



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

Parish Office: Sacred Heart Church, Tamworth, B77 2EA

Parish Office: 01827 769403 Parish Centre Bookings: 01827 288226

Priests: Fr Michael – michael@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

Rev Deacon Brian Cox - brian.cox8@tiscali.co.uk

Centre Bookings: Mrs Nora Cox – noracox1946@gmail.com Tel. 01827 288226

Admin: Wendy Quinn – office@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

www.stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B) – 24th December 2017

Psalm Response: I will sing forever of your love, O Lord

Saturday 23 rd Dec Advent feria Fourth Sunday of Advent	10.30am (S.J.)	Lynmar & Mick
	6.00pm (S.J.)	Christine Breeden & Robert Breeden
Sunday 24 th December Fourth Sunday of Advent	9.00am (S.H.)	Joan & Colin Pickup – Delia Abling
	10.30am (S.J.)	Keith & Sheila Waterhouse – Evelyn Reardon
	12.00 noon (S.H.)	No Mass – please note this.

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve Masses The Nativity of the Lord	4.30pm (S.H.)	Nuella Enright – George Fennel
	7.30pm (S.H.)	Thank You – Frank Hill
	12.00 Midnight (S.J.)	Pat Campbell – Josephine Conway
Monday 25 th December Christmas Day	9.00am (S.H.)	Sarah White – Richard Heaps
	10.30 am (S.J.)	Violet Seekings – Richard & Joanna Maher

Services in Christmas Week

Tuesday 26 th December	St Stephen	10.00 am (S.H.)	Communion Service
Wednesday 27 th December	St John	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Thursday 28 th Dec	Holy Innocents	12.00noon (S.J.)	Funeral Mass for Mary Brennan (note time change)
Friday 29 th Dec	St Thomas Becket	12.30pm (S.J.)	Mass for the Sick and Housebound
Saturday 30 th Dec	Christmas Octave	10.30am (S.J.)	Emma Bradford

Feast of the Holy Family (B) – 31st December 2017

Psalm Response: O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Sat 30 th Dec	Feast of the Holy Family	6.00pm (S.J.)	Anne & Sydney Green – Nora Bolt
Sunday 31 st December Feast of the Holy Family		9.00 am (S.H.)	Owen Lynch – Mary Dunleavy
		10.30 am (S.J.)	Months Mind
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Anne McCauley – Jim and Sheila Brown
Mon 1 st Jan	Mary Mother of God	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 2 nd January	Feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Holy Souls
Wed 3 rd Jan	Most Holy Name of Jesus	12.00noon (S.J.)	Funeral Mass for John Hever (note time change)
Thursday 4 th January	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Christine Breeden
Friday 5 th January	Feria	12.30pm (S.J.)	Mass for the Sick and Housebound
Saturday 6 th January	Feria Epiphany of the Lord	10.30am (S.J.)	Rita Marks
		6.00pm (S.J.)	Prendergast Family – Kay Kearns
Sunday 7 th January Epiphany of the Lord		9.00 am (S.H.)	Nancy Lynch – Peggy & Charlie Standen
		10.30 am (S.J.)	Peter Seekings – Brian Cunningham
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Joe O'Dwyer – Jadwiga & Wladyslaw Gada

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, Margaret Thompson, 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.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: James Maguire, James Cuffe, Thomas Grant, Ernest Titterton, Bridget James, Marie Titterton, Barbara Baines, Michael Cleary, Colman Byrnes, Thomas Pope, Mary Lunn, Norman Kilminster, Reg Horth, Leonard Lockett, Eleanor Reardon, Elizabeth Patrick, John Longdon, Eric Hanson, John Middlebrook, Bertha Bartram, Mary Bickerstaff, Violet McCormack, Kathleen Keogh, Pat Wallace, Kathleen Fox, Lillian Clarke, William Fullylove, Emilie Jinks, Sydney Green, Christine Ware, Samuel Riley, Marcel Walker, Frederick Stone, Norman Holmes, Ida Newton, Thomas Drury, Bill Loydon, Peter McKenna, George Williamson, George Williams, Josephine Hunt, Jerry Daly, Peter Doyle, Maureen Barnett, James Dunbar, Joan Cotterill, Martha McGurk, Phil Hubball, Ida Ensor, Christine Byrne, Beryl Marshall, Florence Devenney, Norman Selvester, Ida Sturrock, Owen Lynch, Lillian Goodwin, Carl Colbeck, Brendan Connors, Kathleen Wakelin, Roy Dearne, Berta Fleming, Carmel Nolan. 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 Murphy, Mary Watkins.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **John Hever** who will be received into St John's on Tuesday 2nd January at 3pm followed by a funeral Mass on Wednesday 3rd January and **Mary Brennan** whose funeral will take place on Thursday 28th December at 12 noon in St John's Church. May they rest in peace.

What's happening this Christmas?

Light up a Life - a special way in which we remember someone dear to us and pray for them, writing their name on a silver star which goes on the Christmas tree in Church.

Your donations have been put towards the **Christmas Dinner with about 70 people coming** and the **48 Christmas Hampers** going to families in need, which have been distributed to help people over the Christmas Period. Thank you to everyone who gave donations.



The Winter Night Shelter will continue over the Christmas period. We had 7 homeless people sleeping at St John's last Sunday night. They were able to enjoy a shower in our new facility followed by a beautiful home cooked dinner and pudding and a good night's sleep. They went on their way after a good breakfast. Well done to Simon and the volunteers who made this possible. Please keep this project in your prayers since we are working with people who are the most needy in our community.



