



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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Tamworth, B77 2EA

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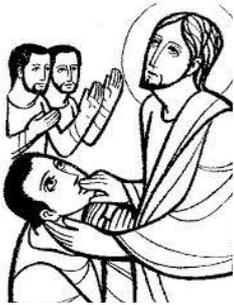
St John's Church is on St John St, Tamworth, B79 7EX

Second Sunday of the Year (B) – 14th January 2017

Psalm Response: Here I am Lord! I come to do your will

Saturday 13th January Second Sunday of the Year	Feria	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Communion Service Tom Croke – Michael O'Dwyer
Sunday 14th January Second Sunday of the Year		9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Thanksgiving – Holy Souls Peter Seekings – Maureen Farmer Cherry Lovegrove - Melanie Richards
Monday 15th January	Feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 16th January	Feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Communion Service
Wednesday 17th January	Feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Thursday 18th January	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Funeral Mass for Margaret Thompson
Friday 19th January	Feria	9.15am (S.G.) 12.30pm (S.J.)	Pat Campbell Funeral Mass for Marian Smith
Saturday 20th January Third Sunday of the Year	Feria	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Libby Rose Fr Tom Hewitt
Sunday 21st January Third Sunday of the Year		9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Dorothy Norton – Colin & Joan Pickup Coleen Tunney – Margaret Morton Dr Armando Cortez – Frank Burns

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, Vickie Pickup.

Reflection: *The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep*

Following our own vocation is a response from within to the needs outside ourselves. A vocation meets the human needs of the world with a motivation from within. We care for our children and grandchildren not just because they are sick or insecure, but because we love them. This love will move us to help them throughout their lives.

God calls each of us to love God and love our neighbour. This is the first Christian calling; we then find the best way for each of us, with our own particular set of gifts, talents and even weaknesses, to live out that call with love.

God calls us to be 'people for others' we are all brothers and sisters. We are Gods feet and hands on earth and He needs our help in serving and loving each other.



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: John Larvin, Catherine Turner, Charles Inskip, Daniel McCarthy, Fr. Kennedy, Jeremiah Walsh, Margaret Doyle, Ruth Beirne, Catherine Faulkner, Raymond Davis, Betty Delaney, Simon Burke, Doreen Coleman, Esther Record, Glyn Reed, Katherine Windsor, Kathleen Price, Jean Cuffe, Antoni Czech, Michael Lynch, Sheila Invine, Evelyn Metcalf, Chris O'Hara, Harriet Baimbridge, Nellie Wingfield, Catherine Counsell, Winifred Kiff, Eileen Smallman, Frank Baker, Michael Johnson, Annie Miles, Peggy Standen, Robert Cuffe, Denis Tierney, Anthony Hunt, Kevin Hynes, John Prosser, Lilian Davis, Marjorie Brennan, Catherine Watson, Mary Whelan, Anthony Fisher, Patrick Brady, James Salt, Margaret Lawrence, Bridget Shanley, William Heffernan, Nancy Lynch, Br. Martin Morris.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Margaret Thompson** who will be received into St John's on Wednesday 17th January at 5pm followed by the funeral Mass on Thursday 18th January at 10.00am, **Marian Mary Smith** who will be received in to St John's Church on Thurs, 18th Jan at 5pm followed by a funeral Mass on Fri 19th Jan at 12.30pm then on to Sutton Coldfield Crematorium at 2pm. May you rest.



Fr Tom Hewitt RIP – Fr Tom's funeral will take place in SS Albans and Stephen's, 14-16 Beaconsfield Rd, St Albans AL1 3RB. The Reception will be on Tuesday, 23rd January at 7pm followed by the funeral Mass on Wednesday 23rd January at 10.00am. Fr Tom will be buried in the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart plot in Hatfield Road Cemetery. Rest in peace Fr Tom.

A Mass for Fr Tom will be held on Saturday 20th January, 6pm St John's

Tom Sharratt – Anne and family would like to thank all who attended the celebration of Dads life. Many thanks for all the kind messages at this difficult. Special thanks to Tony.

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 be on Mondays starting on February 19th and continue through Lent. 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?



Alpha Leaders. Are you enthusiastic about your faith? Could you spare time on Monday evenings during Lent and leading up to Pentecost to help with our Alpha course. Training will be given. Please speak to Alex or e-mail: alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk for more details or to sign up to help!

Do you support Catholic Schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools



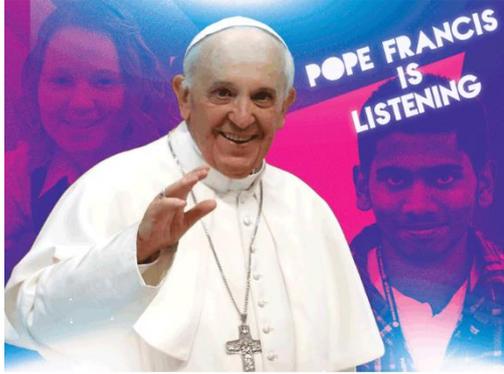
Ideas for Lent: Home Groups: Many churches run successful Home Groups during the week to encourage and build mini faith communities. A small group of people meet and get to know each other over a cup of tea/ coffee and a biscuit. They then spend a little time reading and reflecting on a short passage from the Bible which has been prepared for all the Home Groups. Finally, they spend some time praying together. We would like to try setting up a couple of Home groups during Lent to try them and see if it is something our Parish could develop.

We would need: 1) Hosts – Could you spare a couple of hours one evening a week, open your home to a small group of parishioners and provide simple refreshments – tea/coffee and a biscuit? 2) Leaders (This does not have to be the Host- but it can be)- to gently direct the evening- including the short Bible Study – You don't have to be an expert! 3) Guests – Are you interested in going along to a Home Group and give it a try during Lent? If you are interested in any of these three roles, please speak to Alex Parker or e-mail alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

Soup Lunches will be held every Friday throughout Lent. All proceeds will go to charity. We are looking for volunteers to make the soup. Can you help?

Welcome – We would like to warmly welcome Fr Paul Keane to the parish this weekend. Fr Paul will be saying the weekend Masses while Fr Michael is away.

The Year of the Family – There will be a World Meeting of Families in Dublin during August 2018. This event is open to all families who wish to attend. However, it has been proposed that every deanery in the Archdiocese of Birmingham will sponsor a family to attend this event. Please speak to Fr Michael if you and your family wish to be considered.



Synod 18 Pope Francis has dedicated the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to be focused on the theme of *Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment*. It will be held in Rome in October 2018.

"The theme, represents an expression of the pastoral care of the Church for the young. The Church has decided to examine herself on how she can lead young people to recognise and accept the call to the fullness of life and love, and to ask young people to help her in identifying the most effective ways to announce the Good News today".

As part of this process the Pope has invited young people to share their voice from a variety of social contexts from around the world, so as to better understand what it is like to be a young person living in the world today; 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 understand and 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 information, look at www.synod18.org.

Youth Band will resume 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

The Night Shelter is now at its maximum with 9 guests including one married couple.

I am currently looking for additional volunteers to fill gaps for greeting in January: on the revised basis of 4 greeters per evening I need;

January 14th - 3 more greeters

January 21st - 3 more greeters

January 28th - 1 more greeter

The expectations of a greeter are:

6.30-10pm Set out room downstairs with tables, cloths and biscuits; make tea / coffee & chat with guests.

Please contact me if you are available to greet on any of the above nights, sppeople@btinternet.com

or ring the parish office, if you are keen to volunteer with a friend. Anyone whose offer is not taken up in January will be first priority for the dates in February which will be circulated next week.



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.



Bereavement Support group at St John's It is felt that town centre venue might offer more people an opportunity to talk. 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 this. If you feel you can help or would like to find out more, contact Wendy by phone 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.

Change of Venue for Heart of Tamworth's Memory Café – Because of its great success the Memory Café has moved! It has now relocate to a bigger room at Sacred Heart from 10.30am – 12.30pm. The Café offers a friendly place where people with memory loss and carers can come together in a safe and supportive environment. The next Café will be on **Tues 16th Jan 2018**



MEMORY CAFÉ



Singing for the Mind - The first session

and the launch of Singing for the Mind started with over 25 people coming together for a good old fashioned sing song! The Heart of Tamworth (HOT) and Community Together (CIC) are joining to offer two informal sessions each month of Singing for the Mind. The 1st Thursday of the month at Sacred Heart and the 3rd Thursday of the month at The Hub on the Castle Grounds. This is a great way to spend an hour and also take advantage of some of the proven benefits of singing: good for the mind, helps with confidence, relieves anxiety, reduces stress. The next session will be held at the Hub on the Castle Grounds on Thursday 25th January

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 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? Contact Fr Michael for more info.

St John's Church Makeover: One of our resolutions for 2018 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.



Cherry Lovegrove, a member of our parish, died during the week. She was aged just 44. Her death was very sudden. Her husband, sadly, died a few days later. Cherry had been caring for him. May they rest in peace. Cherry is from the Phillippines and her friends (parishioners of ours) are keen to help her 'go home' where she can be buried by her family. If you want to support them in this then come along to Sacred Heart **TODAY** 14th between 1.00 and 3.00 pm for food and a raffle. Otherwise you can donate through the Justgiving website and search for Leonora Valdezco, the organiser

. The target they want to raise is £2,000.

Confirmation Classes will be starting in the near future. 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.

Maryvale Institute is an international Catholic distance-learning college, owned and run by the Archdiocese of Birmingham, which provides opportunities for adult formation through further and higher education courses across all levels have Job Vacancies. Please check the notice boards for more details.

Money Matters

Envelopes	167.96
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	460.77
Total:	£1428.73
Building Fund	298.58
Donation (Tesco staff)	70.00
Donation	70.00

Thank-you.

Gift Aid: Please increase your giving by 25%; sign a Gift Aid form. Call the Parish Office or office@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk