



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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Tamworth, B77 2EA

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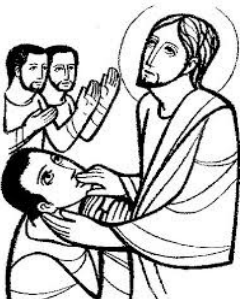
St John's Church is on St John St, Tamworth, B79 7EX

Sixteenth Sunday of the year (A) – 23rd July 2017

Psalm Response: O Lord, you are good and forgiving

Saturday 22nd July	St Mary Magdalene	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Ann McNamara Jane and Jerry McSweeney – Devlin Family
Sunday 23rd July	Sixteenth Sunday of the Year	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Kathleen Parker – Ann Serridge Jim Barnwell – Ann Serridge Lorna Kelly – Saya Stanislaw
Monday 24th July	Feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 25th July	St James	9.30am (S.G.) 10.00 am (S.H.)	St Gabriel's School Leavers Mass Hubert Doherty
Wed 26th July	Ss Joachim & Anne	8.00 am (S.H.)	Mary Madeline Titterton N.B. Time & place
Thursday 27th July	Feria	8.00am (S.H.)	Fred Powell N.B. Times
Friday 28th July	Feria	12.30pm (S.J.)	Communion Service
Saturday 29th July	St Martha	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Communion Service Brenda O'Brien – Gert & Jim Towey
Sunday 30th July	Seventeenth Sunday of the Year	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Kit Keegan – Jim McCormack Months Mind Mass Ann Long – Nancy Danagher

Confessions: Saturday **none in the morning** 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, Stella Moseley, Christopher Wheeldon, Maureen Gallagher, Colin & Joan Pickup, Theo Castanheira, Iris Bishop, Michael Dwyer, Gemma Vine, Corinne Collins, Christine Breeden, Judith Timms, Nuella Enright, Christine Bayley, Baby L'Kye, Patrick McGinty (jnr), Margaret Gallagher.

Reflection: The tiny mustard seed, when planted in the right soil, becomes a flowering bush, an illustration of the beauty of creation. It's a reminder that each of us began as a small seed which slowly, with love and care, has the potential to grow in to something amazing. Today, the Gospel tells us that the kingdom of God grows slowly. We are the sowers of the Word. With the help of God, we are the nurtures who watch how love grows when love is given. It's not always an easy task, as love and care for the oppressed and people in need in our society can often meet with opposition. But with the help of God's hand, like the mustard seed, the kingdom of God is something that grows from a tiny beginning.



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: Norman Wakefield, Caraminella Petricca, Neil O'Brien, Ruth Coleman, Agnes Cheneler, George and Nellie O'Carroll, Kathleen Garrity, Edmund Nunan, Bill McDonald, Jim Towey, Edward and Annie Ferguson, Harry Curnock, Patrick Douglas, Jack Salt, Frances Whelan, Mary Larvin, William Keyte, Arthur Brown, Catherine Pinkston, Ann Flynn, Hope Edwards, Francisca Wain, Mary Sullivan, Ronald Williams, Derek Thorpe, Anne McDonnell, Michael Cuffe, Keith Willisroft, Norah Coghlan, Christina Jennings, Frederick Tooley, Christopher O'Dwyer, Tony Martin, Wayne Bradford, Margaret Maguire, June O'Brien, Elizabeth Dinner, Nichole Wright.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Winifred Mary Haynes**, the funeral service will take place at Fradley Crematorium on Monday, 31st July at 11.30am, and **Frank Hill** (husband of Joan) and **Muriel Rean** whose funerals are yet to be arranged.

Months Mind Mass – Sunday 30th July, 10.30am at St John's. If you wish your loved ones, who died outside the parish during the month of June, included in the Mass please put their names on the list.

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.

The Summerscheme begins this week. Please pray that it goes well. Over 90 children and young people are involved with a Teen scheme operating for the first time. We have over 80 parishioners going to Alton Castle Camp for a weekend too.