Well done to all those who have been singing carols around the town - some in public places and also a group who sang at Park Farm Lodge to residents (many with dementia) who were clearly moved. Thank you to everyone who has been so generous over the last year. We continue to receive donations to both the parish and the Heart of Tamworth. This money enabled us to do so much throughout the year, including the running of two community hubs with over 700 people accessing services each week as well as another 7 to 800 parishioners using the buildings at weekends.

We have also been able to complete a shower at St John's for rough sleepers and accommodate homeless people in our caravan.



New Year's Resolutions?

Opportunities Include:



Bereavement Support at St John's – The Friday group meets late morning at Sacred Heart. Over 100 people from around the town have used it. It has been a wonderful success with many new friendships formed and many individuals believing there is a real future for them.

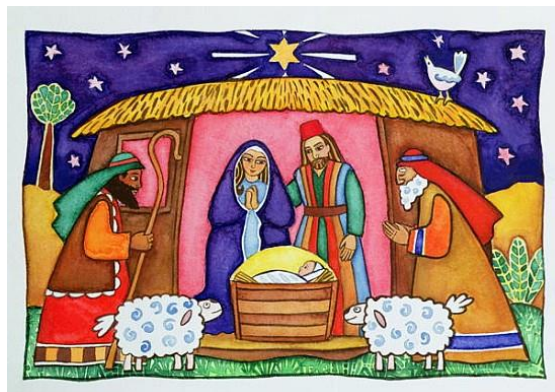
The time does not suit everyone and a town centre venue might also be good. We thought we would try a meeting which people could come to on their way home from work. We need more volunteers to enable us to hold a Bereavement Support group at St John's. If you feel you can help or would like to find out more, please contact Wendy at the parish office 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.

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 start in Lent. It will be on Mondays starting on February 19th. 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?

St John's Church Makeover: One of our resolutions 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.



Change of Venue for the Memory Café – Because of its great success the Memory Café is moving! From Tuesday, 9th January 2018 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 at Sacred Heart on **Tuesday 9th January 2018**

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 Bereavement Support service operates at Sacred Heart on Fridays (10 – 12.00). If you know of anyone grieving, please invite them to join us. *The support group will still be available on Fri 22nd Dec and Fri 29th Dec.*

Prayer Group - No meeting on Tuesday, 26th December

Choir Practice – No practice on Wed 27th December

Thank-you to the many who have worked so hard helping us prepare for Christmas with flowers, cribs, cleaning, sacristy, liturgy and music, charity work, admin and I.T. catechesis, food etc etc.

H.O.T.
**BEREAVEMENT
SUPPORT GROUP**

The logo for the H.O.T. Bereavement Support Group. It consists of the text 'H.O.T.' in a large, teal, sans-serif font, followed by 'BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP' in a smaller, teal, sans-serif font. To the right of the text are three stylized teal butterflies of varying sizes, flying upwards and to the right.

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

Get talking about the future of your Trent Valley:

If you're part of this local community and are interested in sharing ideas with others about this important landscape, then join our Community Conversation? Please see the poster in the porch for more information.

The Archdiocese of Birmingham Year Book 2018

we have a number available in the Piety stores at a cost of £2.50 each, first come first served.

Ice Skating for the Altar Servers and Youth Band

will be on Tuesday 2nd January 2018. If you would like to go please take a slip from Church and register by email, phone or completing the slip by Sat 30th.

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? If so, then please speak to Fr Michael



Jesus is born but have we found Him yet?

Christmas is a commemoration of God's coming into the world. He came for all of us - believers and non-believers alike. His birth should bring us hope and triumph which will dispel the sadness from our lives. But after years of celebrating Christmas after Christmas many of us are yet to see that triumph in our lives and our hopes may be giving way to despair. Has the Messiah really come? If He has where is He? Why doesn't He bring the triumph that dispels the sadness of humanity?



The real problem today is that we are waiting for God to literally come to us. We celebrate His birth just like that of any one of us - offering prayers, eating, drinking and making merry. We celebrate his coming into the world but we do not welcome Him into our hearts and lives.

Yes, He has come into the world and is very much in our midst but unfortunately we refuse to recognize Him therefore fail to welcome Him.

By being born to poor parents, in an environment of extreme poverty, Jesus is telling us where He dwells - not in places of majesty and glamour but among the poor and the down-trodden, the sick and dying, the hungry, the oppressed and in those we love and even in those we hate. In short He is among the masses.

Amidst our celebrations this Christmas, let us pause a while to look around us to recognize that Jesus who was born into the

world two thousand years ago. He is among us in every person and in every trial and tribulation we encounter in our lives. Let us take a moment to look around to recognize Him in those who do not have joy and peace in their lives.

Let us do the little within our means to alleviate the pain and misery in their lives. Let us do whatever we can to give them the hope that triumph will one day wipe out the sadness in the hearts.

We too, like Jesus, must have the humility to come down from our positions of comfort and power to meet Him in the people around us. If we isolate ourselves from the masses by building a fortress around us with all our wealth and power together with greed, selfishness and pride, then we can keep waiting for Jesus all our lives but it will only be in vain.

To us then His birth into this world, that is Christmas, will be just another day to celebrate, eat, drink and make merry. It will never become the day when hope shall sing of triumph and sadness flees away.

Money Matters

Envelopes	208.50
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	499.09
Total:	£1507.59
Building Fund	348.75
Donations	1120.00
Carol Services	432.45

Thank-you.