



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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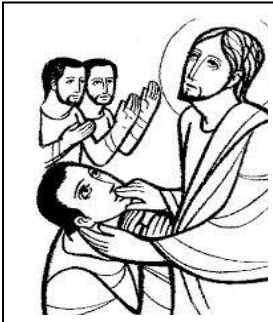
www.stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

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

The Epiphany of the Lord (B) –2017

Psalm Response: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord

Saturday 6th January Epiphany of the Lord	Feria 10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Rita Marks Prendergast Family – Kay Kearns
Sunday 7th January Epiphany of the Lord	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Nancy Lynch – Peggy & Charlie Standen Dominic Barron – Brian Cunningham Joe O'Dwyer – Jadwiga & Wladyslaw Gada
Mon 8th January Baptism of the Lord	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 9th January Feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Martin Morris
Wednesday 10th January Feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Thursday 11th January Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Communion Service
Friday 12th January Feria	12.30pm (S.J.)	Communion Service
Saturday 13th January Feria Second Sunday of the Year	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Communion Service Tom Croke – Michael O'Dwyer
Sunday 14th January Second Sunday of the Year	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Thanksgiving – Holy Souls Peter Seekings – Maureen Farmer Cherry Lovegrove - Melanie Richards
No Confessions next weekend		



Please pray for the sick: Chad Williams, Teresa Woodcock, Gill Horsley, 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, Peggy Bashford, Vickie Pickup, Fr Tom Hewitt msc.

Reflection: The story of the wise men or magi is a story of the journey that is guided by a light. It's a story of good beating the bad.

The light of the star started them on the journey and guided them to the end. Our faith is a journey that starts at Baptism. The light of the candle is passed on with the promise of God's love that will guide us through life. Faith grows through the ordinary events of life, what can seem ordinary happenings can hold for us extraordinary grace. The light of faith is bright in the good and bad times of life.

Each of us has our own personal star guiding us – the star of prayer, love, friendship, support...the star has a different name at different times. Be grateful for your star and be grateful that you have been a star for others



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

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Catherine Lee, Elsie Weir, Percival Keyte, Frederick Sedgley, Michael Weir, Margaret Hunt, Winifred Salt, Harry Spooner, Gillian Florey, George Boonham, Melvin Yates, Cecilia Stewart, Philip McLoughlin, Joseph Castigan, Francis Clibbery, Evelyn Skudder, Catherine Bland, Evelyn Cherrington, Sue Comyn, Bill McGrath, Ida Evans, Peggy Standen, Patrick & Sarah Gillen, Patrick Murphy, Leonard Walker, Michael Carolan, Emily Fanning, Margaret Fitzsimons, Derrick Lees, John O'Neill, Dean Ryan, Mildred Sharrat, John Raymond Browne, Michael Burke, Joseph Moore, Frances Rivers, Francis Baines, Kenneth Wesrmancoat, Vittorio Boccara, Kenna-Jeanne Renee, Dominic Barron, Theresa Wide, Anthony Bonham, Jack Redmond, George Coates, Michael Dent, Pauline Bartram, Angela Wilkins, Eileen Hartland, Eileen Murphv, Mary Watkins.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Margaret Thompson** who will be received into St John's on Wednesday 17th January at 5pm followed by the funeral Mass on Thursday 18th January at 10.00am, **Marian Mary Smith** who will be received in to St John's Church on Thurs, 18th Jan at 5pm followed by a funeral Mass on Fri 19th Jan at 12.30pm then to Sutton Coldfield Crematorium at 2pm and Amelia Wayne's brother **Dr Armando Cortez** died on the 23rd December and **Cherry Lovegrove** who passed away during the week. Cherry's funeral will be in the Philippines. May they rest in peace.



ALPHA - is a chance for anyone to renew their faith through watching some amazing 25 minute films and an opportunity to ask questions/discuss. We are planning another Alpha course for anyone interested. It will be on Mondays starting on February 19th and continue through Lent. If anyone would like to join us or help with it please let us know as soon as possible. There will be food offered too.

There are invitation cards in Church this weekend. Please take some and give them to anyone you know or why not bring a friend?

Youth Band will resume rehearsal on Friday at 6.30 pm in the Sacred Heart Church. It is for those in Year 7 and above. If you would like to come along or find out more please e-mail alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

Do you support Catholic Schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools

The Year of the Family – There will be a World Meeting of Families in Dublin during August 2018 This event is open to all families who wish to attend. However, it has been proposed that every deanery in the Archdiocese of Birmingham will sponsor a family to attend this event. Please speak to Fr Michael if you and your family wish to be considered.

The Night Shelter is now at its maximum with 9 guests including one married couple.

I am currently looking for additional volunteers to fill gaps for greeting in January: on the revised basis of 4 greeters per evening I need;

January 7th - 2 more greeters

January 14th - 3 more greeters

January 21st - 3 more greeters

January 28th - 1 more greeter

The expectations of a greeter are:

6.30-10pm Set out room downstairs with tables, cloths and biscuits; make tea / coffee & chat with guests.



Please contact me if you are available to greet on any of the above nights, speople@btinternet.com or ring the parish office, if you are keen to volunteer with a friend. Anyone whose offer is not taken up in January will be first priority for the dates in February which will be circulated next week.



**Grieve
not
Alone**

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.

Bereavement Support group at St John's It is felt that town centre venue might offer more people an opportunity to talk. We thought we would try a meeting which people could come to on their way home from work. We need more volunteers to enable us to hold this. If you feel you can help or would like to find out more, contact Wendy by phone or at office@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

Starfish – We need more volunteers for the Starfish 'breakfast club' which runs from the Sacred Heart. It is held every Saturday morning from **10am till 12.00 am**. We provide food and a listening ear in a friendly setting. The people who come are God's children and the sort of people Jesus would seek out.

Change of Venue for Heart of Tamworth's Memory Café – Because of its great success the Memory Café is moving! From Tues, 9th Jan '18 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. The next Café will be on **Tues 9th Jan 2018**

Alzheimer's Society
Leading the fight against dementia



MEMORY CAFÉ

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Singing for the Mind - The Heart of Tamworth (HOT) and Community Together (CIC) are joining to offer two informal sessions each month of Singing for the Mind. The 1st Thursday of the month at Sacred Heart and the 3rd Thursday of the month at The Hub on the Castle Grounds. Some of the proven benefits of singing are: good for the mind, helps with confidence, relieves anxiety, reduces stress. Thanks to Cllr Ken Norchi Mayors Fund Raising 2016 – 2017 for providing us with the funds to allow us to offer this. The first session and the launch of Singing for the Mind will take place at the Sacred Heart on Thursday 11th January 10.30am – 11.30am

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.



A Pilgrimage and Congress on the Eucharist will take place in Liverpool from Fri Sept 7th to Sun 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 too. Who would like to go to part or all of this? Contact Fr Michael for more info.

St John's Church Makeover: One of our resolutions for 2018 is to get St John's refurbishment completed. We have appointed contractors and they will begin the building work in late February. The work will take about

4 weeks and will be followed by painting – another 4 weeks. During the 4 weeks building work we anticipate that St John's will be out of action for 3 weekends.

Downstairs Kitchen at Sacred Heart is nearly completed, there is just a bit more painting to do before the units, sink and appliances can be fitted, which hopefully will be next Monday.

APF Mission Boxes (St John's): If your red mission box has not been opened in 2017 can bring them to church next weekend, 13th / 14th Jan were they will be emptied.

From Wednesday, Fr Michael will be away for a week. Fr Paul Keane from Oscott will be covering next weekend with communion services during the week.

Please pray for Fr Tom Hewitt msc who passed away on Thursday night/Fri morning. He served here as a priest for longer than any other msc priest and will be well known and loved by many in the parish. Please pray for his family, friends and the msc community.





Cherry Lovegrove, a member of our parish, died during the week. She was aged just 44. Her death was very sudden. Her husband, sadly, died a few days later. Cherry had been caring for him. May they rest in peace. Cherry is from the Phillipines and her friends (parishioners of ours) are keen to help her 'go home' where she can be buried by her family. If you want to support them in this then come along to Sacred Heart on Sunday 14th between 1.00 and 3.00 pm for food and a raffle. Otherwise you can donate through the Justgiving website and search for Leonora Valdezco, the organiser
 . The target they want to raise is £2,000.

Confirmation Classes will be starting in the near future. Are there any young people (maybe not at Catholic schools) who want to be confirmed. If so please contact Fr Michael as soon as possible.

Thank-you to all who made our Christmas celebrations and work so enriching. People involved in liturgy and music, cleaning and flower arranging, building work, sacristy and office. Thank-you to all who brought communion to the housebound, helped feed, clothe and accommodate the homeless, sang carols to the lonely and forgetful, instructed our children and prayed at Mass. It is all God's work. Thank-you.

From Fr Michael, thank-you too for your cards gifts and offerings. You have been very kind and it is greatly appreciated.



"I never make New Year's Resolutions, anymore," the man told me, "I never keep them, anyway." I can remember all too well many resolutions I've made and let slip away, too. But I believe New Year's resolutions are worth making. Let me tell you why.

First, we all need changes. Some we find very hard to admit to ourselves. I've heard people who say, "I have no regrets about my life. If I had it to do over, I'd do it the same way again." But that attitude is way too blind and self-serving so far as I'm concerned. There is great power in confession--to ourselves, to God, to others. Owning up to our failures is the first, painful step on the road to something better.

Second, when we change calendars is a good time for reassessment. Let me ask you a serious question. What percentage of your life is producing something of value to God? How much "unploughed ground" do you have, that ought to be broken up in this coming year and made useful? Reassessment. The brink of a new year is a good time for reassessment.

Third, New Year's is an excellent time for mid-course corrections. Sure, we might fail in what we set out to do, but if you're so fearful of failure that you never set up your row of tin cans to shoot at, you're not very likely to hit any at all. Failure is not the end. For the person who determines to learn from it, failure is a friend.

Fourth, New Year's is a time to learn to rely more heavily on the grace of God. Now I've met a few self-made men and women and so have you, but so often these people seem proud and driven. There is another way: beginning to trust in God's help. One more secret from the Apostle Paul: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength," he said (Phil 4:13, NIV). And God's strength saw him through a lot--through pain, through joy, and through accomplishment.

If this last year, you didn't practice relying on the Lord as much as you should have, there is no time like the present to make a New Year's resolution. In fact, why don't you say a short prayer right now--use these words if you like: "Dear God, I want the new year to be different for me." Now spell out in prayer some of the changes you'd like to see. And close this way: "Lord Jesus, I know that I'm going to need a lot of help for this. So right now I place myself in your hands. Help me to receive Your strength. Amen." Good. Now you've got a much better chance of a Happy New Year.

Money Matters	
Envelopes	273.52
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	628.17
Total:	£1701.69
Building Fund	264.03
<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	