



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

Parish Office: Sacred Heart Church, Silver Link Rd,
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 Rob Breeden- robertjbreeden@gmail.com

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

Third Sunday of Easter (B) – 15th April 2018

Psalm Response: Lift up the light of your face on us, O'Lord.

Saturday 14 th April	Easter feria	10.30 am (S.H.)	Communion Service
	Third Sunday of Easter	6.00 pm (S.H.)	Nell Mattison - Stephanie & Geoff Franklin (50 th ann.)
Sunday 15 th April		9.00 am (S.H.)	Michael Fox – Robert Joseph Ward
	Third Sunday of Easter	12.00 noon (S.H.)	Michael Gillen – Phillip Charlesworth
Monday 16 th April	Easter feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 17 th April	Easter feria	9.00 am (S.H.)	Orlando Cortez <i>(please note time change)</i>
Wednesday 18 th April	Easter feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Christine Breeden
Thursday 19 th April	Easter feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Funeral Mass for David Greene
Friday 20 th April	Easter feria	12.30pm (S.H.)	Mass for the sick and housebound
Saturday 21 st April	Easter feria	10.30am (S.H.)	Liam Ryan
	Fourth Sunday of Easter	6.00pm (S.H.)	Tom Sharrett – Arron Johnson
Sunday 22 April		9.00 am (S.H.)	Philip Lynch – Fr Tom Hewitt
	Fourth Sunday of Easter	12.00 noon (S.H.)	Steve and Damian Brindley – Allan Wathen

Confessions: Saturday Morning Only 11 – 11.30 at Sacred Heart



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, Mary Collins, Odette Nunes, Terry Spears, Tilly Sweet, Peggy Bashford, Vickie Pickup, Karen Taylor, Evelyn Reardon, Sean McAuley, Aoife, Rita Fidoe, Alan Bentley, Dennis Chipman.

Reflection: So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead

During the Easter ceremonies we too have been witnesses of what was written.

Without our co-operating with Jesus, the message of reconciliation and forgiveness will not be heard. It is not enough for us just to hear the message and implement it in our own lives, as we sometimes seem to think is all that is required of us.

It is clear from the second reading today that "keeping the commandments" means above all the need to follow the commandment of unconditional love, to love others as Jesus has loved us. It is for each one of us today to ask how, given the circumstances of our own lives, we can most effectively get that message across to the people around us.

They all need to hear that greeting: "Peace be with you" and to experience the peace that only Jesus can give.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of **David Greene** who will be received into Sacred Heart on Wed 18th April at 5pm followed by the funeral Mass on Thurs 19th April at 10.00am; **Matilde Sarno** whose funeral will take place at Sacred Heart on Friday the 27th April at 12.30pm; **Jim Armstrong** whose funeral will take place at Sacred Heart on Monday, 30th April at 10.00am. May they rest in peace.

Congratulations - On 13th April 1968 Stephanie Mary Naylor wed Geoffrey Ward Franklin at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Upper Riccarton, Christchurch, New Zealand. Today (Saturday) they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Wishing you every blessing today and the years to come.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Martin & Florence Tansey, Joseph Mostyn, Arthur Williams, Laurence McCormack, Anne Cunningham, Nellie Cuffe, Kathleen Vaughan, Mary Nolan, George Wale, William Proudman, Patrick Fleming, Stanislaw Malewski, Mary Evans, Patrick Garrity, Margaret Stans, Violet Riley, Monica Appleby-Austin, Elizabeth Long, Elizabeth Watkins, Mary McMahan, Maura Egan, Fr. James McKenny, Patricia Davis, Michael Gillen, John Fowley, George Jordan, Brian Griffiths, Alice Watton, Thomas Parker, Laureen Annette May Hill, Ivan Cockeram, Sarah Davy, Gertrude Maguire, Iris Baldwin, Donna Hiron, Pauline Skirmer, Ida O'Rourke, Fred Longworth, Michael Durber, Pauline Wieloch, Ann Chipman, Patrick Larvin, David Herbert, Roy Colbeck, Michael Fox, Keith Craddock, Charlotte Fitzsimmons.

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 Sept 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 – fieldevang@maryvale.ac.uk or ring Maryvale on 0121 360 8118.

Learning More About Jesus and the Faith: If you want to meet with others and find out about how amazing and life changing the Christian faith can be, then email alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk for a series of meetings starting in September this year.

New Testament – do you want to extend your knowledge? The first meeting will be on **Wed 9th May at 7pm at Sacred Heart**. If you would like to come, please contact Wendy in the office.

Youth Band – Music plays such a crucial part in our liturgy. It brings a sense of joy, excitement, warmth and togetherness to our celebrations. It also carries powerful messages, changes moods and can deepen our prayer. We want our youth band to be at the forefront of bringing new music to our Masses. Do you know someone who might join us? For more information, e-mail alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk



St Joseph's Home, Coleshill, offers residential care to older people and those living with dementia in a Catholic setting. Respite bedrooms are also available for those who could benefit from short stay. If you or someone you know might benefit from the care offered at St Joseph's, please call 01675 434500 for an informal chat or to arrange a visit.

Thank you to the Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) for their very kind and generous donation to The Heart of Tamworth (HOT) of £550. This money will be restricted to helping the homeless.

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

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.

St Editha's Book and Fairtrade Shop - St Editha's shop has a range of books that have been specially chosen as being suitable gifts for occasions like Confirmation and First Holy Communion. The books range from £5.99 to £9.99 and are aimed at both adults and children.

We took the Gold in to the Jewellery Quarter last week. They separated out the gold from what looked like gold and there was a small pot. Once it was weighed they gave us £2,300! We were a little surprised so thank-you to all who brought in bracelets, ear rings etc. It all made a difference. One dear parishioner even brought in her husband's wedding ring; he had passed away recently and she thought he would be pleased to have it used in such a lovely way! It's not too late if anyone wants to bring some bits in.



'Sponsoring' The Stations of the Cross was very popular. Thank-you to all who responded so generously and so quickly. However, for 14 stations, 32 people came forward! Obviously, if people would like to withdraw, that is fine but donations could equally be well used for other areas of St John's. That would be a great help. We will leave that in your hands. Thank-you so much.

St John's Update: Painting/gilding is going smoothly. The steps and tiling of the sanctuary will start this week and take two weeks, we hope. We can then programme in sanding the floor and carpeting. But the benches need restoring and will look very drab when everything else looks so clean. We will add this as the final task – to clean, sand and varnish (can you help? 10-20 needed). This will add to the time needed now. So we have booked **Bishop David McGough to bless St John's on the night of Wednesday May 23rd at 7.00 pm.** It will remain closed till then and Masses will continue at Sacred Heart.

Money Matters	
Envelopes	119.77
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	435.32
Total:	£1355.09
Building Fund	286.07
Donations	2,900.00
<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	

Pentecost 'Gifts of the Spirit' Concert: we are hosting this concert at Sacred Heart on Sat May 19th at 7.00 pm. Children from our schools will be singing along with Dan Callow and Emily Clark (professional Christian musicians). Tickets are £7 for adults and £5 for under 16's. It is a great way to celebrate Pentecost, encourage our children and listen to some new Christian music. So please come along.

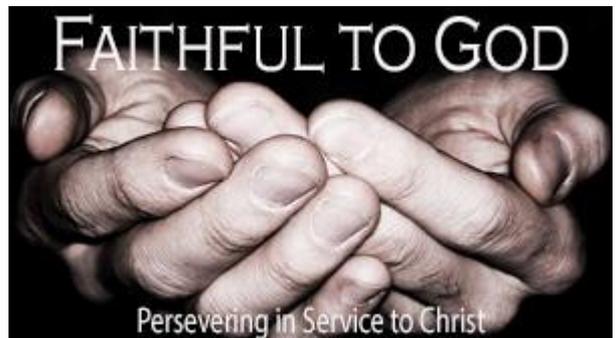
We thought the Sat evening Mass would be back in St John's (May 19th). It now clashes with the concert rehearsals. We are looking to have our Sat evening Mass in the function room upstairs (there is a lift).

St Gabriel's are currently advertising for a full time **class teacher/s** for Sept 18. Please follow the link to our website for full details <http://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk/job-vacancies/>

Haunton –The Future of Parishes: some will have heard that Haunton parish will be getting only one Sunday Mass per month while the diocese reviews its future. This is a sad time for those who have worshipped there for many years. It is a beautiful old Church with a fine and interesting history. The Church in Abbots Bromley is facing a similar crisis.

What is now touching our borders is something that is happening all over the Diocese. In the next few years about 50 priests will retire and 4/5 may be ordained (*there are just 12 in training over 7 years*). That's 45 parishes that will lose their priest. Some parishes will be served from elsewhere. Inevitably, churches will close. Please pray for those communities as the Diocese discerns how to go forward.

