



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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Tamworth, B77 2EA

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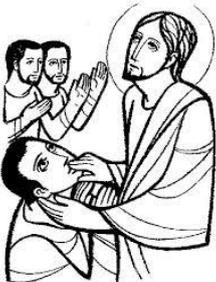
St John's Church is on St John St, Tamworth, B79 7EX

Twenty Fifth Sunday of the year (A) – 24th September 2017

Psalm Response: The Lord is close to all who call him

Saturday 23 rd September	St Pio	10.30am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Twenty Fifth Sunday of the Year		6.00pm (S.J.)	Nell Mattison – Paddy Larvin
Sunday 24 th September		9.00 am (S.H.)	Dajan Padmore – Betty Meehan
Twenty Fifth Sunday of the Year		10.30 am (S.J.)	Bridget & Michael Hegarty – Rachel Ault
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Months Mind Mass
Monday 25 th September	Feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 26 th September	Feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Communion Service
Wed 27 th Sept	St Vincent de Paul	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Thursday 28 th September	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Communion Service
Fri 29 th Sept	Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	12.30pm (S.J.)	Communion Service
Saturday 30 th September	St Jerome	10.30am (S.J.)	Mairead Knowles
Twenty Sixth Sunday of the Year		6.00pm (S.J.)	Kieran Kennedy – Margaret Silton
Sunday 1 st October		9.00 am (S.H.)	Betty Meehan – Mary McLaughlin
Twenty Sixth Sunday of the Year		10.30 am (S.J.)	David and Anne Barnes - Fr Ailbe O'Brice
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Lil Nevin – Colm Duffy

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, Michelle McGrotty, Nancy Finn, Tony Borman, Stella Moseley, Christopher Wheeldon, Maureen Gallagher, Colin Pickup, Theo Castanheira, Iris Bishop, Michael Dwyer, Gemma Vine, Corinne Collins, Christine Breeden, Judith Timms, Christine Bayley, Baby L'Kye, Margaret Gallagher, Maria Fe Alcuaz, Pat Elmore, Tom Collins, Dylan Smith, John Hackett and Mary Collins.

Reflection: God is always generous with his love even when you feel hard done by life. As in today's Gospel we can live our lives comparing with others, their lives are better than ours. We can so often get stuck in the past, 'life was better then...' Or wish our lives away, always looking for a better life. The now is all we have now. God gives his love fully in the now without conditions. In the desert Jesus gave enough for the day, and no more. We can get so caught up in always wanting more, a bigger house, a better job, a better salary. Accept God's love, live in the present, and make it so beautiful it will be worth remembering."



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Cecilia (Cissie) Dyer who died recently and **Peter Seekings**, will be received into St John's on Sunday 1st October at 7pm followed by the funeral Mass on Monday, 2nd October at 12.00 noon. May they rest in peace.

Months Mind Mass Sunday, 24th September – We pray for all who died during the month of August especially **Kathleen Mytton, Anne Clibbery, Nuella Enright and Anne-Marie Naylor, Lawrence Cox**. May they rest in peace.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Joan McMahon, William McGuinness, Joseph Tomson, John Scott, Beatrice Duffy, Clement Hadley, Basil Perchancyz, Catherine Walker, Cecilly Miller, Angela Mallaber, Josephine Barber, Michael Hegarty, Thomas Tyson, Kathleen O'Gara, James Croke, George McClean, Beryl Jagger, Harry Marchant, Mary Gallagher, David Lynch, John Hadley, Francis Shepherd. Albert Wilkins, Patrick Doyle, Sarah Smith, Catherine Sumner, Olive Inskip, Joseph Pasley, Jean Troden, Michael Reilly, Mary Belcher, Derek Brotherhood, Patrick Noble, Maurice Wainwright, Linda Shale, Joseph Obi, Winifred Pugh, Teresa Morley, Audrey Nichols, John Buchan, Doreen Wright, George Croot, Leonard Royds, John Dale, Celia Broom, Heather Crook, David Lunn.

Apple Festival Sunday 15th October: Can you please?:

1. **Provide apples.** Can you get some from your garden or someone else's (with permission, of course)? We need to start collecting now. Please make life easier for us by:

- discarding any that are rotten or bruised
- tell us whether they are cooking or eating apples
- storing them in a box layered with newspaper until we need them – in a cool, dark room is best

2. **Making and Baking:** then we need lots of people to make things like pies, tarts, sauces, chutneys, toffee apples, crumbles, Tarte Tatin, apple sponge. We will supply apples and flour.



