



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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Tamworth, B77 2EA

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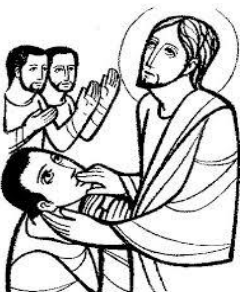
www.stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

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

Seventeenth Sunday of the year (A) – 30th July 2017

Psalm Response: Lord, how I love your law

Saturday 29 th July Seventeenth Sunday of the Year	St Martha	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Communion Service Brenda O'Brien – Gert & Jim Towey
Sunday 30 th 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
Mon 31 st July	St Alphonsus de'Ligouri	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 1 st August	Feria	8.00 am (S.H.)	Holy Souls
Wednesday 2 nd August	Feria	8.00 am (S.H.)	Robert & Monica
Thursday 3 rd August	Feria	8.00am (S.H.)	Christine Breeden
Friday 4 th August	St John Vianney	12.30pm (S.J.)	Communion Service
Saturday 5 th August The Transfiguration of the Lord	Feria	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Barry Gardner Nora Bolt – Mary Madeline Titterton
Sunday 6 th August The Transfiguration of the Lord		9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Joyce Davidson – Betty Lorden Dominic Barron – John Prosser Ann-Marie Gallagher – Thomas O'Mallon
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, 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: *He sells everything he owns and buys a field*

What do you value the most? During the week you will have seen the forest fires in Southern France. When residents and holiday makers were asked to evacuate they would have made choices as to what was of most value to them and what they would need if the fire took all their possessions. If you had been living in the path of the fire, what would you have saved? In the light of eternity all those physical possessions do not really matter, it is the condition of our soul that is ultimately important. It is not what we possess but how we use it. The kingdom of heaven is ours if we allow God to live and work through us.



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

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: William Reardon, Bessie O'Regan, Edward Sullivan, Myra Williams, Hannah Dunkerton, Florence Harding, Barabara Brown, Patricia Finnegan, Winifred Avery, Fenton Quaddelli, Marjorie Gavin, Mary C. Murphy, Eamon Byrne, James Crampin, Hope Samantha Edwards, Patrick Kiernan, Rose Tomson, Margaret Neak, Arthur Compton, Geoffrey Hassall, Lily Vaughan, Mary Titterton, Kathleen Bates, Barbara Tarpey, Elizabeth Upton, John Cole, Anthony Parsons, Ernest Wilson, Margaret Hepple, Patricia Peart, Brendan Sterlin, Patricia Sutherland, Bridget Page.



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) whose funeral is yet to be arranged. May they rest in peace.

The Month's Mind Mass this weekend will be said for: Hugh Vincent O'Reilly, George Brown, Keith Waterhouse, Karen Davidson and Tom Felton. May they rest in peace

Please add any names of people who have died this month to the list in the porch for the next Month's Mind Mass.

Poland Pilgrimage Meeting will be on Monday August 7th at 7.00 am. We are trying to contact Mary Walker – can anyone help please?

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?" Please email Ann-Marie: 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.

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.

Can anyone help us with some raffle prizes please?

Tickets available today

Due to demand we have extended it to make 20 more available!

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



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.

What we do need of everyone is to pray this will go well and bring blessings to many people and to the parish.

Fr Mario: a few have been asking when Fr Mario will leave. We are just waiting on news about Fr JP, our new priest from India. He has applied for his Visa but such applications are not straightforward. If it progresses smoothly, Fr JP will come in early to mid August and Fr Mario leave towards the end of August. Please keep them both in your prayers.

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.

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.

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	153.10
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	372.08
Total:	£1325.18
Building Fund	274.57
<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	

Welcome to Fr Noel who is visiting his family in Birmingham and joining us for the Saturday evening Mass. He looks well, in spite of the pressures of working in a country in such political turmoil. Please keep him and the Congo in your prayers.

Marriage Encounter Weekends will be taking place at Barnes Close, Bromsgrove (Non Residential) 9th-10th September 2017 and at the Ibis Hotel, Rugby (Residential) 24th-26th November 2017. They are enrichment weekends for normal, ordinary marriages (NOT counselling). ME weekends have proved time and time again to be of immense value to couples however long they have been married. All discussions are private to the participating couples; there is no group work. For further information go to www.wwme.org.uk or contact Phil & Rita Jackson on 0121 2447762.

Please note the changes to Mass times in the coming week due to the summer scheme.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH DESIGNS CONSULTATION

112 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	64	19	18	20
Scheme 2	40	18	18	3
No preference	8	15 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	103 – like them which was 100% of those who commented
Altar	95 - approved – 100% of those who commented.
Pulpit move	79 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). Spotlighting 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.

