



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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Tamworth, B77 2EA

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www.stjohnrctamworth.org.uk

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

Fourth Sunday of the Year (C) – 31st January 2016

Psalm Response: My lips will tell of your help

Saturday 30th January Feria Fourth Sunday of the year	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Sarah White Frances Dingley – John Hurley
Sunday 31st January Fourth Sunday of the year	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Fred and Ross Powell – Michael Culberson Tony Eivers – Michael & Bridget Hegarty Eric and Pauline Richards
Monday 1st February Feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 2nd February The Presentation of the Lord	10.00 am (S.J.) 7.00pm (S.H.)	Charles Crook Communion Service
Wednesday 3rd February Feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Richard Carty
Thursday 4th February Feria	10.00am (S.J.)	Holy Souls
Friday 5th February St Agatha	12.30pm (S.J.) 9.15am (S.E.) 7.00pm (S.H.)	Mass for the sick and housebound of the parish Siobhan McDonald Holy Hour led by seminarians from Oscott
Saturday 6th February St Paul Miki Fifth Sunday of the year	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Pauline Biffin Eileen Murphy – Finola P Fiddler
Sunday 7th February Fifth Sunday of the year	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Michael Fox - Nancy Lynch Rita Cooney – Jonny Downes Steve Brindley – Ester McCormack

Confessions at St John's: Sat 11.00 till 11.30 am and 5.15 – 5.45 pm.



Please pray for the sick: Mick Evans, Chad Williams, Finn Lynch, Teresa Woodcock, Gill Horsley, Margaret Thompson, Mary Pullen, Patrick O'Hara, Noreen Doherty, Christine Lavery, Michelle Mason, Julie Orme, Nikolas Atkins, Sheila Brown, Stephen Morley, Jaden Walker, Frank Ryan, Gillian & John Solanky, John Barrass, Betty Meehan, Mary Miller, Winnie Claridge, Sarah Gillen, Conan Teyssou, Ann-Marie Purslow, Margaret Fenn, Ann Bernes, Joan Trevis, Nell Mattison, Tony Soden, Stan Merryweather, David Herbert, Maxine Beech, Christopher Browne, Clifford Browne, Phil Crook, Pablo Claveria, Earle Laska, Adam Coxhead, Tom Clibbery, Christopher Wheeldon, Peter Barnes, Lee Morrow, Eileen D'Arcy, Maureen Jeffries, Sarah Spencer, Gladys Cuffe, Kingsley Simon Bayley, Beryl Smith, Sheila Mulligan, Dan Connell, Betty Eddy, Bill Bonser, Doreen Dowling, Eddie Gallagher, Ann Futrill, Mary Williams.

Reflection: Prophets of the Old Testament called the people back to proper worship of God. But they also spoke for the weak, the oppressed, the disenfranchised, those who had little voice in shaping their own lives or their own future. Who are the Prophets of today? They are the voices who will dare to stand and speak the truth in love, who will dare to 'take a stand' against all the sin in the world. A prophetic voice is one that will not settle for the *status quo*, not for the sake of stability, or security, or comfort, or even for the sake of conserving a tradition. A truly prophetic voice is a radical voice, a liberal voice that calls for change, even if that change is hard. We pray for the courage of the prophet to 'take a stand' for what is right.



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

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Arthur Miles, Thomas Nicholson, Harriett Edden, Laurence Burke, Mary Clack, Alfred Burke, Fred Fellows, Ernest Ralph, Humphry Richard, Mary Lunn, James Bernes, Mary Duffy, Horace Evans, Michael Gildea, Charles Crook, Catherine Matthews, Josephine Dupuis, Frank Haiste, Leslie Taylor, Cecilia McCracken, John Shaw, Flora Gore, Jean Zako, Connie Hill, Horace Windridge, Edith Weir, James McDonnell, John Richardson, Gladys Beaumont, Anne Lennon, Robert Evans, Sheila Hunt, Reginald Rainsford, William Turner, Lawrence Oldfield, Kathleen Vaughan, Pierre Cuffy, Mary Lyndon, Frederico Prato, Frank Sharratt, Mary Pulman, Francis Tomson, Kenneth Woodcock, Patrick Osborne, Gemma Boland, Ian Robert, Arthur Lowry, Anthony McComb, Marie Reid, Lawrence Deakin, David Chawner.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Coleen Tunney, daughter of Geraldine and Simeon, sadly passed away during the week. Coleen was well known by many at Sacred Heart. She will be received into Sacred Heart on Thursday, 11th February at 6.00pm, the funeral Mass will take place on Friday at 11.30pm and for **Florence Hitchman** sister of Doug Hardy and **Joe O'Dwyer** brother of Alice Collins. May they rest in peace.

Lent

Our Journey Through Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on the 10th February. There will be a morning Mass at St Elizabeth's and St Gabriel's at 9.15am, St John's at 10.00 and an evening Mass at Sacred Heart at 7.00 with the distribution of ashes. Please join us for one of these Masses so we can begin the journey together.

The
Season
of
Lent



40 Acts: are you looking for something different to do this Year? Try www.40acts.org.uk which looks at ways in which you can 'do Lent' generously and imaginatively. Every day we will be nudged (via email or social media) to take on a small task (or big one if you want to). Sign up and join in. It looks really good.

Lent: Our personal daily prayer should be our starting point – so please use the Walk with Me booklets (these are available this weekend). Give a donation or take one for free if you need to, but please take one and, more importantly, use it each day.

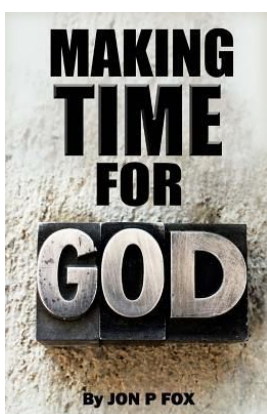
Stations of the Cross every Friday evening at Sacred Heart at 7.00 pm.

Soup: Again we would like to offer a Fast Day lunch each Friday after 12.30 Mass. Our generous donations can make a real difference to the work of CAFOD but it also links our fasting into helping the poor. Please join us: Mass at 12.30 Soup at 1.00.

Early Morning Masses throughout Lent begins on **Thursday** 11th February at Sacred Heart and continues throughout Lent, **Tuesdays at St John's, Thursdays Sacred Heart, both at 7am.** Attending these Masses is a great opportunity for quiet prayer before the rush of the day begins. We also have Masses Mon to Thurs morning at St John's, 10.00am, Friday 12.30pm and Saturday 10.30am.

Two Lent Retreat Days to Choose From:

Setting a Day Aside for God.



Caritas Retreat at Oscott College on Saturday March 5th from 10.30 till – 4.30 (ending with Mass at 3.30 pm) for all those with a heart for Compassion and Justice. It is being given by Fr Hugh Sinclair, spiritual director of Oscott College and it's taking place **at Oscott College** – a wonderful venue. Cost is just £10 for the day. Please bring some lunch. Booking forms and poster in the porch.

Parish retreat at Sacred Heart on Saturday March 12th from 10.30 till 4.30 ending with Mass at 3.30 pm. This is being led by David McLoughlin who teaches at Newman University and is an inspirational speaker who has been with us before. It is on our doorstep – just bring lunch. Mass will cover Sunday obligation.

Charismatic Prayer Meeting held in the side chapel of St John's after the Tuesday morning Mass.



Year of Mercy – Holy Hours: As part of the Year of Mercy, we will have a Holy Hour on the first Friday of every month, starting in February (5th). These will start at 7.00pm at Sacred Heart and the first will be led by the students and a priest from Oscott College.

Rob Carey Evaluation. Some people didn't get a feedback form last weekend. We have done extra for this weekend. Asking parishioners what they think of students training for the priesthood is part of the process of evaluation. Please complete one and be honest and think of ways he could improve. Rob would welcome constructive criticism.

Confirmation Classes for children not at Catholic schools will start with a parents' meeting at Sacred Heart on Thursday March 10th. Please let the office know if you have a child joining the programme.

Marriage Preparation Day will be held on Saturday, 13th February. Messages have been left for couples, please contact the parish office to confirm that you will be attending.

The Free 'n Easy was a great parish event – packed out and with lots of talented people of all ages. Thanks to all for making it a great family evening on Friday (incl running bar, doing food, performing and supporting).

The Damascus Trust presents 'Rwanda and the Power of God' with Archbishop Onesphore Rwaje and Andy Paine. St George's Church, Glascote, on Thursday 11th February, 7.30pm – 9.00pm. Ubushuti basketry and cards, made by widows and children from Byumba and Gasabo dioceses will be available to purchase.



St Edith's Book and Fairtrade Shop – New books available - "Khan's Curry Kitchen" by Vivian Khan, a local author. The proceeds from the book will be donated to the charity "Mary's Meals" which provide school meals for the world's poorest children. This book would be an excellent choice for cooks & curry lovers & is priced at £10.00.

Baby knitwear - Maureen Hardy is holding a sale today Sunday 31st January, after the 9am Mass. All money will go towards Church flowers. Thank-you to Maureen for organizing it.

You could be part of Prince's Trust Team 353 – Starting in Tamworth on 14th March 2016. If you're interested text/call Ricky Chamberlin on 07786113918.

Our Sacred Heart Starfish 'breakfast club' runs from the Sacred Heart. It is held every Saturday from **10am till 12.00 am**. Please let anyone know whom you think would like to come along.

Tamworth Foodbank - Your Foodbank donations continue to be very much appreciated, thank you.