Alton Castle's Own Summer Camp for young people aged runs from Aug 6th to 10 or 12th to 16th for young people in yrs 7-13. It looks amazing to do check it out. See www.bcys.co.uk or email beccy.roseman@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk

Friendship Group: 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.

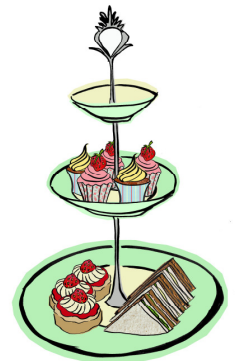
Afternoon High Tea was very popular last year with:

- 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 – only 20 left!

A Bereavement Support service operates at Sacred Heart on Fridays (10 – 12.00). 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

Tamworth Memory Walk – a stroll in aid of Alzheimer's Society. Take a stroll round the Castle Grounds on Sunday, 24th September starting at 11am. You can choose to walk the 1.25 miles circuit or strolls to suit your ability. For more information on how to join, donate or sponsor contact David on 01827 51615 or email daividbarnes99@yahoo.com

Congratulations to Doug and Maureen Hardy celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary this weekend. WE wish them God's blessings. So many parishioners who are deeply involved in parish life are celebrating 50th and 60th anniversaries. Doug and Maureen are two of these and the commitment of such married couples is great to see.

Journey in Faith will be on a Thursday this year. We are inviting two possible groups:

1. People who are not Catholic who want to know more – some of these may want to become Catholics.
2. Catholics who want to renew their faith.



This year we are going to use the Alpha material. It is newly produced and very well made with a focus on the most important aspects of the Christian faith – the life and importance of Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit. For any Catholic this is the heart of our Christian lives but sometimes we need to look again to appreciate what we have been given. So why not join us?

We will be running it on Thursday evenings starting on September 28th. It will run till Christmas. The evening will begin with food. To make it work we need help. The plan is to have leaders, people to set up, to

prepare food each evening (even taking on one evening would be great)/

Can you help us? Would you like to be involved in some way? Please get in touch as soon as possible if you can. There will be more on this coming soon.

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.

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Lili Benkert, from the parish, decided at 18 that instead of going straight to University, she would spend time with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) in Nepal for 2 months, working in schools to help improve the education of the children. To see how she got on read her blog <https://volunteersblogblog.wordpress.com/>

Becky Gavigan BBC Proms – Becky, another young parishioner, sang as part of the BBC Proms Youth Chorus with her choir from Birmingham University. The piece is called Harmonium by Jon Adams and is available to view as Part 2 of the First Night of the Proms on the BBC IPlayer.

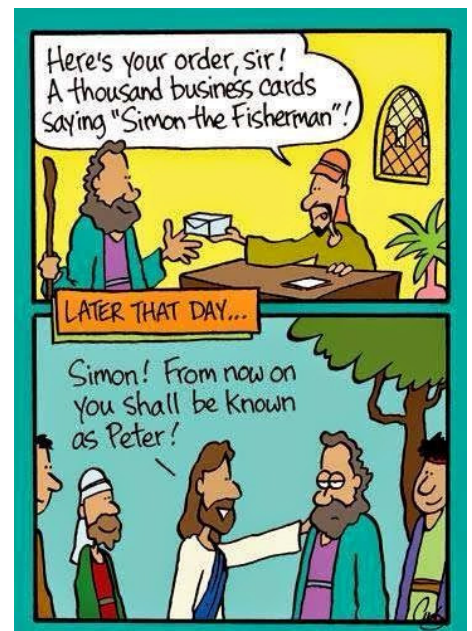
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p056n3bq/bbc-proms-2017-john-adams-harmonium-prom-1>

The Feedback on Parish Life and Evangelisation has been very 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. When we have a clear mission it is important to ask ourselves whether we are fulfilling it. 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.

