



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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Tamworth, B77 2EA

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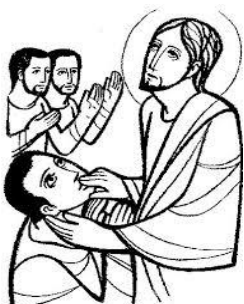
www.stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

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

Fifth Sunday of the Year (B) – 4th February 2018

Psalm Response: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted

Saturday 3 rd February	Feria	10.30am (S.J.)	Ann Bernes
Fifth Sunday of the Year		6.00pm (S.J.)	Tony Eivers – Trevor Warrillow
Sunday 4 th February		9.00 am (S.H.)	Frank Hill – Ann Bernes
Fifth Sunday of the Year		10.30 am (S.J.)	Margaret Thompson – Violet Seekings
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Kathleen O'Dwyer – Cherry Lovegrove
Monday 5 th February	St Agatha	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 6 th February	St Paul Miki	10.00 am (S.H.)	Maura Walker
Wednesday 7 th February	Feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Molly McKinney
Thursday 8 th February	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Pauline Byrne
Friday 9 th February	Feria	12.00pm (S.H.)	Funeral Mass for Olive Aherne (Sacred Heart)
Saturday 10 th February	St Scholastica	10.30am (S.J.)	Michael O'Conner
Sixth Sunday of the Year		6.00pm (S.J.)	Charles Murray – Irene Edwards
Sunday 11 th February		9.00 am (S.H.)	Bob Beckett - Ann Bernes
Sixth Sunday of the Year		10.30 am (S.J.)	Mary Barron – Barbara Hopkins
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Thomas McKiernan – Karen Davidson
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, 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, 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, Karen Taylor, Evelyn Reardon, Sean McAuley.

Reflection: *He cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another*

Today's Gospel brings up the importance for us of availability. We do need to be available to all those who are in genuine need. At the same time, there is what we might call the 'poverty of availability'. No matter how generous and self-giving we are we can only give so much. We need to find a balance between people's needs and our limited resources. We do not help people by working ourselves to the point of 'burnout'. We also need 'quality time' to be with God, to pray, to be with family and friends and to reflect on our priorities. Today Jesus gives us an excellent example.



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: John Whyles, Gladys Ballard, Lucy Beck, Margaret Flynn, Agnes Miles, Maria Brittain, Mary Tousy, Ernest Titterton, Mary Dowling, Christina West, Magdalene English, Hugh Creaney, Bill McCafferty, Reginald Tatem, Owen Cuffe, Joseph Smith, Sarah Plant, Olive Petricca, Ada Beech, Gemma Eaves, Helena Smith, Hetty Constable, Mary Longdon, Irene May, Kathleen Payne, Philip Summers, Dennis Ward, Charles Murray, Douglas Stait, Fr Pat Duffy msc, Kathleen Reed, Margaret White, John O'Rourke, Stanislaw Jarosz, Frederick Bissell, Diane Armstrong, John Alexander, Margaret Simpson, Anne Johnston, Margaret Fenn.

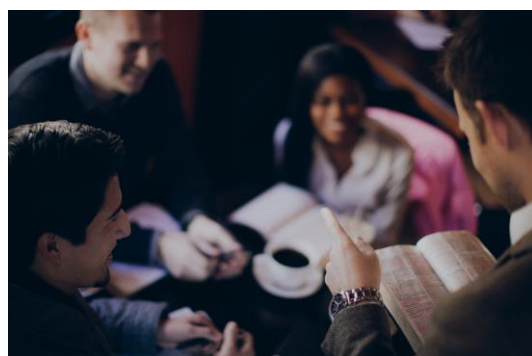
Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Olive Ahern** whose funeral will take place on Fri, 9th Feb in Sacred Heart at 12noon, **Francis Robert James**, funeral will take place in St John's on Tuesday 20th February at 11.00am, **Annette Beech**, funeral will take place in Sacred Heart on Tuesday 27th February at 12.15pm and **Joyce Stack**, funeral details to be confirmed. May they rest in peace.

Ideas for Lent:

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 **please sign up** in the porch or email alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk. There will be food offered too. It is open to all.

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

Alpha Leaders: There are two training sessions for Alpha Leaders: one on Monday 5th February -for new leaders (and any others who would like to attend) and on Monday 12th February for all leaders- both at 7.30pm at Sacred Heart Church. The first will focus on leading small groups and the second on Prayer Ministry and will be a chance to discuss any issues from previous Alpha and to pray together. If you are interested in helping to lead on this coming Alpha course please phone Alex Parker in the office or e-mail alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk



Home Groups We would like to try and develop a couple of small faith-sharing groups during Lent. Such groups would meet in someone's home to chat, share the Bible, share their experience and discuss their meaning for the wider community, One young couple in the town centre has volunteered to host a group. Would you like to join them?

We would provide the material for discussion and prayer. Please e-mail alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk or phone Alex Parker in the office or sign up at the back of church or phone the office for details.

Soup Lunches will be held every Friday throughout Lent. All proceeds will go to charity. We are looking for volunteers to make the soup. Can you help?

Morning Masses most days and early morning Mass on Wednesdays at Sacred Heart Church.

Rosary Group on Monday evenings at 7.30 at Sacred Heart.

Adoration and Confession after 10.30 Mass each Saturday Morning at St John's for 30 minutes.

Stations of the Cross on Fridays at Sacred Heart at 7.30 pm.

The Prayer Group meets on Tues evenings at 8.00 pm at S.H.

