each member*

Money Matters	
Envelopes	193.10
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	411.53
Total:	£1404.63
Building Fund	204.21
<i>Thank-you.</i>	
Gift Aid: Please increase your giving by 25%; sign a Gift Aid form. Call Rob on 769403 or robertjbreden@googlemail.com	



From the Utne Reader, a bimonthly digest of the alternative press published in Minneapolis.

adds huge experience, knowledge and skills to strengthen our work (solicitor, counsellor, councillors, accountant, community worker, teacher, youth leader, business representatives, fundraiser..). This will also help with continuity when, for example, some move on, we still have an able and legally constituted organisation to carry on this ministry.

3. *To show the wider community that this work is not just targeting Catholics (and this can be a problem when it is a Church building and the project is the called "the St John's). At the same time, parishioners are central to delivering so much of what goes on, benefitting from activities and helping change lives.*

4. *To enable us to be able to apply for grants*

It is a registered charity in its own right. Accounts are submitted every year and grants are given for different activities. For example, Asda are looking to donate £700 towards the Christmas Dinner and a keyboard for the Memory café and other groups. We have had substantial grants for developments at St John's and Sacred Heart (over £150,000) in the past 5 years

HOT pays for most expenses in the community centre side of the Sacred Heart building including insurance. Rental income and the majority of grant funding goes to HOT which is used to pay bills and fund activities.



Are We Part of a Dying Church? That's a tough but honest question. We recently looked at some figures in Church – a graph showing the sharp decline in numbers in our parish since the mid 80's. Nearly all parishes in Britain, Europe and the U.S. have witnessed this. Some parishes are asking hard questions of themselves and the Church. Pope Francis has led the way on this. I hope we are one of the parishes doing the same.

Our recent prayer and reflections on this have helped us to realise that our mission as Church is to evangelise. This is something that we will now look to develop in the coming months.

At the same time, we have had great success in attracting many more volunteers, especially in the area of social action. We have also had volunteers to help with parish work like bringing communion to the housebound (there is a wonderful and large team doing this ministry), others involved in Catechesis, evangelisation, office work, website, youth work, liturgy, parish council, money counting and so on. It has been very encouraging.

All these volunteers are literally a 'Godsend'. If we are to move from decline to growth we will need all of these and more. And we will need to change even more than we have already.

A major problem now is a lack of space. It is already severely hampering our work. No volunteer coming in to the office has any space to meet or work. Often we have six people in, with insufficient room for more than two to work. We have enough space to 'tick over' as a parish but nowhere near enough to house leaders to take our parish forward in terms of evangelisation and social action.

This is critical to our attempts to develop our parish work and recognises that the work of volunteers is central to this.

Ideally, we would build offices on the front of Sacred Heart so that we are more accessible to visitors and so that we can welcome the hundreds of people who come through our doors every week. We have looked at using space within the centre but this is already fully used and we want to use that for groups and services, not offices. We also want to have space to welcome all the groups that come every day and seek to improve the appearance of the building. This is an ideal opportunity to do all of that.

We believe we can attract some funding for this and HOT will make some grant applications. If this goes ahead then, while HOT is leading on it, the parish would also need to contribute.

