



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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Tamworth, B77 2EA

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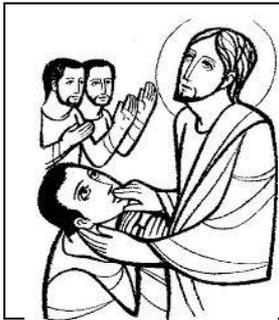
St John's Church is on St John St, Tamworth, B79 7EX

Third Sunday of the Year (B) – 21st January 2018

Psalm Response: Lord, make me know your ways

Saturday 20 th January	Feria	10.30am (S.J.)	Libby Rose
Third Sunday of the Year		6.00pm (S.J.)	Fr Tom Hewitt
Sunday 21 st January		9.00 am (S.H.)	Dorothy Norton – Colin & Joan Pickup
Third Sunday of the Year		10.30 am (S.J.)	Coleen Tunney – Margaret Morton
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Dr Armando Cortez – Frank Burns
Monday 22 nd January	Feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 23 rd January	Feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Winifred Walker
Wednesday 24 th Jan	St Francis de Sales	10.00 am (S.J.)	Eileen D'Arcy
Thurs 25 th Jan	Conversion of St Paul	10.00am (S.H.)	Stuart Mansfield
Friday 26 th January	Ss Timothy & Titus	12.30pm (S.J.)	Mass for the Sick and Housebound
Saturday 27 th January	Feria	10.30am (S.J.)	Bridie, Steve, H and Seren
Fourth Sunday of the Year		6.00pm (S.J.)	Kieran McSweeney – Frank Hill
Sunday 28 th January		9.00 am (S.H.)	Peter Seekings – Patrick Cunningham
Fourth Sunday of the Year		10.30 am (S.J.)	Josie Pullen – Sheila Mulligan
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Stephanie Bradford – Dr Armando Cortez

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.

Reflection: Repent and believe the Good News

The disciples were chosen and called personally by Jesus. But God also calls each one of us. God not only calls us to follow Jesus, but also calls us into the fields and careers of our lives. Everyone is called to a vocation, a station in life, teacher, insurance salesman, car mechanic, politician, etc. We also have callings within family structures - mother, father, aunt, uncle, child, etc. We serve God in these family callings as well. God's call is always into an uncertain future. When we enter into our callings we have no idea how it will all end up. We choose our careers and jobs hoping that we can use the gifts and talents God has given us, but there are no guarantees.



Stepping Forward Courageously: We have been consulting in the past 12 months about how we can develop our parish to grow and evangelise. It is time to take another step.

At Masses this weekend, Fr Michael will help outline four proposals. A printed sheet will also be available to take home. We can then reflect and comment, ask questions, offer other ideas, constructive criticism etc. There will be a further chance to discuss this at the parish AGM on Sunday March 4th at 1.00 pm at Sacred Heart. Please give these some thought and take time to comment. There are some simple forms to help us do this.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Margaret Mattison, Patrick Gibbons, Thomas Connell, Walter Shears, Roderick Gleeson, Joseph Carroll, Maria Agatiello, Mary Berns, Michael Reardon, Frank Patrick, Giovanni Amato, Margaret Minchin, Andre Freeman, Teresa Wooton, Anne Jewkes, Alice Fitzpatrick, Agnes Sheridan, Margaret Plunton, Miss Meomartini, Brian Kerlake, John Mason, Anne Cuffe, Patricia Pitt, Judith Gibson, Cornelius Flynn, Ivy Hardwick, James Scott, Maureen Taylorson, Paul Weir, Patrick Hunt, Peter Mattison, Joseph Lee, John Hopkins, Anthony Yourell, Ewald Burg, Rose Green, Louis Nealon, Olive Ranayne, Jean Crowley, Winifred Latham, Norman Northall, Kathleen Read, Teresa Hynes, Cyril Hodgkinson, Nancy Chadwick, Joachim Lehmann, Angela Connolly, Phyllis Wiltshire, Gerrard Quinn, Frederick Chadwick, Jack York, Arthur Thomas, Coleen Tunnev. Helena Sidwells.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Ann Marie Chinn** whose funeral will take place in St John's on Thurs, 1st Feb at 10.00am and **Olive Ahern** whose funeral will take place on Fri, 9th Feb in Sacred Heart at 12noon. May they rest in peace. Please pray to for **Stephen O'Gara** who was killed last Saturday. **Fr Tom Hewitt's Funeral** is in St Alban's on Wed 24th Jan leaving Sacred Heart at 7am. There are 5 places available on a minibus for anyone wishing to go. The cost, if all places are filled, will be £18. Please contact Pauline Devlin on 01827 709183, or ring the parish office.

For Funerals in our parish we have now printed a small card for reflection and to let people know about our bereavement service. We would also like to have funeral mass liturgies on the projector screens so people, not used to Church, can join in with prayers. Can anyone help with this?

Ideas for Lent:

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. E-mail alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk or sign up at the back of church. 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!



