



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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Tamworth, B77 2EA

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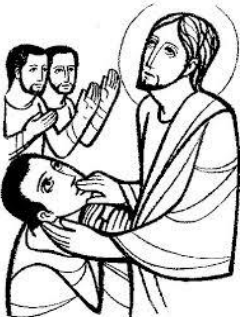
St John's Church is on St John St, Tamworth, B79 7EX

Second Sunday of Advent (B) – 10th December 2017

Psalm Response: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help

Saturday 9 th December Advent feria Second Sunday of Advent	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Nuella Enright Sean Bolger – Michael & Pauline Devlin
Sunday 10 th December Second Sunday of Advent	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Bernadette Whitlock – Ayasamy Family Hughie McKenny – David Jeffries Ann McCauley – Jim & Sheila Brown
Monday 11 th December Advent feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 12 th December Advent feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Sean Bolger
Wednesday 13 th December St Lucy	7.00am (S.H.) 10.00 am (S.J.)	Betty Meehan Maureen Farmer
Thurs 14 th Dec St John of the Cross	10.00am (S.J.)	Funeral Mass for Ernest Walker
Friday 15 th December Advent feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Funeral Mass Nora Kinsella
Saturday 16 th December Advent feria Third Sunday of Advent	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Peter Seeking Nora Bolt – Margaret Silton
Sunday 17 th December Third Sunday of Advent	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Ray and Kitty Browne – Eamon McGurn Michael Bolger – Joe Fitzgerald Ray Barber – John & Siobhan McDonald

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



Please pray for the sick: 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, Joan Trevis, Tony Soden, Pablo Claveria, Adam Coxhead, Eileen D'Arcy, Sarah Spencer, Gladys Cuffe, Kingsley Bayley, Beryl Smith, Mary Williams, Joyce Anderson, Agnes Buckley, David Foxall, Leslie Roe, Olive Ahern, Sadie Porter, Michelle McGrotty, Nancy Finn, Tony Borman, Stella Moseley, Christopher Wheeldon, Maureen Gallagher, Theo Castanheira, Iris Bishop, Michael Dwyer, Gemma Vine, Corinne Collins, Christine Bayley, Baby L'Kye, Margaret Gallagher, Maria Fe Alcuaz, Tom Collins, John Hackett, Mary Collins, Eva Howard, Odette Nunes, Janine Nolan, Terry Spears, Tom Sharratt, Tilly Sweet.

Reflection: John the Baptist's message applies just as much today as it did in the original Advent. God's love for His people is never-ending, and He sent Jesus Christ as a testament to it.

Something wonderful is coming, and unlike the Israelites in John's day, we already know that it is the salvation of Jesus Christ. They journeyed for miles and miles to find repentance and salvation through the baptism of John, and spread the good news of those days to their friends and family. That is what we should remember this Advent, and prepare ourselves with no less enthusiasm and joy for Jesus and the salvation which He brings.



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

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Richard Blackmore, Emma Ratcliffe, William Howard, Ellen Inskip, Albert Flynn, Adrian Walsh, Nancy Bradley, Eric Hassell, Horace Wale, Elizabeth Thompson, Olive Cotterill, Patrick Donnelly, Susan Carey, Borjan Wolodymyr, Raymond Russell, Mr. Rickard, Bernard Averill, Charlie Cuffe, Joe Downey, Bill Atkins, James Hunt, Edward Hynes, Dick Croke, Thelma O'Neill, Kathleen Allerton, Duncan Smith, Jack Flynn, John McNicholas, Pat McGarragan, Margaret Crook, Leslie Windridge, Patrick Collins, Kathleen Reynolds, Albert Bray, Roger McSharry, Patrick Foley, Isabel Whitty, Henery Coggan, Barry Keenan, Josephine Print, Winifred Oldfield, John James Magee, Winifred Perkins, Mary Myatt, Walter Caven. Anastasia Pritchatt, Hughie Mckenny, Rosemary Wakelin.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Ernest Walker**, who will be received into St John's on Wednesday 13th December at 5pm followed by a funeral Mass on Thursday 14th December at 10.00am, **Nora Kinsella** whose funeral will take place in Sacred Heart on Friday 15th December at 10.00am and **Joyce Thompson** whose funeral service will take place at Streetly Crematorium on Thursday 14th December at 3.45pm. May they rest in peace.



Walk With Me Booklets are now in Church. **Advent starts today** and these booklets can help guide us through a season of spiritual preparation for this great Christian celebration. If you can spare a £1 put one in but otherwise just take one.

Early Morning Masses will be on Wednesdays at Sacred Heart. Join us for Advent at 7.00 am.

The Christmas Dinner this year is being hosted by us at Sacred Heart. It is for anyone who might be alone or struggling in some other way. Thanks you for everyone who has volunteered to help with service, socialising and lifts to and from the meal. We plan to eat at 1.00 pm on Christmas Day and lifts home at 2.30 pm. If you have put your names down as a volunteer you will be hearing soon about a meeting that is being arranged.

The Sunday before Christmas is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Even though that Sunday is Christmas Eve the Masses are not Christmas Masses.

Please be generous in your worship this Advent and Christmas and make room for the Sunday Masses as well as the Christmas Masses. On the Sunday there will be just two Masses – one at 9.00 am at Sacred Heart and the other at 10.30 at St John's. **There will be no Mass at 12 noon on that Sunday** (Dec 24th) because we have three Masses later on that day. Please see below:



Christmas Cards with all the Christmas Service in are available this weekend.

Wednesday 20th December

Sacrament of Reconciliation (at Sacred Heart) 7.00 pm

Saturday 23rd December
Sunday 24th December

4th Sunday of Advent (St John's) 6.00 p.m.
4th Sunday of Advent (Sacred Heart) 9.00 a.m.
4th Sunday of Advent (St John's) 10.30 a.m.

