



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

Third Sunday of Lent (B) – 4th March 2018

Psalm Response: You, Lord, have the message of eternal life

Saturday 3rd March	Lent feria	10.30am (S.J.)	Patsy Joyce
	Third Sunday of Lent	6.00pm (S.J.)	Dr Thomas Barry – Nell Mattison
Sunday 4th March		9.00 am (S.H.)	John Ellis – Joe McCormack
	Third Sunday of Lent	10.30 am (S.J.)	Ray Morris – Kath Wakelin
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Karen Davidson – Clive Millington
Monday 5th March	Lent feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 6th March	Lent feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Maura Walker
Wednesday 7th March	Lent feria	7.00am (S.H.)	Paddy Lennon
		10.00 am (S.J.)	Sheila Mulligan
Thursday 8th March	Lent feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Christine Breeden
Friday 9th March	Lent feria	9.15am (S.G.)	Peggy Bashford
		10.45am (S.J.)	Funeral Service for Ellen Joad Annis
		12.30pm (S.J.)	Mass followed by Lenten soup lunch
Saturday 10th March	Lent feria	10.30am (S.J.)	Bridie, Steve, John H & Baby Seren
	Fourth Sunday of Lent	6.00pm (S.J.)	Cassie Whyte – David Hoe
Sunday 11th March		9.00 am (S.H.)	Jean Padmore – Collette Hughes
	Fourth Sunday of Lent	10.30 am (S.J.)	Helen, Kenny & Shelia Mulligan– Christopher Morgan
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Colm Duffy – Michael Ward

Confessions: Saturday 11 – 12 noon 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, Daniel McGeechan, Aoife.

Reflection: Destroy the sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Today we are God's building blocks. It is up to us all to make God's presence real in our own lives as well as in our families and community. Only if God is alive in us all the time, will he be alive in our churches. If God is not alive all week in us, God will not be alive on Sunday. To be alive in everything we do is to be alive in our hearts. Where people meet and doors are open, there is the temple of God. In all the groups that meet in St John's and Sacred Heart, in all the community work that is carried out in both centers God is alive.

May we be people who open our doors and invite God in. And as we do, may God bring us healing, renewal, and peace.



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

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Arthur Pallett, Mary Weir, Ernest Cope, Mary Burke, Peter Shakespeare, Patrick Callaghan, Annie Cuffe, Molly Seedhouse, Reginald Slates, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Beardsley, Helen Lilly, Susan Bradley, Francis Fellows, Mary Quinn, James and Marlene Robinson, David Knowles, Frank Newby, Salvatori Pascalis, Pearl Tarpey, Tom Coleman, Eileen McCormack, Doris Nunan, Katherine Perchanycz, Phyllis Lockett, Patrick Fitzsimmons, Joan Moore, Winifred Fitzpatrick, Martin Weir, Peter Peacock, John Davis, Edna Wedgbury, Margaret Whalley, David Ryan, Doreen Smith, Mary Johnson, Stanley Sharratt, Patrick Egan, Agnes Kemble, Bernadette Sheldon, Pauline Cadman, James O'Reilly, Gerald Watkins, Noah Matthew Batchelor, Mary Wyatt.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Ellen Joan Annis** whose funeral will take place on Friday 9th March at St John's at 10.45am. May she rest in peace.

Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS

ALPHA – has got off to a good start. Please keep it in your prayers.

Soup Lunches will be held every Friday throughout Lent after Mass. All proceeds will go to Father Hudson's Care who work with some of the most vulnerable people in society. Do come to Mass and join us as we share this simple meal and help people in need too. If you can do soup one Friday, please let us know.

Morning Masses most days and early morning Mass each Wed at Sacred Heart Church at 7.00 am.

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.

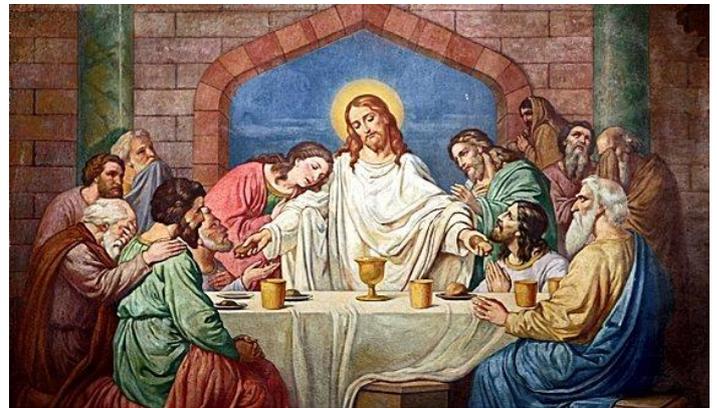
Stations of the Cross on Fridays at Sacred Heart at 7.00 pm with reflection by Deacon Nick Williams

The Prayer Group meets on Tues evenings at 8.00 pm at S.H. with silence, prayer singing & adoration.