Home Groups We would like to try and develop a couple of small faith-sharing groups during Lent. Such groups would meet in someone's home to chat, share the Bible, share their experience and discuss their meaning for the wider community, If you would like to be involved, perhaps you would be happy to open up your home for a couple of hours to a small group of parishioners or get together a small group of friends. We would provide the material for discussion and prayer. Please e-mail alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk or phone

Alex Parker in the office or sign up at the back of church or phone the office for details.

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?

Morning Masses most days and early morning Mass on Wednesdays at Sacred Heart Church.

Rosary Group on Monday evenings at 7.30 at Sacred Heart.

Adoration and Confession after 11.00 Mass each Saturday Morning at St John's for 30 minutes.

Stations of the Cross on Fridays at Sacred Heart at 7.30 pm.



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 refurbishment will soon start. Contractors should begin work in late February. The work will take about 4 weeks and will be followed by painting – another 4 weeks. We anticipate that St John's will be out of action for 3 weekends.



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.

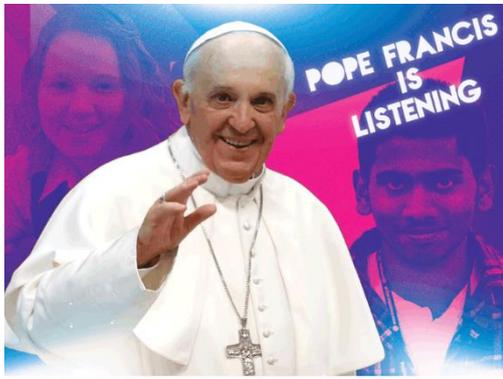
Youth Band rehearsal on Friday at 6.30 pm in the Sacred Heart Church. It is for those in Year 7 and above. If you would like to come along or find out more please e-mail alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

Women's World Day of Prayer in Tamworth will be on 2nd March. More details of venue and times soon, but the organisers have asked us to provide two readers. If you think you might be able to help please speak to Alex Parker or e-mail alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

Good Friday Witness – The planning is underway for this. The organisers need help with stewards. They are looking for someone to co-ordinate the volunteer stewards- and they also need more volunteers on the day to be stewards- give out leaflets and guide the crowd.

If you could spare some time on 30th March to be a steward, or help in any other way please speak to Alex Parker or e-mail alex@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk.

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.

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.

St Gabriel's Pre-School have been chosen for the Co-op community dividend this year for the Glascoate Co-op store. Please could you when shopping in this store ask for a "charity dividend" when paying for goods in order for the Pre-School to be entitled to a share of this dividend.

Do you support Catholic Schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make our 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. Google 'Catholic Education' or <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> and write to the Government urging them to drop a policy banning new Catholic schools

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

Our thanks to the family of the late John Hever (RIP) who asked that donations be made to the parish in his memory. £187 was collected. Our thanks to the congregation for their generosity too.

Money Matters	
Envelopes	140.79
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	482.98
Total:	£1423.77
Building Fund	285.82
<i>Thank-you.</i>	
Gift Aid: Please increase your giving by 25%; sign a Gift Aid form. Call the Parish Office or office@stjohnrctamworth.org.uk	

H.O.T. Activities:

The downstairs kitchen facilities at Sacred Heart are no complete. Thank-you to all involved especially Simon and Sheree for raising the funds and to Doug and Aleks for all their great work

Winter Night Shelter – "Lord, when did I find you homeless and give you shelter?"

Thank you to all those involved in delivering the first half of the project from early December through to now. It has been a great effort and our centre has been very popular with the guests. The remaining two weeks of January have been covered and this is a list of the slots that still need filling to take us through to the end of the project;

4th Feb – one further person (or a couple) to do the night shift (10.30am-6am) – limited contact with guests but a vital reassurance to vulnerable guests

11th February – two greeters – make tea etc and welcome guests and chat to them 6.30-10.30pm

18th February – three greeters – make tea etc and welcome guests and chat to them 6.30-10.30pm

25th February – one greeter – make tea etc and welcome guests and chat to them 6.30-10.30pm
To volunteer to fill a slot please contact me on speople@btinternet.com or 01827 825403



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.

**Grieve
not
Alone**

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 has put their name forward as a volunteer for the Evening Bereavement Help Point. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, 30th January at 6.00 p.m. in the upstairs room at St John's Community Rooms. If you are interested, but haven't put your name down, please feel free to come along.

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.

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.

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 23rd Jan 2018**

Alzheimer's Society
Leading the fight against dementia



MEMORY CAFÉ

SPONSORED LOCALLY BY

Home Instead
SENIOR CARE

To us, it's personalsm

Singing for the Mind: The launch of this group went really well – with about 30 people attending. This week the group will meet on Thursday 25th January 10.30 -11.30 am at 'The Hub' In the Castle grounds (where the old open air Swimming Baths used to be, next to the Cycle shop.) The Heart of Tamworth and Community Together have joined together to offer two informal sessions each month of Singing for the Mind. Some of the proven benefits of singing are: good for the mind, helps with confidence, relieves anxiety and reduces stress. Why not come and join us and why not bring along a relative or friend.