Situations Vacant - St Mary's College, Oscott wishes to appoint an Academic Office Administrator, with experience of administration, preferably in an educational context, and with very good IT skills. This role combines office based administrative responsibilities with support and assistance to the teaching staff and seminarians. Further details available at <http://www.oscott.net>

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.

Money Matters	
Envelopes	159.26
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	397.51
Total:	£1356.77
Building Fund	261.62
<i>Thank-you.</i>	
Gift Aid: Please increase your giving by 25%; sign a Gift Aid form. Call Rob on 769403 or robertjbreenen@goolemail.com	



ST JOHN'S CHURCH DESIGNS CONSULTATION

111 People Responded

Thank-you for responding in such large numbers. Here is a picture of what was said. Our thanks to Anne for collating this information.

Colour Schemes	Walls	Rose 1	Rose 2	Rose 3
Scheme 1	63	19	18	20
Scheme 2	40	18	18	3
No preference	8	14 did not specify any Rose		

Comments – *Most comments were very positive. A few for warmer or pastel colours. 'Altar looks too bland, gold rays should appear coming from the Cross. The whole concept looks too modern, needs to be more traditional to feel the presence of God.'* (1) *'Some gold leaf would be good please.'* (2)

SANCTUARY

Curved steps	102 – like them which was 100% of those who commented
Altar	94 - approved – 100% of those who commented.
Pulpit move	78 approved – 2 disliked pulpit being moved

PULPIT CHOICE – 94 responded. 12 to keep the existing and 82 for a new one but no clear favourite among the new. Choices were:

1: **7** 2: **13** 3: **5** 4: **11** 5: **4** 6: **8** 7: **7**
 8: **1** 9: **8** 10: **5** 11: **13** *Some replies ticked several preferences.*

Comments – *'Pulpit handrail needed' 'Wasn't the current pulpit was chosen by a Diocesan 'expert'?.* *'The shelf on the current pulpit is useful.'* *'See-through pulpit should be avoided, impractical.'* *'Curved steps liked gives a touch of grandeur.'* *'Really like the old one due to symbol of Holy Spirit on it.'* *'Make one with a cross on it.'* *'Pulpits look modern compared with rest of design.'*

Live Streaming was popular with 86 and not liked by 9, but some of the 9 would have been happy if the camera is only focussed on the sanctuary. Others commented: *'Great' 'Fab' 'Extremely fantastic' 'Excellent' 'Amazing' 'bad idea, it encourages people to stay at home' 'raises child protection issues. If only focussed on altar ..I'd support idea. For weddings, baptisms .. families could have option.'*

Digital Bells had 78 in favour and 16 against. Comments: *'Would they have properties of carillon and be able to play tunes?'* *'Need to check with council if they can be played'* *'Great idea' 'Fantastic' 'Bad idea - too many pseudo sounds already.. something will go wrong .. that would be embarrassing.'*

LIGHTING – Comments: *Chandeliers obscure screen – should be raised or replaced (18 times). Chandeliers – like a casino! (1) Less ornate. (1) Happy the chandeliers are being kept. (1) Lighting needs to be improved (14 times). White circle round the outside. Uplighters not great. (Twice). Mood lighting can be effective, eg colours in side chapels altering colours and intensity for different types of event. (Twice). Spotighting required in sanctuary. (Twice)*

GENERAL COMMENTS: *Can consideration be given to sound system, quality poor at times? Microphone system does not work in choir loft.*

Can candles around the outside be used round the tabernacle? Make the organ more of a visual feature. Kneelers required for altar (cold on knees). Screen on altar needs moving, if you are in the middle of Church you can't see it.

Overall view pleasing. All looks good. As long as Church can afford alterations, they should be done.

As you know, the chandeliers have already been raised 32" and can be raised more. To go ahead with all the work we need the approval of the Diocesan Art and Architecture committee. It is made up of ten architects, artists, liturgists and designers who have to approve any plans to change Churches, for obvious reasons. They did not operate when previous works were done. Their response will be made know soon. In the meantime, we will look at art work for the sanctuary and prices for scaffolding and painting.