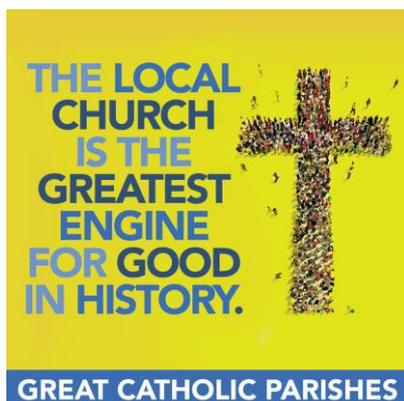
We have been reflecting on this in our own parish but we may be tempted to put it to the back of our minds if another priest comes (*Fr J.P. has now re-applied for his visa*). But we must plan to run our parish with one priest, our deacon(s) and a team of lay people, in preparation. There are already parishes around the Diocese with three Churches that have only one priest.



Part of this involves changing our expectations. We should not expect one priest to do the same number of hospital visits (*with full time chaplains*), regular visits to 100+ sick parishioners, all the Masses, funerals, Catechesis, pilgrimages, pastoral work etc that were previously done by 2, 3 or 4 priests. Having been the only priest here for 8 months, I have found most people to be very thoughtful in this regard.

It is also about changing our idea of what a parish is (or a parishioner!) - by looking at the world about us, learning from other Christian churches that are flourishing and, most importantly, looking to what Jesus instructs his disciples to do – so revisiting the bible, our purpose and not just doing what we have always done. All Dioceses are reviewing this with Pope Francis leading the way. After consulting parishioners it is clear that the vast majority see the need for and welcome a new approach. Each one of us needs to review our own lives too since we can all make a difference. For some research see:

<https://careynieuwhof.com/5-significant-attitude-differences-that-separate-growing-and-declining-churches/>



There has been a substantial increase in pastoral work taking place in the parish, the vast majority being done by lay people, visiting the sick, work with homeless, offering bereavement support, catechesis and offering numerous services through Heart of Tamworth. We also have two excellent websites with the parish one being redeveloped right now. These are new ways of reaching beyond our own members that require a lot of time and skill. All are in direct response to Jesus telling us to 'Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News ...' We must shape our parish so we are 'fit for purpose', God's purpose rather than our own.

We are also looking to appointing a lay worker (or two part time workers as some suggested in the consultation – one doing youth ministry and the other Catechesis and liturgy). More on this next week.

H.O.T. Activities:

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.

Singing connects the mind with the heart and the heart with the soul. So sing, I dare you! - Neil Diamond

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 Fazeley of bread and other items, through the Food Share scheme that channels food that is going out of date to local charities. Some is shared with other Starfish centres 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, sppeople@btinternet.com or speak to me at 12 O'Clock mass or let Nora have any donations.

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 are very welcome. Please email me with your interest at sppeople@btinternet.com.

Gambling Problems seem to be a growing issue with many people and some have asked for help. We have worked with Gamblers Anonymous and asked them to start a group here.

This group will start at St John's this Monday, April 16th. If you know someone with a gambling problem, please let them know.

Please pray that this new group will help the lives of individuals and families as people seek to deal honestly with their gambling issues.

Other Things:

A Few Gardeners have kindly offered to grow plants. It would be best if we had a short meeting to co-ordinate our efforts. Can we make Sunday 22nd at 10.00 am?

Knitters: A few people have volunteered to help with knitting biblical figures. Thank-you for that. It does need some co-ordination otherwise we could end up with 12 Virgin Mary's! Can we organise a short meeting please? We could also share some tips/ideas and patterns. This will be at 10.00 am on Sunday 29th April at Sacred Heart. Hoping you can all make it.

Weston Super Mare Trip – Wednesday 11th July price £15 per person. For more details see Patricia in the Piety Stall after the 9am or before the 12 noon Mass.

Rob Breeden suspended his training for the Diaconate when his wife Christine became ill so that he could dedicate himself to her care. Sadly, as we know, Christine passed away. May she rest in peace. Rob has asked to begin his final year this September and the Archbishop has approved this request. Please keep Rob in your prayers as he seeks to complete his studies and looks to be ordained in 2019.

There is a Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool on 7th/8th Sept this year. Some parishioners have booked tickets. Is anyone else interested?

St Elizabeth's School quiz night (adults) on Saturday 28th April 2018 at 7.30pm in the school hall. Tickets cost £8.00 p.p. (incl Fish & Chip supper) and £3.00 without food. Teams of 4 - 6. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Tickets available from Jane McSweeney on 07849439867 or Marie Kennedy on 07745655994. Join the fun to help raise funds for school.

Thank-you to all for the Easter celebrations – full church at all Masses, beautiful flowers, singing & music, sacristy, clean churches, wardens, servers, admin and your generous Easter offerings. Thank-you.



"Don't worry – it's an easy mistake to make, but 'hit me' actually means 'another card please'"

