



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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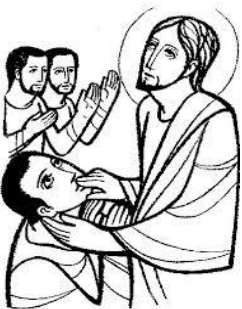
www.stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

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

First Sunday of Lent (B) – 18th February 2018

Psalm Response: Your ways, Lord are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant

Sat 17 th 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 th 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
Monday 19 th February	Lent feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 20 th February	Lent feria	10.00 am (S.H.) 11.00am (S.J.)	Doherty Family Funeral Service for Francis James
Wednesday 21 st February	Lent feria	7.00 am (S.H.) 10.00 am (S.J.)	Mark Lennon Violet Seekings
Thurs 22 nd February	Chair of St Peter	10.00 am (S.H.)	Funeral Mass for Joyce Stack
Friday 23 rd February	Lent feria	12.30pm (S.J.)	Mass followed by Lenten soup lunch This Friday is designated as a family fast day
Saturday 24 th February	Lent feria Second Sunday of Lent	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Maureen Dempsey Joe and Phillis Roche – Ken and Frances Dingley
Sunday 25 th February	Second Sunday of Lent	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Kathleen and Stuart Parker – Leon Spicer Margaret Bird Hannah & Joseph Quinn – Colette O'Donovan
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, Evelyn Reardon, Sean McAuley.

Reflection: *Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him*
Every Lent offers us a new beginning. It is an opportunity to make our faith fresh. It's a time to allow ourselves to go into our own wilderness, to make time for some quiet time in a quiet space. Lent is a time of prayer, reading the Word of God and caring for others, it is not just about giving up. It is allowing the tender love of God to become part of who we are and then sharing that love with others. On this first Sunday of Lent, let us not just concentrate on what we are giving up but rather how our actions, love and care are going to affect others.



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

Collection for CAFOD next weekend. CAFOD envelopes for Gift Aid available now.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Catherine Hemming, Mary Pegg, John Smith, Flora Hinds, Joseph Gilbert, Robert Cuffe, Jim Doherty, Doreen Bolger, Margaret Dunlop, Francis Sharratt, John Harvey, Arthur Louch, Norman Wilkins, William McDonnell, Margaret Wakelin, Albert Upton, John Duke, Elizabeth Killigrew, John Kerrigan, Doris Blower, Lilian Adams, Jean Boyce, Nora Hawkins, Irene Rollinson, Peter Doherty, Ronald Hopkins, Baby Anne Standen, James Heathfield, Frederick Doody, Margaret Abraitis, Eve Ritchie, Frank Parton, Anne Nicholson, Sidney Davis, Doris McCurley-Smith, Raymond Dauncey, Stanley Williams, James Wyatt, Susan Crowley, Ronald Henson, Dora Henson, Charles O'Neill, Norman Adams, Terence Archer, Margaret McCarthy, Maureen Holland, Eileen Miller, Henryk Stawski, Noran Court, Ivy Lee, Margaret Kennedy, Doreen Pearson, Susan Firkins, George Elliot, James Jackson, Terence Spooner, John Boyce, Jeffrey Groves, Cedric Brownsword, Kevin Keegan.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Frances James** whose funeral service will be at Sacred Heart on Tues 20th Feb at 11.00 am; **Annette Beech**, funeral will take place in Sacred Heart on Tues 27th Feb at 12.15pm and **Joyce Stack**, who will be received into Sacred Heart on Wednesday 21st February at 5pm followed by the funeral Mass on Thurs 22nd Feb at 10.00am and **Francis Levesley**, John's brother, who died during the week. May they rest in peace.



From this Sunday there are 40 days of Lent. We are used to the idea of fasting and this Friday is a day of fasting to help the poor but there are many other things you can do for Lent. Let us help you with some of these opportunities:

ALPHA - is a chance for anyone to renew their faith and an opportunity to ask questions/discuss. It will be on Mondays (tomorrow) Feb 19th and continue through Lent. To join **please sign up** in the porch or email alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk. 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?

Soup Lunches will be held every Friday throughout Lent after Mass. We had a great response last Friday, thank-you. All proceeds will go to Father Hudson's Care who work with some of the most vulnerable people in society (frail elderly, homeless, refugees, people with learning disabilities ...). Do come to Mass and join us as we share this simple meal and help people in need too.



Home Groups for Lent. Please keep in your prayer the town centre home group that is now running. If you are interested in home groups, please contact the parish office or Alex Parker on alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

Could M Bak contact us, as we can't email you?

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 reflection by Deacon Nick Williams.

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

CAFOD Collection envelopes are ready. The collection will be next weekend. Maybe our savings from fasting can be put aside for the poor and hungry of the world that CAFOD supports. This Lent, for each pound you give to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal, the UK Government will also give a pound to our nutrition work. So your generosity will grow. And so will children around the world. A gift of £28 today could be doubled to £56, enough for a vegetable garden for a family, so they can grow healthy food.

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 23rd February – the Friday of the First Week of Lent – has been designated as a Day of Fasting and Prayer.



St John's Church Refurbishment – the latest. Contractors will start in the week of March 19th. We had considered keeping the Church open while painting was going on (after initial building work). We have decided it is wiser to get all the work completed with the Church closed. That will take approx. 6/7 weekends. That means we will re-open for the weekend of May 5th/6th.

Lifts Needed? If anyone needs transport to get to Sacred Heart we can help organise lifts for that period. Would those who do have cars also put their names down to give lifts for a few weeks? The list is in the porch.

Masses Over Those Weekends: There will be a 6.00 pm Mass on Saturdays at Sacred Heart but no 10.30 Mass. This gives everyone the chance to mix with people from the parish at the 9.00 and 12.00 Masses – people we would not normally see and gives Fr Michael an easier Sunday morning for a few weeks.

The only volunteers we will need in this period will be the moving of benches. Can anyone help please?



Any Spare 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) ?

The Parish Council is an important body within this community. There are two vacancies. If you are interested in being a member 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 4th at 1.00pm.**

The Annual Report is now Ready: we will email it out this week (Wednesday). If you have an email address but do not receive it, **please let us know** and give us other contact details too. We can then email it to you.

Confirmation Classes will be starting on Wed, 28th Feb 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.

Women's World Day of Prayer: Friday 2nd March prepared by Christian women of Suriname. 11.00am Service at St Leonards Church Wiggington. Pre-service Suriname style refreshments served from 10.30am and light lunch to follow the service. 7.00pm -St Peter's Elford. All welcome (Men too!)



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 on the laptop? 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.

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 info.

Well done to St Elizabeth's School on another 'Good' OFSTED report, following the OFSTED visit to St Elizabeth's on 16th Jan 2018. The school has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection in 2013. One of the findings was that the staff have high expectations of all pupils. The welfare and well-being of all members of the school is central to the work of the school.

Joint Choirs For Easter: can you help boost our choirs for Easter and Holy week celebrations? It would be good if singers from both churches could come together. So whether you come to the 6.00 pm Mass, the 9.00 or 10.30 am Masses or the 12 noon makes no difference. Please come to rehearsals. Rehearsals start this Wednesday at 7.30 at Sacred Heart. New members are also welcome.

Youth Band – thank-you for the warm welcome given to the youth band and the many compliments they received at the 6.00 pm Mass recently. Well done to them and to Alex, Annie and Ruth.

Congratulations to Mike and Ethel on the celebration of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.



H.O.T. Activities:



Heart of Tamworth
Community Project

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

The Senior Gents Club got off to a good start with 8 men coming along last week. There are not as many opportunities for men's groups as women's so this group is trying to remedy that. The plan 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. Members will be choosing their own activities so come along and help shape this new group for the future. They meet every Tuesday, 10.30am – 12.30pm in St John's Community rooms.

Singing for the Mind: The next session is at Sacred Heart on Thursday 1st March 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.

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 info 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 Café meets at Sacred Heart every Tuesday at 10.30 am – 12noon.

The A.A. Group meets as usual on Mon and Fri 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.

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.

Money Matters

Envelopes	161.70
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	531.91
Total:	£1493.61
Building Fund	299.61

Thank-you.

Gift Aid: Signing a Gift Aid form will increase your gift by 25% at no cost to you. For more info call our the parish office or email office@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk



Have you perceived a need in the parish or local community that you think needs addressing? Sadly, there are no shortage of them, loneliness being one highlighted in recent months.

If so, why not talk to us and help respond to that need?

All of the above activities (and more) are run by people who see a problem but also a solution, people who have the heart and some time to help respond in a positive way.

It is all pastoral work, the work that Jesus invites us to do, work that can help us and others. Please join us.

Heart of Tamworth now has its own website. Our thanks

to Wojciech for developing this. Come and see on www.heartoftamworth.org