The Pope has asked Churches to Pray For Twenty-Four Hours for the Lord Saturday 10th March. In our Deanery we are taking an hour each. Our hour will be at St John's from 11 - 12 noon (after the 10.30 am Mass) and will include confessions and exposition.

Eucharistic Ministers in our parish do an amazing job. This is not only at weekends but many visit the housebound during the week. Those who cannot come to Church often sing the praises of those Eucharistic Ministers. Our thanks to them.

This year we are inviting all Eucharistic Ministers to renew their commitment at the Maundy Thursday Mass in Holy Week (on March 29th) at 8.00 pm. Please put it in your diaries and join us at Sacred Heart. It is so fitting to do it on that night since it commemorates the institution of the Mass at the last Supper and recognises the importance of this ministry.



Fairtrade Fortnight You still have a week left, it ends on Sunday 11th March. At St Editha's shop we will be celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight by inviting you to "Come on in" and try our goods. Each day we'll have samples of Fairtrade foods for you to try. We will also have lots of information on the importance of fairtrade and what it means for the producers



St John's Church Refurbishment – the latest. Contractors will start in the week of March 19th. We have decided it is wiser to get all the work completed with the Church closed. That will take approx. 6/7 weekends. That means we will re-open for the weekend of May 5th/6th.

Lifts Needed? If anyone needs transport to get to Sacred Heart we can help organise lifts for that period. Would those who do have cars also want put their names down to offer those lifts for a few weeks? The list is in the porch.

Finally, there will be a 6.00 pm Mass on Saturdays at Sacred Heart but no 10.30 Mass. This gives everyone the chance to mix with people from the parish whom they would not normally see and gives Fr Michael an easier Sunday morning for a few weeks.

The only help we may need in this period will be the moving of benches. Can anyone help please? Thank-you to the three who have already volunteered.



Any Old Gold? It's a strange question but someone suggested this. The refurbishment does include some gold leaf work. To help with the cost they offered to donate some gold ear rings they no longer use. Has anyone else got an item of gold they could donate (chains, rings, broaches etc)? Please put them in the gold box in the porch. Thank-you.

The Parish AGM is this weekend starting at 1.00 pm at Sacred Heart. It should not be a long meeting but it is a chance to look at the past year, ask questions and discuss

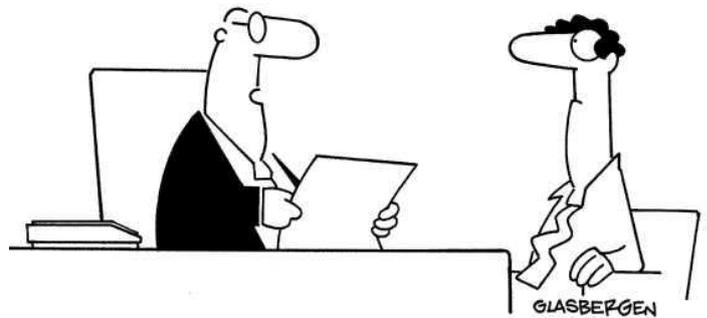
the future too. Please come along for an hour. There will be soup and a roll to keep us going.

Consultation Feedback: Thank-you again for the 125 responses to our consultation. It was a great response. You will remember that this was about four areas: Team Leadership, Employing a parish worker, Employing a Heart of Tamworth Community Worker and Developing our Buildings (Churches for the Future – all connected with making us a growing rather than a declining parish).

Please note that there is an initial feedback sheet in the porch. People suggested we look at one or two elements at a time so we are initially feeding back on the first two proposals (Team Leadership and the Parish Worker).

If anyone wants to see the raw data on all four elements, these are now on the parish website.

In general terms all 4 proposals were welcomed by the vast majority. At the same time, there were many suggestions as well as some concerns raised (often about finances). The working party is reflecting on all comments.



"You participate with enthusiasm during staff meetings and never hesitate to offer a creative suggestion or opinion. That has to stop."

Youth Band – Calling young people in Year 6 or above: Do you enjoy singing or playing a musical instrument? Would you like to join our Youth Band? We would like to expand! We rehearse each Friday during term time from 6.30 – 7.20 pm at the Sacred Heart Church and lead the Music at various Masses on a rota basis – we aim for once a month. For more information, e-mail alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk or come along to practise this Friday 2nd March at 6.30pm, Sacred Heart Church in the Modwen Room.

APF Mission - Each year APF Missionaries prepare for the feast of St Joseph, their Patron, with Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their missionary work. The Novena to St Joseph takes place on 10th – 18th March at St Joseph's Churches in Maidenhead & Liverpool. You are invited to send petitions to St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT or novenmhm@gmail.com

Growing Geraniums and Other Flowering basket Plants: Have you the skills and space to grow 50 or 100 plants from seeds? This summer we want to use people's skills in this area to help us make up hanging baskets as a fundraiser. If a few people could do a bit each, it would make it easier and more fruitful for the parish. Can you help?



Bob Charles is preaching this weekend. Good luck to Bob. He has been in training now for 3½ years in preparation for ordination to the Diaconate. Just as we have been so well served over the past 26 years by Brian (and Tony for 15 years), we now pray that Bob will be a fine Deacon too. His ordination will be on Sunday July 1st at St Chad's Cathedral at 3 pm so keep it in your diary if you would like to attend or for prayers etc.

Please note – if you were not here last weekend, **we are updating our records** so we can let parishioners know about Church openings and closures (with building work) or Mass times at Christmas and Easter. If you have not completed a slip, please do on today.

Thank-you to all for the support given to the important work of CAFOD – a real expression of our high regard for Aid agencies when they are facing so much criticism (*much of it deserved, it should be said*). **£1208.79** was collected last weekend.

H.O.T. Activities:

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

The Senior Gents Club has got off to a great start. 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. They meet every Tuesday, 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 March 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?



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.

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.

1st Hopwas Guides Quiz at Sacred Heart on Saturday 24th March at 7.30pm Cost per person is £5 for Quiz or £8.50 to include fish and chip supper Teams of 4 - 6 people please All funds raise will go towards activities and events for the girls at 1st Hopwas Guides (Some of the girls are members of St John's Parish) To book your places please ring Terry on 07930160857

Tamworth Carnival 2018: In order to raise the profile of Heart of Tamworth and raise funds for our projects from a wider audience, we are entering a Glascote float and have a stall in the Tamworth Carnival 2018. We have already had the very generous support of Guinan Girls in providing a lorry. Can you help on the day, **2nd June**, or with the preparations? The stall will raise funds so ideas and contributions to raise money are very welcome. An initial get together to work out ideas and what is required will be held on 14 March at 7.30pm at Sacred Heart. If you cannot make it please email me with your interest at sppeople@btinternet.com.

Money Matters

Envelopes	161.01
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	513.50
Total:	£1474.51
CAFOD	1208.79

Thank-you.

Gift Aid: Gift Aid: Signing a Gift Aid form will increase your gift by 25% at no cost to you. For more informatio call the parish office or office@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

**FOR I WAS HUNGRY
AND YOU FED ME;
I WAS THIRSTY
AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK.
I WAS A STRANGER
AND YOU WELCOMED ME;
NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME...
MATTHEW 25: 35-36**

Winter Night Shelter – The three-month run finished on Wednesday and the guests gave hugely positive feedback with regard to the warmth of care and support they received. At St John's we were blessed with a great team of people who set up beds, greeted, cooked, did the night watch, provided breakfast, did the washing, gave donations and made the whole thing work. In addition, some parishioners who could not do Sunday, gave their service in other churches on days they could balance with work. Despite the complexity of the needs of our guests, 9 were supported in reaching long-term accommodation and 3 more into short-term places. The feedback from the Council Housing team has been so positive that the council have already committed to supporting the project financially for the next three years and as you will have gathered from Thursday's *Herald*, Rev Steve Jonathan and I are discussing with the council how we can move forward. Sincerest thanks to everyone who supported the project; you have touched and improved the lives of some of the most marginalised members

of society and have therefore fulfilled Christ's commandment to "love thy neighbour". *Simon Peaple*

Well done to Simon and Sheree Peaple who manage so much of the Heart of Tamworth work including the winter night shelter, Saturday breakfast club (Starfish), social media, funding, cooking for big events, networking and much more.