



# St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

## Sixth Sunday of the Year (B) – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Psalm Response: You are my hiding place, O Lord; you surround me with cries of deliverance

Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	St Scholastica Sixth Sunday of the Year	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Michael O'Conner Charles Murray – Irene Edwards
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Sixth Sunday of the Year	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Bob Beckett - Ann Bernes Mary Barron – Barbara Hopkins Thomas McKiernan – Karen Davidson
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Rita Wright
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	9.15am (S.G.) 12.00 noon (S.J.) 2.00pm (S.E.) 7.00pm (S.H.)	Charlie Choursel Tilly & Jim Moran Margaret Thompson Christine Breeden
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Thurs after Ash Wed	10.00am (S.H.)	Joe Eddy
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Fri after Ash Wednesday	12.30pm (S.J.)	<b>Mass followed by Lenten soup lunch</b>
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Sat after Ash Wednesday First Sunday of Lent	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Ken & Frances Dingley Dolores Kennedy – Mary & Brian Farrington
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	First Sunday of Lent	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Raymond Baldwin – Martin O'Donnell Frank Hill – Mrs McCormack Mike & Ethel Haughton – Kathleen & George Elliott



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, Evelvn Reardon, Sean McAulev.

### Reflection: The leprosy left him at once and he was cured

Again in this gospel we find Jesus moved with pity. Jesus, the compassionate one, enters fully into the human mess of our lives. Leprosy was the most dreaded of diseases in his day. Jesus risks conflict and division for the sake of anybody who was suffering exclusion and isolation from family and community. The most painful wounds we carry can be wounds of the spirit, the wounds we do not like to acknowledge ourselves or show the outside world. These wounds can isolate us, they can create within us the sense of insignificance. So today we ask the Lord to touch us, touch the ugly bits of us, the bits we do not like to look at. Lord, if it is you will, you can make me clean.



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

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:** Michael Dwyer, Denis Smith, Frederick Hassall, Frederick Davis, Michael Wyse, Stephen Fleming, Cornelius Flynn, Elizabeth Cope, Leanne McEvoy, Elizabeth Niblett, Terrence Horrels, Annie Parnell, Violet Bubb, Nellie Haiste, Laurence Vesey, Emma Flanagan, Eileen Morley, Mollie Porter, John Hawkins, Irene Darley, Christopher Byrne, Connie Eckert, Joe McEvoy, Laureen Beracraft, Irene Palmer, Geoffrey Mulvey, Esther Westley, Christopher Murphy, Clara Meakin, Catherine Russell, Dora Henson, Mary Barron, Patricia Clibbery, Mary Barron, Catherine Tipper, Maureen Gernell, Peggy Chater, Patrick O'Gara, Rosetta Finney, Peter Dunsford, Thomas McKiernan, Ann Gibbons, Joseph Eddy, Mary Elliott, Philip Cole, Roseannia Irwin, Irene Lowry, Judith Bartram, Michael Caffrey, Rita Abella, Annie Dearne.

**Please pray** for the repose of the soul of **Francis Robert James**, funeral will take place in St John's on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am, **Annette Beech**, funeral will take place in Sacred Heart on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 12.15pm and **Joyce Stack**, who will be received into Sacred Heart on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 5pm followed by the funeral Mass on Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb at 10.00am and **Noel Ryan** who died in Ireland. May they rest in peace.

**ALPHA** - is a chance for anyone to renew their faith and an opportunity to ask questions/discuss. It will be on Mondays starting on Feb 19<sup>th</sup> and continue through Lent. To join us **please sign up** in the porch or email [alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk](mailto:alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk). There will be food offered too. It is open to all. There are invitation cards in Church this weekend. Please give them to anyone you know or why not bring a friend?

**Alpha Leaders:** The second training sessions for Alpha Leaders is on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm at Sacred Heart Church. This meeting will focus 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](mailto:alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk)

**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.



**Home Groups for Lent.** Thank you to those who have signed up already. If you would still like to take part, contact the Parish Office or e-mail [alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk](mailto:alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk) We have one host in the town centre next to the Railway Station. This group will start next Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 7.30pm and run for 6 weeks. Themes look at what the Bible tells us about Loving, Caring, Forgiveness and Serving. Being part of a Home group enables you to get to know a small group of parishioners well and journey through Lent together. Why not sign up today and try something different?