Why do it? It can be fun. We can use our talents and enjoy the fruit of our labour. It raises funds for our work and it saves thousands of apples being wasted. It helps us to live simply. Why not?

Youth Band/Choir: We are looking to form a new music group who will take an active part in our Masses, across the parish, once a month.

We are hoping to rehearse weekly on Friday evenings at Sacred Heart from 6.30pm for about an hour. If you are in Year 7 or above, play a musical instrument or sing and are interested in getting involved please speak to Alex or email Father Michael. If you are an adult who would like to help too then please get in touch.

Father Hudson's Care - the second collection this weekend will be for Father Hudson's Care. Father Hudson's mission is to provide Catholic social care in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, reaching out to support vulnerable people young and old. Please give generously to this worthy cause. As well as giving through the Church, parishioners can support Father Hudson's by donating online at www.fatherhudsons.org.uk. Donation Gift Aid envelopes are available at the back of church.

The Heating at St John's is having some important work done to the pipes in the boiler room. Our thanks to Dave and Matt for doing a great job to date. We are sorry if it's getting a touch chilly but the heating should soon be ready to go on.



Building Work: The shower room and confessional are coming along well. We hope to finish it this October and then clear out the side chapel. At the same time we are awaiting prices for the alterations to the Church sanctuary and redecoration. It will most likely start in the new year.

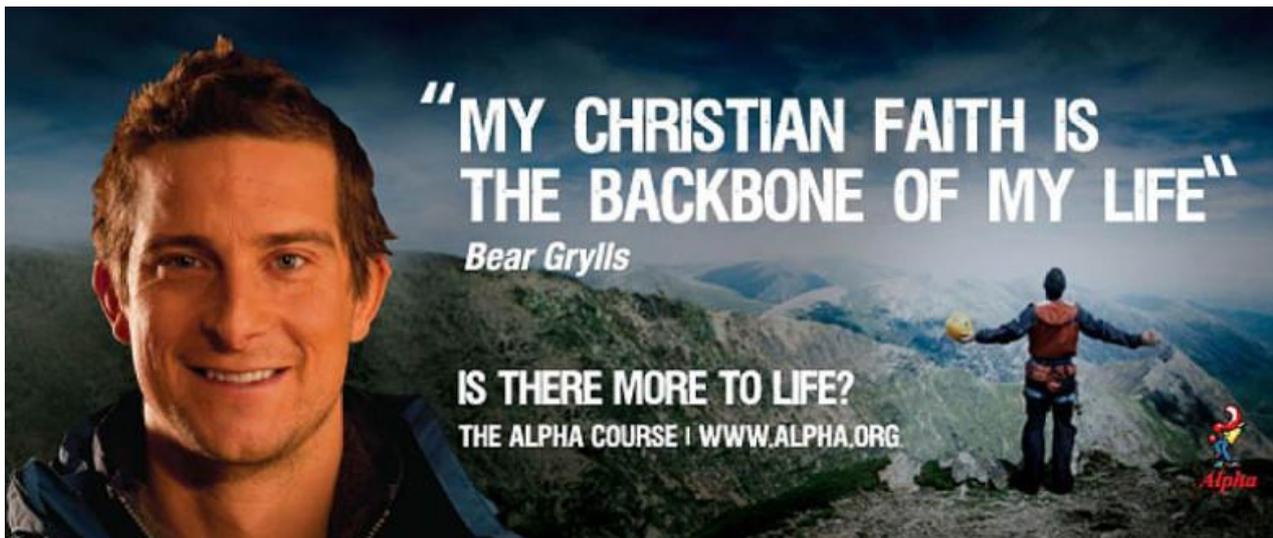


Pilgrimage to Poland: we had a very moving, spiritual and enjoyable pilgrimage to Poland last week. Thank-you to Joanna Piernicka for helping to organise a week to remember. Thank-you to all the 37 people who helped make it special too.

Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage 2018: The parish has not been to Lourdes for at least 7 years so it is time we gave parishioners the opportunity to go again. A great time to go is Whitsun with the Diocese (May 28th 2018).

The music will be led by Jo Boyce and co, as well as masses said by the Archbishop and various priests. We can organise our own travel and hotel and then join the Diocese over there. That makes it much more affordable. Maybe we could also support one or two who could not go on their own? Please let Fr Michael know if you are interested in helping organise this.

Alpha Course



We too have something precious to celebrate and share. Please think about who and how many people you could invite. Take whatever number of invitation cards you need. It starts on Thurs Oct 5th at 7.30 pm with dinner, then a short film followed to questions, comments, discussion. Over by 9.00 pm.

Don't worry if they all say 'no', at least you have asked them. The more we ask the more 'yeses' we will get! It may need a little courage so pray about it. I am sure Bear Grylls (above) must have been nervous when telling the whole world about his faith. We can take strength from that.

We do need to know numbers (for catering) so please sign up (list in porch) if you are coming and get others who might not come to Mass to 'RSVP'.

If you can help as a leader, please come forward. There will be training on Thurs Sept 28th. We just want good, normal people who can listen and encourage others to speak.



Do you want your child to make their First Holy Communion next Summer? If the answer is yes, and your child is not in a Catholic school, then you need to register them for classes as soon as possible. They need to attend a class one evening a week starting next month.

If you know someone in this situation, then please let them know. So please email Fr Michael or write down your contact details and hand them in immediately. If you have any questions then please get in touch.

Prayer Group meetings are changing to Tuesdays - 8.00 pm at Sacred Heart. This prayer includes silence, praise and singing and open prayer. All are welcome.

Peace, Pope Francis and the call to active nonviolence

You are warmly invited to the 13th Birmingham Diocesan Justice and Peace Assembly on Saturday 14th October 2017 10:30a.m. to 4:15p.m. at St Peter's Catholic School, Whitefields Road, Solihull, B91 3NZ. Guest Speakers: Pat Gaffney - Pax Christi and the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative James Trewby - Columbans - J&P Education with afternoon workshops led by J&P organisations **Cost: £8 (low income and students £5)** Please bring your own lunch again this year, sharing if you wish.

Booking form and further details from: Janet Vaughan Administrator, Birmingham J&P Commission
Email: bham.jandp@gmail.com - To download a Registration Form go to www.birminghamjandp.org.uk

St Elizabeth's School Adult Quiz Night on Sat 7th Oct at 7.30pm in the school hall. Tickets are £8.00, incl a Fish and Chip supper (£3.00 without food). Teams of 4 - 6. Bring drinks & nibbles. Tickets are available from Jane McSweeney on 07849 439867 or Marie Kennedy on 07745 655994. Come and join the fun and help raise funds for the school. All welcome.

Birthday Celebrations - Happy 80th birthday to **Joe Kelly** and 90th birthday to **Lil Nevin**. God bless you both

We welcome Fr Con to St John's this weekend. He is over to attend a wedding and we thank him for saying Mass for us.



Fr Mario's Induction Mass at St Catherine of Siena, Bristol Road is on Wed Oct 4th at 7.00 pm. Please sign up if you want to go on a coach (cost £7.50 each) – we would need a minimum of 30 people.

Community Activities

Starfish: Our Starfish 'breakfast club' runs from the Sacred Heart. It's held every Sat from **10 till 12.00 am**. Please invite people along.

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 Tues, 10.30am – 12.30pm, offering a friendly place where people with memory loss and carers can come together in a safe and supportive environment.

Foodbank: Thank-you to all who remember this each week. The need has not lessened so please keep it coming.

Senior Citizens at Sacred Heart – Meet every Tuesday for social gatherings at 1.30 pm.

A.A. Groups meet at St John's every Monday and Friday starting at 8.00 pm.



The SPIN Café also runs from St John's every Monday. It is for people with learning disabilities looking for a place to meet & something to do. New members welcome.

Kenelm Youth Trust Charity Ball 2017 – Saturday 14th October 2017, 7.30pm at the Belfry Hotel and Spa, Sutton Coldfield. Accommodation is available with a discount rate.

Tickets £45 which includes Champagne Reception, Four Course Meal, Grand prize Auction, Casino, Raffle and live music from the Squares.

All tickets can be purchased through the main Kenelm Youth Trust Office on 01538 703224 or email events@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk. **If you want to be part of a parish group then contact Fr Michael. There are a number coming along.**

Chase the Cake – I (Fr Michael) am doing a bike ride for the youth service on Sunday Oct 1st at Cannock Chase. (It's the 'Chase the Cake ride'). I haven't put sheets in the porch because so many others ask to do the same thing and we would be inundated but if you would like to sponsor me please let me know or go to michael@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk



"I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. I do not want a Church concerned with being at the centre and then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures. If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life."

"More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: "Give them something to eat" (Mk 6:37)." (49)

Pope Francis