



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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Tamworth, B77 2EA

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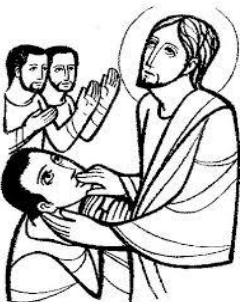
St John's Church is on St John St, Tamworth, B79 7EX

Third Sunday of Advent (B) – 17th December 2017

Psalm Response: My soul rejoices in my God

Saturday 16th December Advent feria Third Sunday of Advent	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Peter Seekings Nora Bolt – Margaret Silton
Sunday 17th December Third Sunday of Advent	9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Ray and Kitty Browne – Eamon McGurn Michael Bolger – Joe Fitzgerald Ray Barber – John & Siobhan McDonald
Monday 18th December Advent feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 19th December Advent feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Sarah Spencer
Wed 20th December Advent feria	7.00am (S.H.) 10.00 am (S.J.)	Betty Meehan Ray and Martin Morris
Thursday 21st December Advent feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Jack Fitzgerald
Friday 22nd December Advent feria	9.15am (S.G.) 12.00 noon (S.J.)	Brian Cunningham Funeral Mass for Tom Sharratt (N.B. Time Change)
Saturday 23rd December Advent feria Fourth Sunday of Advent	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Lynmar & Mick Christine Breeden & Robert Breeden
Sunday 24th December Fourth Sunday of Advent	9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Joan & Colin Pickup – Delia Abling Keith & Sheila Waterhouse – Evelyn Reardon No Mass – please note this.

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, 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, Tilly Sweet.

Reflection – Christ's Light:

Jesus describes himself as the light coming into the world. We are called to share that light that gives full meaning to our lives. Through your generosity of time and money we are able to provide Christmas Hampers to bring cheer in to people's lives, Christmas Day Dinner for those who otherwise would be spending Christmas day alone and shelter on a Sunday evening for the homeless.

Pope Francis links care for the poor and the light of Jesus: "Love for the poor has been the sign, the light that draws people to give glory to the Father." We pray that we can continue to be God's light to others.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Edward Deakin, Bernard & Margaret Doyle, Agnes Bartram, Mary Thomas, Norman Kilminster, John Hanson, James D'Arcy, Bernadette Buxton, Joseph Jady, Marie McDonagh, Joseph O'Neill, Pat Weir, Anges Skipp, Edith Gould, Jack Latham, Joseph Krenski, Tom Skipp, Olive Tranter, Wilfred Windridge, Daniel Shilton, Frank Kinsella, Eileen Estall, Jack Tracey, Stan White, Tom O'Grady, Minnie Burrell, Mary Sidwells, Mary Steadman, Helena Inskip, Alec Tomson, Dick Croke, Gertrude Davise. Roger McSharry, Marjorie Westbury, Irmina Grobelny, Joseph Thompson, Lily Tricklebank, Charles Wood, Nancy Morris, Daisy Harvey, Robert Radek, Ruth Nicholson, Bryan Black, Terence Weston, Josie Laffan, Edward Corbett, Bridget Heaslip, Eileen Islip, John Murdoc, Ann Haig, Catherine Bradford, Percy Arnold, Josephine Hinds, Bernadette McCormack, Bernadette Brady, Joyce Bartram, Michael Evans.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Tom Sharratt** whose funeral Mass will take place on Friday, 22nd December in St John's at 12 noon, **John Hever** who will be received into St John's on Tuesday 2nd January at 3pm followed by a funeral Mass on Wednesday 3rd January and **Mary Brennan** whose funeral details tbc. May they rest in peace.



Our Advent Penitential Service is this Wednesday at Sacred Heart at 7.00 pm. There will be seven priests here. Please seize on this opportunity to experience God's loving forgiveness before Christmas.

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. We plan to eat at 1.00 pm on Christmas Day and lifts home at 2.30 pm.

A meeting will be held for all who have volunteered on Monday 18th at 6pm If you can't make it please contact Simon and Sheree on 01827 825403 or my mobile 07933956677

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.



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

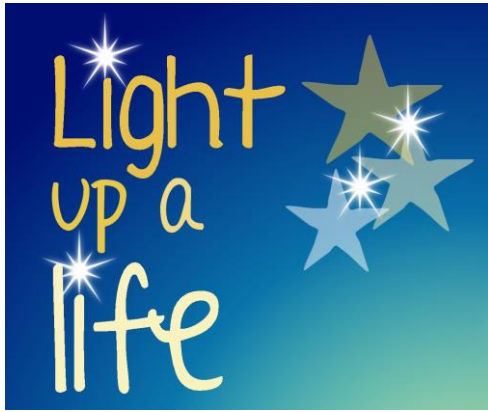
Christmas Day

Sacred Heart: 9.00 am
St. John's: 10.30 am



There will be No Midday Mass at Sacred Heart.

