



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

Palm Sunday (B) – 25th March 2018

Psalm Response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Saturday 24 th March	Lent feria	10.30 am (S.H.)	Communion Service
Palm Sunday	The Passion of the Lord	6.00 pm (S.H.)	Kit Liversidge – Baby Flynn Donnelly
Sunday 25 th March	Palm Sunday	9.00 am (S.H.)	Jim Barnwell – Doherty Family
	The Passion of the Lord	12.00 noon (S.H.)	Kathleen Knight – Allan Wathen
Monday 26 th March	Mon of Holy Week	10.00 am (S.H.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 27 th March	Tues of Holy Week	10.30 am (S.H.)	Funeral Mass - Daniel McGeechan
		2.00 pm (S.H.)	Funeral Mass - Eva Howard
Wednesday 28 th March	Wed of Holy Week	7.00 am (S.H.)	Christine Breedon
		9.15 am (S.G's)	Theo Castanheira - School Mass St Gabriel's
		7.30 pm (S.H.)	Penitential Service (7 priests present)
Easter Triduum			
Thursday 29 th March	Maundy Thursday	8.00 pm (S.H.)	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday 30 th March	Good Friday	3.00 pm (S.H.)	Good Friday Solemn Liturgy
Saturday 31 st March	Holy Saturday	11.00 am (S.H.)	Święconka - Polish Blessing of Food
	Saturday East Vigil	8.00 pm (S.H.)	Easter Vigil followed by refreshments
EASTER SUNDAY		9.00 am (S.H.)	John Ellis and Fr Tom Hewitt
		10.30 am (S.H.)	The People of the Parish
		12 noon (S.H.)	Brian Fitzgerald and Maria Cortez



Please pray for the sick: Chad Williams, Teresa Woodcock, Julie Orme, Stephen Morley, Jaden Walker, Frank Ryan, Mary Miller, Winnie Claridge, Sarah Gillen, Anne-Marie Purslow, Joan Trevis, Tony Soden, 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, Mary Collins, Odette Nunes, Terry Spears, Tilly Sweet, Peggy Bashford, Vickie Pickup, Karen Taylor, Evelyn Reardon, Sean McAuley, Aoife.

Reflection - The Easter Triduum:

Sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday is considered the most solemn part of the liturgical year. The days recount the last three days of Jesus' life on earth, His Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Holy Thursday begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper where we relive the institution of the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence. This day Jesus died on the Cross for the sins of the world. Our churches look different, the tabernacle is empty, Jesus is gone!

Holy Saturday, after nightfall we hold the Easter Vigil, we are waiting for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Easter Vigil is the pinnacle of the Easter Triduum.

Easter Sunday marks the end of the Triduum, a joyous celebration of resurrection, the rebirth of Jesus and mankind.



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

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: James Walker, Alan Orrell, Ean Sharratt, Bernard Bartram, John Robinson, James Weir, Thomas Hennessy, Agnes Tracey, Pauline Law, Bernard Wilkinson, Michael Garry, Lilian Gillespie, William Pywell, William Fleming, Freda Tracey, Oswald Fitzpatrick, Kitty Nicholson, Joseph P. Murphy, Peggy McSharry, Elizabeth Hughes, Roy Downes, Elizabeth Foy, Michael O'Brien, Mary Dow, Martin Cafferty, Karel Vind, Ellen Gibbons, John Roach, Philip George Bates, Dorothy McDonald, Godfrey French, Lefzek Chrusciel, Janet Armstrong, William Reardon, Norah Waterhouse, Patrick Nixon, David Jones, Francis Fallon, Veronica Anderson, Bernadette Black, Andrea Blunt, Matthew Cuffe, Florence Chyla, Dennia Field.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Daniel McGeechan** whose funeral will be on Tues March 27th at 10.30 am followed by cremation at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium at 12 noon; **Eva Howard** whose funeral will take place on Tues 27th at 2.00 pm at Sacred Heart followed by cremation at Fradley Crematorium (WS13 8GA); **Betty Harding** whose funeral service will be on Wed 28th March at 1.30pm at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium; **Margaret Mole** whose funeral service will take place at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium on Thurs 5th April at 2.30pm; **David Greene** will be received into Sacred Heart on Wed 18th April at 5pm followed by the funeral Mass on Thurs 19th April at 10.00am and **Mary Peart** whose funeral has yet to be arranged. May they rest in peace.



Holy Week Services begin next week starting with Palm Sunday: This leads us into the highlight of the Church's year. We are prepared for this by the Sacrament of Forgiveness. 7 priests will be here to help us with confessions. Please come and celebrate this together on Wednesday evening (March 28th - in Holy Week).

On Thursday evening we will commemorate the Last Supper and the washing of the apostles' feet. At this Mass our Eucharistic ministers will also renew their promises. It finishes in silent prayer and watching.



Good Friday's solemn service is characterised by the veneration of the cross at 3.00 pm.

TCC Good Friday Service and Walk of Witness – You can meet at Ventura Park (at the back of New Look by pedestrian crossing) at 9.30am for the walk to begin at 9.40am through the castle grounds and ending at St Editha's for the service at 10.30am. There will be three pauses during the walk for prayer.



The Easter Vigil is the climax to Lent and Holy Week. We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, one that he promises to share with us. We celebrate 4 people coming into the Church. It is the highlight of any Christian's year. Please join us at 8.00 pm.

Easter Vigil: Can we have a few volunteers to help with refreshments please? We need some help making a few sandwiches and setting up the room. Please put your name on the list in the porch if you can help.

On Easter Sunday there will be a 10.30 Mass at Sacred Heart but on all Sundays after Easter there will be just 3 Masses – Sat evening at 6pm and 9.00 and 12.00 am on Sundays - all at Sacred Heart. This is for 6/7 weeks while refurbishment work takes place at St John's. So far the work has got off to a good start. Please pray it all goes well.

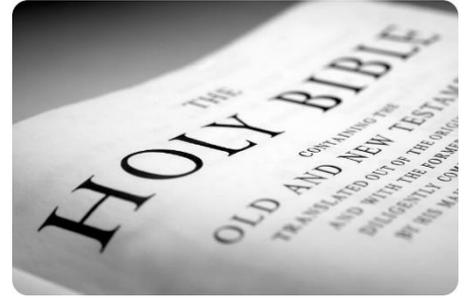
Święconka: The traditional blessing of Polish food will be 11.00 am, this Saturday at Sacred Heart. Please let others know. All are welcome.

Welcome to Alec from Alton Castle. He is working there right now after leaving the army and he is joining us for Easter as he discerns what God is asking of him. Please keep him in your prayers.



Eucharist and the Family – a day at Maryvale on discovering the heart of the faith in the family. These days are run in preparation for the World Meeting of Families (21st – 26th August and the Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress on the 7th – 9th September 2018. The day is for Eucharistic Ministers, Parish/family workers, teachers, catechist and parishioners. For more information or to reserve a place contact Paul Northam or Sr Gillian Murphy – fildevang@maryvale.ac.uk or ring Maryvale on 0121 360 8118.

New Testament – do you want to extend your knowledge? It has been suggested that it would be interesting to build upon the other faith enriching groups by starting a bible study group which would probably meet once a month initially. The intention is to learn more about the social and historical context of the stories recounted in the gospels and the context in which each gospel was written. If you would like to join in the group please let us know by contacting Wendy in the office.



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.



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.

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.

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.

Growing Geraniums and Other Flowering basket Plants: Can you 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 –**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.

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.

SUMMER fayre **The Summer Fayre is on June 24th this year.** Can you help? Can you provide any big prizes – any connections with hotels of holidays? Can you get match funding (banks are very good at offering this to employees)? Do you know someone who can? Please have a little think about it. Please phone or email the office if you can help.

H.O.T. Activities:

Easter Sunday Lunch – Thank you to those who have come forward to volunteer and to those who have already made donations in the form of desserts. We would really appreciate assistance with monetary donations to cover the food costs. We have had a very generous contribution of chocolates, tea and coffee from the staff at the Glascote Road Co-Op; further such donations of chocolate and sweets would be welcome. Would anyone like to join us to eat Easter dinner? Please contact the office if you do.

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

Singing for the Mind: The next session is at Sacred Heart on Thursday 5th April 10.30-11.30am. If you love to sing why not come along and join us. Proven benefits of singing are: It's good for the mind, helps with confidence, relieves anxiety and reduces stress.

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.



Saturday – Starfish It has been great to welcome new volunteers to assist with the work in recent weeks. We receive regular donations from Tesco Express in Amington and Tesco Express in Fazeley of bread and other items, through the Food Share scheme that channels food that is going out of date to local charities. Some of these are shared with other Starfish centres due to the shortness of the date and to ensure best use is made of what we receive. We are currently unable to be given meat, for

hygiene reasons, so we would welcome contributions of bacon or sausages, or cash to buy them, as these are very popular. Please contact me, speople@btinternet.com, or speak to me at 12 O'Clock mass or let Nora have any donations.

Homeless Shelter Update: A great effort was made by a huge number of volunteers to make the Winter Night Shelter a success and I thought you would like to know that the whole issue of homelessness is still being taken forward actively.

- This week, accommodation has been found by council staff for two homeless people helped by the Winter Night Shelter – one has now secured employment and we hope a third charity may be able to help with furniture.
- Last week, Rev Steve Jonathan, head of Starfish and Pastor of Elim with Manor House, and I, as a Trustee of both Starfish and Hot as well as a senior local councillor, met with Council leader Danny Cook to look at how to work with the council in future. We already have the promise of funding for the project co-ordinator for the next three years. In addition, it has been agreed that Steve and I will meet with the senior officers to discuss how we can work in partnership with the council on a much more significant basis. Danny Cook has indicated to the officers that the Council sees a positive outcome as very desirable so these talks with the technical experts should be very fruitful. Please support us with your prayers.

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 speople@btinternet.com.

Money Matters

Envelopes	190.95
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	503.43
Total:	£1494.38
Building Fund	290.80

Thank-you.

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