

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

First Sunday of Advent (C) – 2nd December 2018

Psalm Response: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul

First Sun of the Advent: 1st: Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm: 24 2nd: 1 Thess. 3:12-4:2 Gospel: Luke 21:25-28.34-36

Sat 1 st December	St Edmund Campion First Sunday of Advent	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Vincent Hieu Nora Bolt – Pat Lane
Sunday 2 nd December	First Sunday of Advent	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Agnes Buckley – Kathy Steggles Helen, Maddie, Fliss & Pippa Booth – Holy Souls Sarah and Patrick Gillen – Joy Estpanta
Monday 3 rd December	St Francis Xavier	10.00 am (S.J.)	Funeral Mass for John Serrage
Tuesday 4 th December	Advent feria	7.00 am (S.H.) 10.00 am (S.H.)	Nora and Brian Holy Souls
Wednesday 5 th December	St Birinus	10.00 am (S.J.)	Patricia McCarthy McKay
Thursday 6 th December	Advent feria	7.00 am (S.J.) 10.00am (S.H.)	Ivy McDermott Evelyn Reardon
Friday 7 th December	St Ambrose	9.15am (S.E.) 12.30pm (S.J.)	John Serrage Mass for the Sick and Housebound
Sat 8 th Dec	Immaculate Conception Second Sunday of Advent	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Agnes Buckley Thomas Sharratt – Eileen Facer
Sunday 9 th December	Second Sunday of Advent	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Christine Breeden – Agnes Buckley Ivy McDermott – Anne Marie Purslow Dan Collins – Chris Booth

Confessions: Saturday 11 – 11.30 at St John's and 5.15 – 5.45 pm at St John's

The Sick List: *Please pray for:* Mary Collins, Sean McCauley, Christopher Wheeldon, Margaret Gallagher, Maria Leedham, Beryl Smith, Michael Dwyel, Teresa Kearney, Gladys Cuffe, Maurice Murdanaigum, Joy Espanta, Maria Alcuaz, K Taylor, Moira Davidson, Bill Hogan, Mandy Williamson, Anthony Hayes, Gillian Horsley, Aoife Sage, Tony Borman, Katie Niblett, Dennis Chipman, Fergal Maguire, Betty Breakwell, Mary Pawliw, Catherine McGinty. *We now need permission to print names - slips in the porch to be returned to Church.*

Reflection: Advent is a time of expectation. We joyfully prepare for the great feast of Christ's birth. In today's Gospel Jesus is using traditional Jewish symbolism to describe what will happen when God's final judgment occurs. He says that people "will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud." The cloud is a symbol of God's presence. Jesus' message bursts with hope and confidence because, unlike those who have reason to fear his coming, Jesus' followers will be able to hold their heads high because their liberation is at hand. Jesus urges us to be on our guard so that our hearts are not weighed down by the worries of life. What are the worries and cares of life that weigh us down today? As we prepare for a conversation with Jesus, can we bring our worries and cares to him in prayer?



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Rose McKenny, Winifred Holyoake, Emma Glenn, Sara Fear, Marie Titterton, George Pizzuto, Bernard McDonnell, Elsie Hampton, Vincent Tyrell, Mary Brightman, Evelyn Kelly, Marjorie Pulcella, Barbara Cowman, John Hyland, Alan Sargeant, Freddie Eckert, Mary Walton, Mary Dicken, Edward Patrick, Barry Spencer, Gertrude Rogers, Julia Hoey, Joseph Ryan, Vytautus Tarabilda, Basil Baldwin, John James McGee, Bridget Hickey, Annie McNamara, Ethal Bell, Eva Selvester, Thomas Weir, Carmel Edwards, Marinna Scot, David Jordan, Tony Moran, Rose Bridgewater, Catherine Brown, Marian Frymus, Grainne McKeefry, Laurence Sullivan.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **John Serrage** who will be received into St John's on Sunday 2nd Dec at 5.00pm followed by the funeral Mass on Monday, 3rd Dec at 10.00am. May John rest in peace.

Christmas Masses: The Parish Council listened to the feedback given by parishioners. They voted to discontinue the Midnight Mass, which we know will upset some parishioners, but at the time of the meeting there were only three people who had given feedback in favour of keeping Midnight Mass.