St Elizabeth's School Quiz night on Fri 26th Feb 2016 at 7.30pm in the school hall. Tickets are on sale (from Jane McSweeney on 07849 439867 or Marie Kennedy on 07745 655994 at a cost of £8.00 p.p. incl a Fish & Chip supper from the Leyfields Fish Bar - £3.00 without food. Teams of 4 - 6. Bring your own drink! Tickets available. Join the fun and help raise funds for school. All welcome.

UCM - Bowling at Strykers on Wednesday 3rd February at 7.30 p.m. Special offer £6 per person for 2 games. 2/3 lanes booked depending on the numbers. Please support this event. If you can't play bring along a friend. We have a quiz in March to look forward to. Get your thinking caps on.

YOSH If you fancy some fun and games, come to Sacred Heart, Thursdays 7pm-8:30pm, For updates check the parish website, or contact Stephen for details (251197, stephen@LiveAndLearnWell.co.uk)

A Bereavement Support Service is being provided at Sacred Heart every Friday (10 – 12.00 am). If you know of anyone grieving, please take them a leaflet from the porch and invite them to join us

Homestart Parents and Tots – Meet on a Wednesday 9.15am – 11.30am at Sacred Heart. £1.00 per family which includes tea, toast, biscuits and juice. Come along for a chat and play!



Stay and Play – ‘Stay and Play’ sessions are held in the upstairs room of Sacred Heart 1pm – 3pm, on a Tuesday. Children up to 1 are free then £2 for first child, £1.50 for second and £1 for third child. This is for babies up to school age children and parents to enjoy time together with play and interaction; refreshment will be served.

Senior Citizens at Sacred Heart – Meet every Tuesday for social gatherings at 1.30am.

A.A. meeting at St John’s upper room on Mondays at 8.00 pm for people recovering from alcohol related problems.

2nd Coton Green Rainbow and Brownie Guide Units meet at St Elizabeth’s School on Wednesday evenings. Contact details are: Rainbows, Steffi 07815087565. Brownies, Sharron 07500426682.

Brownies also meet at Sacred Heart on a Wednesday night. Contact details are Tracey 07743306495

To join any of these units go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

Tamworth Boxing Club, Orchard Street Tamworth - Low impact sessions for Adult with Learning Difficulties. The sessions will provide an opportunity to take part in a low impact session from 10:30-11:30am and then join us for tea and biscuits from 11:30am-12:30pm. These sessions will be just £3 per person and will be held every Tues. **Be part of Tamworth Boxing Club**, enjoy getting fitter and being part of a winning team. Strength & Conditioning involves any activity used to enhance and facilitate performance. These activities include, but are not limited to running, jumping, agility, core and endurance training. Boxing is a true test of fitness, stamina, and mental toughness. At Tamworth Boxing we can equip you with all the skills required to be a first class boxer.



Multiple Sclerosis (M S) Society and Tai Chi – Meet on a Tues at 11.30am in the Modwen room. The Tai Chi class is open to anyone. The MS Society meets after the class at 12.30pm

Irish Dancing Classes now run from the parish centre every Saturday. It is open to people of all ages. Just contact Katie Martin on kmartinacademy@aol.com or tel. 07932 359413.

Money Matters

Envelopes	204.55
Standing Order	750.00
Loose	520.98
Total:	£1475.53
Building Fund	270.47

Thank-you.

Gift Aid: Please increase your giving by 25%; sign a Gift Aid form. Call Rob on 769403 or robertjbreden@googlemail.com

Community Together Community Cafes – Amington Monday 11am – 12.30pm (Term time) opening 22nd Feb, Cornerstone Housing Assoc, Woodhouse Lane and Fri 11am – 12.30pm (Term time) from 4th March, Sure Start Centre Hawksworth. You can expect to see on offer FREE activities including Crafts, Quizzes, Games, Exercise, Prepare and Cook activities and more. We also offer a range of low cost refreshments, tea, coffee, etc. (max 50p). For more info ring Julie 07767116457

Lottie’s Tots – Monday 10.00 – 11.30am for more information contact Emma on emma_claybrook@yahoo.com

Job Clubs - Let’s Look Together’ Job Clubs have been running since 2012 and have assisted hundreds of local people in their search for

employment. 60% of those attending one of our Job Clubs have found employment within the 12 months of attending. We offer a range of FREE Services at all our Job Clubs which help job seekers to:

Write a CV, put together covering letters, print information, complete online applications, sign Up to Universal Job Match, access to Information on Training Opportunities and other helpful local services, access to volunteering opportunities to gain work experience and increase skills, mutual support from other members, IT support

More info at www.communitytogethercic.org.uk or contact Lee on 07581474043

Shopping at Co-Op Town Centre or Glascote? When paying, please ask for any possible ‘dividend money’ (especially if you don’t have a Dividend Card) to go to Heart of Tamworth for town centre Co-op and St Gabriel’s for Glascote Co-op.



TELL ME, ADAM ... HOW IN THE WORLD IS IT THAT I'M NUMBER FIVE ON YOUR SPEED DIAL?