**Morning Masses** most days and early morning Mass on Wednesdays 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.

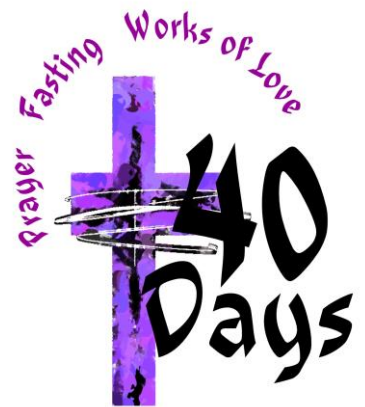
**Stations of the Cross** on Fridays at Sacred Heart at 7.00 pm with talk/reflection by Deacon Nick Williams

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

**Walk with Me Booklets** are full of short daily reflections throughout Lent. Cost £1.

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

**Day of Fasting and Prayer for Peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all the World**  
On Sunday 4 February the Holy Father announced that Friday 23 February – the Friday of the First Week of Lent – has been designated as a Day of Fasting and Prayer.



**St John's Church Refurbishment** has hit a snag. Contractors cannot get the stone ready until late March. As a result work cannot start until the week of March 19<sup>th</sup>. So St John's will be out of action for Palm Sunday, Easter and the following Sundays - March 25<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. We can't wait till after Easter because of Confirmations and weddings. It is not what we planned or hoped for but we just need to get on with it now. We will try to get scaffolding installed at the same time so that painting can begin as soon as the sanctuary is completed.



**Confirmation Classes** will be starting on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February from 6.00 to 7.15 pm at Sacred Heart. 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** rehearsal on Friday at 6.30 pm in the Sacred Heart Church. It is for those in Year 7 and above. If you would like to come along or find out more please e-mail [alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk](mailto:alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk)

**Women's World Day of Prayer** in Tamworth will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. More details of venue and times soon.

**The Parish Council** is an important body within this community. It is through this group that we have consult the parish across many areas including Catechesis, buildings, pastoral work, spending, future plans. In our recent consultation someone raised the question of its existence if we develop a leadership team. Just as a school reports to the governing body, the parish council would still retain that key role of 'steering the ship'. Two members have completed their term. We thank Barbara Tinsley and Denise Foxall for their service and now invite two more people to come forward as parish council members. If you are interested and want to know more then please speak to Fr Michael, Alex, Pete Geldard, Bob Charles or any other member of the parish council. New members would then be appointed at the **AGM on Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 1.00pm.**

**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](http://www.synod18.org).



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

**Marriage Preparation** for couples living in the parish and are getting married in 2018 will be held on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:c.ayasamy@btopenworld.com)



**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.

**Congratulations to Mike and Ethel Haughton** as they celebrate of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. God bless you both.

**Deacon Nick Williams** is with us most weekends for the next three months. Would anyone be able to invite him to Sunday Lunch one day? Phone 01827 288226 if you can.

**Life in the Spirit:** Sr Josephine Walsh a Daughter of the Holy Spirit will be leading **Life in the Spirit** Seminars at St Anne's, Streetly, during Lent, on Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm. See the poster for more information.

**Thank-you for all the Consultation Forms.** We have had over 115 returned which is very encouraging. We are now getting that information together so that everyone can see what the response is. On the basis of that we can then move forward.

**St Editha's Book and Fairtrade Shop Books for Lent** - Ash Wednesday falls on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> this year and begins the season of Lent. During this time people often choose to give something up but in recent years the emphasis has been more on *taking* something up, such as practising generosity or beginning a good habit. Lent is a time to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter by focusing on Jesus' sacrifice for us all. A book for Lent can be helpful in taking us through this time and to help focus our thoughts. Do come in to browse the full range.

<b>Money Matters</b>	
Envelopes	214.81
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	578.40
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1593.21</b>
Building Fund	352.97
<i>Thank-you.</i>	
<b>Gift Aid:</b> Please increase your giving by 25%; sign a Gift Aid form. Call the Parish Office or <a href="mailto:office@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk">office@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk</a>	

## 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 **this Tuesday** 13<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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?



**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.

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

meeting for the evening Bereavement Help Point. We need more people to come forward to help spread the load. Ian Lynch from St Giles Hospice will be holding a workshop on 'Understanding Bereavement' for all the volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Wendy in the parish office.

**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 – please contact Sylvia for more information on 65264.



**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 13th February at Sacred Heart** starting at 10.30 am.

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

**The AA Group** meets as usual on Monday and Friday evenings at 7.00 pm.

**A Polish Scout group** now meet on Saturdays at 1.30.

**A Guitar group** has started at St John's on Tuesday nights.

Please see [www.heartoftamworth.org](http://www.heartoftamworth.org)