Three Evening Talks and Day of Recollection by Deacon Nick Williams. Dates and times to be confirmed on next week's bulletin. We welcome Deacon Nick back this weekend.

Walk with Me Booklets for daily reflection are available this weekend. Cost just £1 with short daily reflections throughout the whole of Lent.

CAFOD Collection envelopes are ready. The collection will be w/e of Feb 25th. Maybe our savings from fasting can be put aside for the poor and hungry of the world that CAFOD supports.



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Good Friday Witness – The planning is underway for this. The organisers need help with stewards. If you could spare some time on 30th March to help in any way please speak to Alex Parker or e-mail alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk.

St John's Church refurbishment will soon start. Contractors should begin work in late February. The work will take about 4 weeks and will be followed by painting – another 4 weeks. We anticipate that St John's will be out of action for 3 weekends.



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.

Youth Band Youth Band – This week's rehearsal is at St John's church, Friday 9th February at 6.30pm-7.30pm. Please note that the Youth Band will be leading the Music at the 6.00pm Mass at St John's next Sat 10th February. Please come along and support them as they sing some new hymns.

Women's World Day of Prayer in Tamworth will be on 2nd March. More details of venue and times soon, but the organisers have asked us to provide two readers. If you think you might be able to help please speak to Alex

Parker or e-mail alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

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.

Synod 18 Pope Francis has dedicated the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme of *Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment*. It will be held in Rome in October 2018. As part of this process the Pope has invited young people to share their voice from around the world; the hopes for the kind of people they wish to become, the joys, the challenges, the worries and the uncertainties. The 'Pope is listening' and he wishes to explore the issues that isolate young people and marginalise them as well as better understand to what young people may feel a sense of belonging. For more info, look at www.synod18.org.



St Gabriel's Pre-School have been chosen for the Co-op community dividend this year for the Glascoate Co-op store. Please could you, when shopping in this store ask for a "charity dividend" when paying for goods in order for the Pre-School to be entitled to a share of this dividend.



Consultation: Two weeks ago we had a presentation on major future developments in the parish. If you missed it there are still handouts in the porch and forms through which you can respond to the four proposals. Designs for the first stage of building are on the Heart of Tamworth website. **We need the feedback forms today please** so do complete one before you go home if you haven't already.

Thank-you to all who have already submitted a response.

Foodbank: Thank-you to all who remember this each week.

The need has not lessened so please keep it coming.

Union of Catholic Mothers meeting on Wednesday 7th February at 7.45pm at Sacred Heart. New members welcome.

Marriage Preparation for couples living in the parish and are getting married in 2018 will be held on Saturday, 17th Feb 10.00am – 3pm at Sacred Heart. All couples are asked to bring along a pack lunch.

Sacred Heart Teas and Coffees: we need more volunteers to help after the 9.00 am Mass. If you can be on a rota please contact Carol on is 01827873808 or c.ayasamy@btopenworld.com

Money Matters

Envelopes	160.15
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	533.89
Total:	£1494.04
Building Fund	312.18

Thank-you.

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



We are Trying to Help Mourners at Funerals with the prayer responses by projecting them onto screens – at least as a trial. Could we have some volunteers to come to funerals (taking turns maybe?) to turn the pages? Also, if you are attending funerals in Church, you may be only one of a handful who know the responses so please take a strong lead in saying the prayers. It gives confidence to mourners to join in.

St Elizabeth's School had an Ofsted recently. Once again it proved how good a school it is. If anyone wants to read the praise heaped on our school then please visit our website for the report.

H.O.T. Activities:

Senior Gents Club – It's felt that there are clubs that cater mainly for women, which is brilliant, but once men retire from work, unless they go along with their partners, there is nowhere for them to go. To try to address this, Heart of Tamworth together with Home Instead are starting a club for the men. The idea is to help men to meet new friends, have the opportunity to play cards or dominos, come along for a chat and help reduce isolation. The first meeting will be on Tuesday 13th February, 10.30am – 12.30pm in St John's Community rooms.

Singing for the Mind: The next session is at the Hub on the Castle Grounds on Thursday 15th February 10.30-11.30am. Some of the proven benefits of singing are: It's good for the mind, helps with confidence, relieves anxiety and reduces stress. Why not come along and join us?

Winter Night Shelter – *"Lord, when did I find you homeless and give you shelter?"* Thank you to all those involved in delivering the first half of the project from early December through to now. It has been a great effort and our centre has been very popular with the guests. If you would like to know more about the Winter Night Shelter please contact me on speople@btinternet.com or 01827 825403.



"I admire the confident stride of a man who knows where he is going."



A Bereavement Support service operates at Sacred Heart on Fridays (10 – 12.00 noon). If you know of anyone grieving, please invite them to join us. We work in partnership with St Giles Hospice and are supported by M.G. Evan's and the Cooperative Funeral Directors.

meeting for the evening Bereavement Help Point. We need more people to come forward to help spread the load. We will be offering training that will be given by Ian Lynch from St Giles Hospice. If you are interested, please contact Wendy in the parish office.

Bereavement Help Point Evening Meeting – Thank you to everyone who came along to the

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 noon**. 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.

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.



Memory Café – The Café offers a friendly place where people with memory loss and their carers to be able to come together in a safe and supportive environment. The next Café will be on **Tues 6th February at Sacred Heart**

Heart of Tamworth now has its own website. Our thanks to Wojciech for developing this.

Please see www.heartoftamworth.org