



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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Tamworth, B77 2EA

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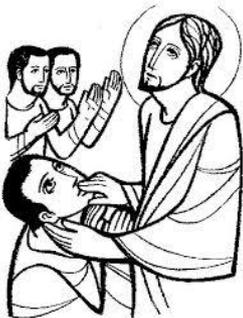
www.stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent (B) – 11th March 2018

Psalm Response: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

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
Monday 12th March	Lent feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 13th March	Lent feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Rita Marks
Wednesday 14th March	Lent feria	7.00am (S.H.)	Edward Doherty
		10.00 am (S.J.)	Frank Hill
Thursday 15th March	Lent feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Darren Burford
Friday 16th March	Lent feria	12.30pm (S.J.)	Mass followed by Lenten soup lunch
Saturday 17th March	St Patrick	10.30am (S.J.)	Joana Sofia & Szumlanski family
Fifth Sunday of Lent		6.00pm (S.J.)	Sister Dympna – Dick Croke
Sunday 18th March		9.00 am (S.H.)	Derek Brotherhood – Marie McCormack
Fifth Sunday of Lent		10.30 am (S.J.)	Margaret Thompson – Christopher Morgan
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Nell Mattison – Ann Bernes
Confessions: Saturday 11 – 11.30 at St John's and 5.15 – 5.45 pm at St John's			



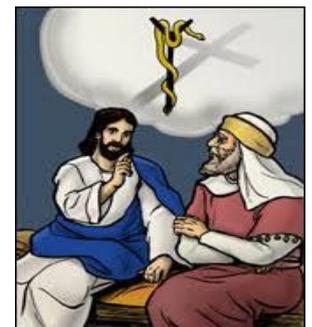
Please pray for the sick: Chad Williams, Teresa Woodcock, Gill Horsley, Mary Pullen, Julie Orme, Nikolas Atkins, Stephen Morley, Jaden Walker, Frank Ryan, Mary Miller, Winnie Claridge, Sarah Gillen, Anne-Marie Purslow, Joan Trevis, Tony Soden, Pablo Claveria, Adam Coxhead, Eileen D'Arcy, Sarah Spencer, 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, Odette Nunes, Janine Nolan, Terry Spears, Tilly Sweet, Peggy Bashford, Vickie Pickup, Karen Taylor, Evelyn Reardon, Sean McAuley, Aoife.

Reflection - God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved:

God showed His love for us by dying on the cross in order to save us. The Cross – the place where the Crucified Lord dies – is His very throne of judgment and His righteousness. This is the great mystery of God's revelation in Jesus Christ.

In the end, God has no desire for the death of the sinner, nor does He take any pleasure in such a judgment. God however does, as He always has, allow us humans to make our own choices even about eternal things. C.S. Lewis wrote in *The Great Divorce* –

There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done", and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done."



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

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: John Weir, John Morley, William Glen, Celia Hughes, Molly Reardon, Kenneth Fitzpatrick, Peter Cadwallender, Mrs. O'Sullivan, Sydney Smith, Mary Smith, John O'Rourke, Sam Tranter, James O'Reilly, Martin Connell, Sam Archer, Christine McGeough, James Corbet, Mary McCormack, Ann Hadley, John Titterton, Brian Clements, George Darley, Mary Iwanicki, Eleanor Hardicker, John Lynn, Gertrud Jarvis, George Czernuszka, William Roberts, Linda Ashley, Francis Kinsella, George Baker, Gerald Dowling Margaret Rose Whalley, Joan Lees, Frank & Ethel Edden, Margaret Newitt, John Sneddon, Rose Duncombe, Michael Gillen, John Gillen, Owen Kenna, Stanley Davis, Francis Baldwin, Leon Brailet, Catherine Ariss, Mickey Gillen, Phyllis Turver, Mathias Weinberg, Anette Potter, Emily Johnson, Andrew Goddard, Dennis Davies, Maureen Jefferies, Veronica Grainger.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Gillian Solanky** who will be received into Sacred Heart on Thursday 22nd March at 5pm, followed by the funeral Mass on Friday, 23rd March at 10.00am, **Eva Howard** (Tues 27th at 2.00 pm at Sacred Heart), and **John Ellis** whose funeral will take place at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium on Thursday 15th March at 1pm; **Daniel McGeechan's** funeral will be on Tues March 27th at 10.30 am followed by cremation at Sutton at 12 noon. Please also remember **Agnes Reid** and **Willie Doherty** who have just passed away. May they rest in peace.

Soup Lunches will be held every Friday throughout Lent after Mass. All proceeds will go to Father Hudson's Care. Join us as we share this simple meal and help people in need too.

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

TCC Good Friday Service and Walk of Witness – You are asked to meet at Ventura Park (at the back of New Look by the pedestrian crossing) at 9.30am for a short time of prayer ready for the walk to begin at 9.40am. The route for the walk will be through the castle grounds, past the bandstand, ending in St Editha's Square for the service at 10.30am. There will be three pauses during the walk for prayer.

Easter Sunday Lunch – We will be holding the Easter Sunday lunch again at 1pm on Easter Sunday. If you or someone you know would like to come, please ring the parish office. Volunteers needed to be table setters, greeter, servers and to washer-up. Could anyone provide a homemade apple pie or cold dessert? Please contact Sheree People on 07933956677.

A Bible Readathon: This is an opportunity to be part of a one-off event, which is taking place from the 4th-7th July at St. Editha's Church, when the Word of God will be read out loud. If you would like to be part of this, either as a reader, a supervisor, or simply by offering practical support such as refreshments, welcoming people or giving people a lift to or from the church, then please sign up.

This will be a unique experience that you won't forget!

All are welcome!

Women's World Day of Prayer – The rescheduled service for WWDP is now the 23rd March and will now be held at St Barnabas Church, Manor Road, Mile Oak. The timings for the service are as before - 10.30 for refreshments, 11.00 service followed by lunch.

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 them 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. It is so fitting to do it on that night since it commemorates the last Supper and recognises the importance of this ministry.



Dementia Prayer Week 12th – 19th March – This year marks 10 years of Dementia Prayer Weeks. May we be inspired and comforted by the words of Bishop David McGough: "During this week we remember especially the often forgotten pain of those living with dementia, and those who care for them." This week we are asked to remember them in our prayers each day.

Loving Father, you are close to the broken hearted.

Look with compassion on those whose lost memories have robbed them of home and belonging.

Comfort and strengthen those who care for them.

Help us to share your love with those who live among us with dementia; may we see your beauty in them.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



Rabbit Eggs (?) and Chick Eggs will be on sale next weekend – on sale in support of CAFOD. They will be sold by some of our young people, knitted by parishioners and helping some of the poorest people in the world. Limited supply.



Knitting dolls: On the subject of knitting, we are looking for a volunteer or two to knit some dolls please (to a certain design) to be used by our own children. Is anyone curious enough to volunteer? We have some images we can show you.

St John's Church Refurbishment – the latest. Contractors will start on Monday March 19th. The Church will close after next weekend for 6/7 weeks. Please pray it runs smoothly.

Lifts Needed? If anyone needs transport to get to Sacred Heart we can help organise lifts for that period. Would those who have cars also put their names down to offer 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 and tidying up the car park. 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.
us going.

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.

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?



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.



Mothering Sunday is here again. Today mothers give thanks to God for the gift, the special vocations they have. We all give thanks to God for mothers. If they are with us it is a distinct opportunity to thank them (maybe a reminder that we should thank them all the time).

If they are not with us then we honour them by remembering and praying too.

Mums, please come forward after communion for a blessing and some flowers, a small token of the parish's appreciation of your role in God's plan.



Afternoon Tea - Carolyn Fleurat will be holding an Afternoon Tea on Sunday 22nd April 2 – 5pm at Sacred Heart in aid of the Birmingham Archdiocese pilgrimage to Lourdes. Carolyn who is a registered nurse, will be caring for the sick during the pilgrimage and is raising funds for the trip. Cost of the tea is £5 for adults £4 for children. For tickets please ring 07889040535.

"Are all of these letters of recommendation from your mother?"

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.

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.

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 raised 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.

Gambling Problems: With internet gambling, it seems to be a growing issue with many people. We are helping to establish a service for people addicted to gambling. If you know someone with a problem then let them know.

It will start after Easter at St John's. Watch this space for more information.

Money Matters	
Envelopes	138.80
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	433.32
Total:	£1372.12
Cathedral Maint.	242.77
<i>Thank-you.</i>	
Gift Aid: Gift Aid: Signing a Gift Aid form will increase your gift by 25% at no cost to you. For more info call the parish office or email office@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk	



Winter Night Shelter – The three-month run is over 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.

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 Peuple