Also approved was that 4.30 Christmas Eve Mass will be at Sacred Heart and the 7.30 at St John's. This was all agreed at the parish council meeting during the week because:

- *Parking is much easier at St John's at 7.30 rather than 4.30 (less shoppers and free parking).*
- *The 4.30 works much better at Sacred Heart*
- *If it's later than 7.30 then it's harder for families which leads even more to go to the 4.30 which is already packed (500ish).*

Christmas Masses are as follows:

Christmas Eve 24th December

4.30pm Sacred Heart Church
7.30pm St John's Church

Christmas Day Masses:

9.00am Sacred Heart Church
10.30am St John's Church

We will, in the near future, be looking at Sunday Mass times. As priest numbers plummet and we are asked to cover more places as well as our own we may be having only 3 weekend Masses. In making decisions it is important that we focus on our mission. We are here to proclaim the Good News to people who have not yet embraced it or heard it. When discerning what we need to do it is vital that we are guided by what God wants. Please reflect on this and pray we will be guided by God's Spirit.

Thank-you to all who have been patient and positive about this, especially when it does not fit in with your own preferences.

Christmas Music - All are welcome to come along to the practise for the Christmas Masses at 7.30pm on Wednesday at Sacred Heart Church. We are learning a new CJM Music carol and practising our traditional carols with harmonies. Two more practices: 5th December and one TBA in the week before Christmas. Please note there is no choir practice on Wednesday 12th December.

Tamworth Churches Carol Singing Events –

Thursday 13th December The Fox Inn 7.30 – 8.30pm
Tues 18th Dec The Snowdome 6.30 – 7.30pm
Thursday 20th Dec outside Asda 6.30-7.30pm



Sat 22nd Dec 2.00 – 3.00pm Tam Town Hall

Park Farm Lodge Carol Singing on Monday 10th 2-4pm. Singers needed. Please phone Mary Farrington on 01827 50335

Tamworth Dementia Action Alliance Christmas Carol Concert Thursday 6th December at St Leonards Church, Wigginton 7pm – 8pm. Free event, free refreshments.

Memory Café Carol Concert- Could you spare an hour to help with the singing of carols and Christmas Songs at Sacred Heart on Tuesday 11th December? The time you would be needed from would be somewhere between 10.30am and 12.30 - when the school choir slots have been finalised. Please contact Alex 01827 769403 or by e-mail if you can help make this event extra special for those who suffer with memory loss.



The Prayer Group meets on Tuesdays at 8.00 pm at Sacred Heart. Amid the hustle and bustle of a busy week, why not give yourself an hour with God in the presence of Jesus with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament? All welcome.

Home Group: The next meetings are on Monday 3rd December at Bancroft off Silverlink Road or Thursday 6th December, Halford Street, The Leys. If you would like to join one of these Home Groups please contact Alex for more details of venue and

what it is about. New members welcome.

Christmas Day Lunch - St Francis Church on Masefield Drive will be providing lunch on Christmas day this year. Don't be alone at Christmas to book please ring 01827 65926



There are lots of Great Projects going on within the Parish and our Charity Heart of Tamworth. If you would like to express your faith by getting involved in something practical here are some options:

1. **Youth Ministry** – adults needed to support Dan with our young people. This is vital for us. Our thanks to Mark, Marie, Steven and Jess who have already volunteered. Our youth group now has about 30 young people coming to it. Email dan@tamworthrc.church

2. **Youth Club Volunteers** - We are starting to see an incredible team of people coming together to support our Young People, but we still need more! If you would like to take this incredible opportunity please speak to Dan our Youth Worker, all we need is 2 hours of your time on a Thursday or Friday night!



3. **Yrs 9-13** – similar opportunities, it ticks the Duke of Edinburgh box too. To have a chat, just contact Dan asap

4. **The Memory Café** on a Tuesday morning 10.30am – 12.30pm to talk to the visitors, participate in the activities (nothing too taxing!) and making sure everyone has refreshments

5. **The Bereavement Help Points** Friday 10am – 12 noon at Sacred Heart and Thursday 5.30 – 7.30pm at St John's, to be there with a listening ear, providing empathy and support and the odd cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. This has been incredibly popular among bereaved people, but more help is needed.

6. **Starfish** - drop in for the homeless and socially isolated. We have superb volunteers who help each week. If anyone can offer their time to help on Saturday morning that would be great. Food donations are also very helpful. Contact Simon People for more information

7. **Help Needed** for serving the teas and coffees after the 9am Mass in Sacred Heart. After Christmas there will only be two people available. Just once a month – please speak to Bill or contact office.

8. **St John's Cleaners** – Could you, or someone you know, spare two hours a month to help with cleaning our beautiful church? Please contact the parish office.

Remember – **YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT!** You are more than welcome to come along and join in with any group to see if you feel you can help - no obligation. Just contact Wendy or Dan.

New jobs to support our Evangelisation and Liturgy work:

9. Are you creative and prayerful with a sound knowledge of the Bible and ideally some catechetical/teaching skills? Would you be interested in helping to create our next series of Home Group material based on the scripture? Please contact Alex in the office if you can help.

10. Could you spare an hour each week helping with the filing of music and word sheets needed and used by the Choirs preferably Monday, Wednesday or Fridays. *Anyone with excel experience also needed. If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact Alex in the office 01827 769403 or e-mail alex@tamworthrc.church*



The Christmas Raffle helps our parish pay for building repairs and charity projects. Please support it. If you haven't already got yours, get them this weekend. The first prize is £250 cash. Other prizes include a 'drone', Batman Lego and more. The draw will be next Sunday! Please bring in stubs and money asap.

New to the Parish? If so welcome!

Please introduce yourself and enable us to contact you, bless your home, welcome you properly etc. Just speak to a member of the clergy after Mass.

Please note early morning Advent Masses and 'Walk with Me' booklets in the porch.

Money Matters	
Envelopes	125.51
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	520.75
Total:	£1446.26
Kenelm Youth	542.53
<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 office@tamworthrc.church	



Sing for Fun! Why not come along and join in some singing for fun with a group of like-minded people? All are welcome. The sessions are on the first Thursday of the Month at Sacred Heart, and the third Thursday of the Month at The Hub in the Castle Grounds 10.30-11.30am with teas and coffees. Next session Thursday 6th December at Sacred Heart Church.

Christmas Sing for Fun at Asda- Thursday 20th December 10.00-11.30. Sing a range of Christmas Songs and some carols to raise money for the Singing for Fun sessions (to enable us to buy some more music) and to bring the joy of Christmas to the shoppers too. Please come and join us for this Community Event. Contact alex@tamworthrc.church for more details.

Friday Youth Group - We are also pleased to announce that we will be starting a second Youth Club after the Christmas Holiday. This Youth Club will be for young people within Year Groups 9-13. It will meet each Friday within Sacred Heart from 7-9pm. More details will be revealed in the coming weeks... Watch this space!



Youth Club - We are very happy to announce that our Thurs Youth Group for those in years 6-9 has been given the name 'Phoenix' - the mythical creature that constantly renews itself, like in Jesus's death and resurrection. This week was our 4th week running Phoenix and we are very happy to have around 30 young people coming! Please continue to pray for Phoenix and this vital ministry.



Youth Masses: A huge thank you to the Youth for leading the Masses so beautifully last weekend. Thank you to the children staff and parents of our two schools for leading liturgies at the 9.00 and 10.30 Masses. They took a great lead in the singing and reading introducing us to new music and showing great joy in their celebration of their faith.



Thank you also, to our talented older youth who led the 12.00 noon Mass so enthusiastically as part of our Youth Band. Again, their musicality and confidence with reading enhanced the Mass. Many people have commented on how much they enjoyed these Masses- one person was even moved to tears- hopefully of joy!

20s and 30s "Youngish" Adults Group: We have a vision within the Church to see a flourishing group of adults within their 20s and 30s coming together to have a time for community, where we can journey together having; faith, fun and friendship. We are currently in the process

of organising a few community events for people within this age group. If you would like to be included in this 20s and 30s group, then please contact our Youth Worker Dan who is coordinating this group - dan@tamworthrc.church

Walk With Me Booklets for Advent are available this weekend. Just take one and make a small donation. It is a great way of ensuring our preparation for Christmas is spiritual.

Situations Vacant - Out of Hours Club Assistant at St Elizabeth's check the notice board for more details

Renovating Our Churches: When consulting about St John's we spoke about icons being painted by a Christian Iconography project based in Palestine. The first two are complete (Mary and St John the Baptist) and should arrive soon. As well as buying beautiful artwork we are supporting a fantastic social action project in a country facing terrible oppression. They cost £1500 each - less than the cost of the boiler repair but still a lot of money. Any sponsorship is welcome.

Plans for Sacred Heart renovation will be revealed for discussion soon.



Alternative to leaving Christmas Cards at the back of church in the hope that they will be picked up, it has been suggested that we have a donation box for you to put in the money you would have spent on cards. This money would be used, through HOT, to help those in most need. Of course, if you still wish to leave cards, this will also be fine.

Thanks To Tea Makers at Sacred Heart for the £200 raised.

"I like the Ten Commandments, but there's a problem with the ninth one. It should be: 'Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's ox - except in Scrabble.'" David Doherty