No Midday Mass at Sacred Heart

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve (Sunday 24th December):

Family Mass (Sacred Heart): 4.30 p.m.
Family Mass (Sacred Heart): 7.30 p.m.
Midnight Mass (St John's): 12.00 midnight

Christmas Day

Sacred Heart: 9.00 am
St. John's: 10.30 am
No Midday Mass at Sacred Heart..



Light up a Life 2017

Light Up A Life: This is a special way in which we remember someone dear to us and pray for them, writing their name on a silver star which goes on the Christmas tree in Church.

At the same time, we make a donation which is used to make life better for others, especially people in real need. Funds raised this year will go to help with the Christmas Dinner and the Winter Night Shelter. So please use the 'light up a life' stars and envelopes that are available this weekend.

The Winter Night Shelter is well underway. We had 5 homeless people sleeping at St John's last Sunday night. They were able to enjoy a shower in our new facility followed by a beautiful home cooked dinner and pudding and a good night's sleep. They went on their way after a good breakfast. Well done to Simon and the volunteers who made this possible.

Please keep this project in your prayers since we are working with people who are the most needy in our community.



TCC Carols on Saturday 16th

December 2pm - 3pm outside the Town Hall. We need seven other readers with strong voices plus stewards. If you are interested please contact Jessica Harrison jessicaharrison2502@gmail.com

Monday 18th December Carol Singing outside Asda 6pm - 7pm

Wednesday 20th December Carol Singing outside the Snowdome 6pm - 7pm (free Hot Chocolate).

Carols at Parkfarm Lodge - We have been asked to sing Carols at Parkfarm Lodge on Tuesday 12th December from 3pm. If you would like to join us to make a memorable afternoon for the residents please contact Mary Farrington on 01827 50335 or speak to Alex.



Tickets available today - £2.00 each.

Alpha Thank you. We are drawing to the end of our Alpha course this week. It was been a great experience for a number of reasons. One of these was the high quality of the videos which taught us all so much. There was also much to be gained from sharing our faith and praying with and for each other.

Then there was the food - pies and pastas, Hungarian and Polish, casseroles and lasagne's. We have also enjoyed lots of wonderful home-made desserts, so thank-you to all our cooks, all who prepped in any way and some kind people who washed up too.

Thank-you also to our group leaders and organisers. We are planning to run it again starting in Lent so look out if you are interested.



In January Alpha will evolve into Journey in Faith and focus on aspects of Catholic faith. It will begin on Thursday Jan 4th at Sacred Heart.

Change of Venue for the Memory Café - Because of its great success the Memory Café is moving! From Tuesday, 9th January 2018 it will relocate to a bigger room at Sacred Heart. It will be at the same time of 10.30am - 12.30pm, offering a friendly place where people with memory loss and carers can come together in a safe and supportive environment.

Program for the next two weeks:- 12th Dec Shoebox Theatre Performance at Sacred Heart **19th Dec** Christmas Party St John's Community Rooms. On the **26th Dec** and **2nd Jan** 2018 it will be closed.

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

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.

Heart of Tamworth needs a website to be developed. Can anyone help us to do that please? Please contact Fr Michael if you can help.



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. **The support group will still be available on Friday 22nd December and Friday 29th December.**

Bereavement Support at St John's –We need more volunteers to enable us to hold a Bereavement Support group

at St John's. If you feel you can help or would like to find out more, please contact Wendy at the parish office or by email on office@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk.

Please bring back Raffle Ticket stubs & money asap please.

Advent, A Time to Open Ourselves to a Deeper Infilling of the Holy Spirit

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. (Mark 1:8)

The Holy Spirit—he makes all the difference. John had preached a baptism of repentance for sins, but he promised that someone “mightier” was coming—someone who would fill us with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:7). So what is that difference?

John's baptism focused on the past, on forgiveness for sins already committed. He wanted people to put the past behind them. The Holy Spirit, however, focuses on the future. He comes to mould us and shape us, to lead us into the kingdom of heaven.

John's baptism was for one purpose: for our pardon. But the Holy Spirit has many purposes. He reveals God's love to us. He helps us understand Scripture. He teaches us how to live as brothers and sisters. He holds the Church together and moves us to work for the kingdom of God. And so much more.

When we are baptized into Christ, we get both blessings. Our sins are washed away, and we receive the Holy Spirit. Jesus doesn't want us to miss out on anything! It's all wrapped up in one gift, which we call the “seed of faith.” If we want to see these blessings unfold in our lives, we need to tend to and nurture this seed.

A simple analogy might help. The main reason most of us go on a healthy diet is to lose weight, but so much more happens when we change our eating habits. Yes, the weight drops. But our cholesterol levels also improve. Our immune system is strengthened. We feel more energetic, and we sleep better. We just wanted to lose weight, but our whole lives have been changed.

This is what happens when we care for our seed of faith. Not only do we experience God's forgiveness, but we invite the Holy Spirit to work in every other area of our lives. We feel God's love. We become more loving. We want to reach out to those who are hurting. We find the strength to say no to temptation. In short, we become a new creation.

“Thank you, Jesus, for the gift of the Holy Spirit! Lord, help me grow my faith.”

Please note that there are two funeral Masses this week. On Friday there will be no 12.30 Mass at St John's due to the funeral.

Money Matters	
Envelopes	154.35
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	507.63
Total:	£1461.98
Building Fund	287.81
<i>Thank-you.</i>	
Gift Aid: Please increase your giving by 25%; sign a Gift Aid form. Call the Parish Office or office@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk	