As you are generous to others this Christmas, please be generous with your time for Jesus too. Maybe give space between the Sunday Mass and Christmas, by coming to Mass on Christmas morning rather than Christmas Eve and then come along for the 4th Sunday of Advent too?



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. Funds raised this year will go to help with the Christmas Dinner and the 45 Christmas hampers going to families in need. So please use the 'light up a life' stars and envelopes that are available this weekend. It may be our last chance this year.

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.



Carol Singing

Monday 18th December outside Asda 6pm – 7pm

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

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.

Last Café for 2017:- 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 (H.O.T) needs a website to be developed. Can anyone help us to do that please? Please contact Fr Michael if you can help.

H.O.T. **BEREAVEMENT** **SUPPORT GROUP**



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

A Pilgrimage and Congress on the Eucharist will take place in Liverpool next year from Friday Sept 7th to Sunday 9th. It will focus on celebrating the gift of the Eucharist but also deepening devotion to and knowledge of this Sacrament. There are some famous speakers coming to it too. Are there any parishioners who would like to go to part or all of this? If so, then please speak to Fr Michael

Get talking about the future of your Trent Valley: If you're part of this local community or visit the area regularly, and are interested in sharing views and ideas with others about this important landscape, then why not join our Community Conversation? Please see the poster in the porch for more information.

The Archdiocese of Birmingham Year Book 2018 we have a number available in the Piety stores at a cost of £2.50 each, first come first served.

Holy and Ivy needed for the Christmas Flowers. If you could leave it till later in the week to cut it so that it's as fresh as it can be. Please leave any in the porches of both churches. Thank you.

Christmas Raffle:

1 st £300	S Laska	2 nd	Electric Stove	V Bloxham	3 rd W'end in Scotland	K Rowley
4 th £100 M&S Voucher	K Rowley	5 th	Bar B Q	Mrs Row	6 th Litre of Spirits	P Hateley
7 th Christmas Cake	Mr Critchley	8 th	Sherry	T Wyatt	9 th Christmas Pudding	Ann W
10 th Electric Shaver	S Bush	11 th	Red Wine	Tracey Turner	12 th Box of Sweets	M Kelly
13 th White Wine	Debbie Began	14 th	Box of Biscuits	Mrs King	15 th Cuddly Toy	Joanne Siviter

Thank-you to all who gave prizes, bought and sold tickets. We made over £2,000.

THE ALPHA COURSE

explore the meaning of life!



Alpha has now finished. A big thank-you to all our amazing cooks. The food was amazing. We also thanks all the organisers (especially Alex) for making it such a wonderful experience. Some will continue now in the Journey in Faith each Thursday evening starting at 7.30 in Sacred Heart.

We are also planning another Alpha course for anyone interested. It will start in Lent and run through till Pentecost. If anyone would like to join us or help with it please let us know as soon as possible.

A Recent article - A Message of Encouragement from Pope Francis:

Just like a plant needs sun and nourishment to survive, every Christian needs the light of Sunday and the sustenance of the Eucharist to truly live, Pope Francis said.

"How can we carry out the Gospel without drawing the energy needed to do it, one Sunday after another, from the limitless source of the Eucharist," he said Dec. 13 during his weekly general audience.

"We don't go to Mass to give something to God, but to receive from him that which we truly need," the pope said. Sunday Mass is the time and place Christians receive the grace and strength to remain faithful to his word, follow his commandment to love others and be credible witnesses in the world.



The pope continued his series of audience talks on the Mass in the Vatican's Paul VI hall, which was decorated with a large Christmas tree and a life-sized Nativity scene. A number of people in the audience hall handed the pope -- who turns 81 Dec. 17 -- Christmas cards, notes and a chocolate cake.

In his catechesis, the pope responded to the question of why it is so important to go to Mass on Sundays and why it is not enough just to live a moral life, loving others.

Sunday Mass is not simply an obligation, he said. "We Christians need to take part in Sunday Mass because only with the grace of Jesus, with his presence alive in us and among us, can we put into practice his commandment and, in this way, be his credible witnesses."

"Just like a plant needs the sun and nourishment to live, every Christian needs the Sunday Eucharist to truly live," he said... "What kind of Sunday is it for a Christian if an encounter with the Lord is missing?" he asked in his main talk.

Unfortunately, in many secularized countries, the Christian meaning of the day has been lost and is no longer "illuminated by the Eucharist" or lived as a joyous feast in communion with other parishioners and in solidarity with others, he said.

Also often missing is the importance of Sunday as a day of rest, which is a sign of the dignity of living as children of God, not slaves, he said.

"Without Christ, we are condemned to be dominated by the fatigue of daily life with all its worries and the fear of tomorrow. The Sunday encounter with the Lord gives us the strength to live today with confidence and courage and to move forward with hope," he said.

Money Matters

Envelopes	75.90
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	267.07
Total:	£1142.97
Building Fund	147.78

Thank-you.

Gift Aid: Please increase your giving by 25%; sign a Gift Aid form. Call the Parish Office or office@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk