

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

Office: Sacred Heart Church, Silver Link Rd, Tamworth, B77 2EA

Parish Office: 01827 769403

Parish Centre Bookings: 01827 288226

Fr Michael: michael@tamworthrc.church

Fr Srinu: srinu@tamworthrc.church

Deacon Brian: brian@tamworthrc.church

Deacon Bob: bob@tamworthrc.church

Bookings: nora@tamworthrc.church

Admin: Wendy: office@tamworthrc.church

Catechesis/liturgy: alex@tamworthrc.church

Youth: dan@tamworthrc.church

www.tamworthrc.church

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



Feast of the Epiphany (C) – 6th January 2019

Psalm Response: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you

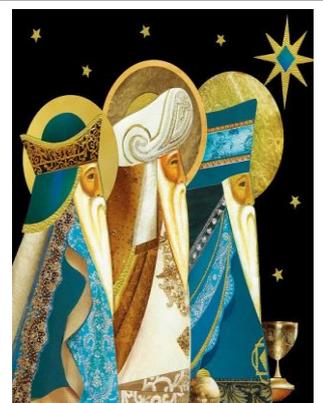
Readings: 1st: Is 60:1-6; Ps 71; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Saturday 5th January	Christmas feria Epiphany of the Lord	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Evelyn Reardon Margaret Gallagher – Paul Piggott
Sunday 6th January	Epiphany of the Lord	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Michael Nolan – Noel Smith Dominic Barron – Johnny Morris & Family Melanie Richards – Eva Harasztosi
Monday 7th January	Christmas feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service
Tuesday 8th January	Christmas feria	10.00 am (S.H.)	Joe O'Dwyer
Wednesday 9th January	Christmas feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	Ann Gillen
Thursday 10th January	Christmas feria	10.00am (S.J.)	Funeral of Hilda Casey
Friday 11th January	Christmas feria	9.15am (S.G.) 12.30 (S.J.)	Michael O'Dwyer The sick and housebound of the parish
Saturday 12th January	Christmas feria The Baptism of the Lord	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Casey, Darby and Warnock families Paddy Joyce and Mary Hall
Sunday 23rd December	The Baptism of the Lord	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Kath Steggles and Margaret Byrne Nora Bolt and Kathleen Brillely Moira and Karen Davidson and Audrey Howell
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 Dwyer, Teresa Kearney, Maurice Murdanaigum, Joy Espanta, Maria Alcuaz, K Taylor, Bill Hogan, Mandy Williamson, Anthony Hayes, Gillian Horsley, Aoife Sage, Katie Niblett, Dennis Chipman, Fergal Maguire, Betty Breakwell, Catherine McGinty, Margaret Wainwright.

Reflection: When the magi finally encountered the Christ child, they "did him homage" and their lives were undoubtedly changed forever. Pope Benedict XVI described such ultimate faith experiences, like those of the magi, in these words: "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person – Jesus Christ – who gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." The Holy Father went on to say that "faith is above all a personal, intimate encounter with Jesus, an experience of his closeness, his friendship, his love; only in this way does one learn to know him ever more, & to love & follow him ever more."

This great day of celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord has much to offer us on our journey of faith. In Bethlehem, the magi found the fulfilment of all that they were seeking in their lives. So will we ... if we engage the journey of faith honestly ... if we acknowledge our need for God's merciful presence in our lives ... and if we are humble and generous enough to welcome and serve others along the way.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Catherine Lee, Elsie Weir, Percival Keyte, Frederick Sedgley, Michael Weir, Margaret Hunt, Winifred Salt, Harry Spooner, Gillian Florey, George Boonham, Melvin Yates, Cecilia Stewart, Philip McLoughlin, Joseph Castigan, Francis Clibbery, Evelyn Skudder, Catherine Bland, Evelyn Cherrington, Sue Comyn, Bill McGrath, Ida Evans, Peggy Standen, Patrick & Sarah Gillen, Patrick Murphy, Leonard Walker, Michael Carolan, Emily Fanning, Margaret Fitzsimons, Derrick Lees, John O'Neill, Dean Ryan, Mildred Sharrat, John Raymond Browne, Michael Burke, Joseph Moore, Frances Rivers, Francis Baines, Kenneth Westmancoat, Vittorio Boccara, Kenna-Jeanne Renee, Dominic Barron, Theresa Wide, Anthony Bonham, Jack Redmond, George Coates, Michael Dent, Pauline Bartram, Angela Wilkins, Eileen Hartland, Eileen Murphy, Mary Watkins.

Thank-you to all for personal kindness shown to Fr Michael and Fr Srinu over the Christmas – especially for the generous Christmas offerings, gifts and cards. The parish team also thank all who made our Christmas services so beautiful with many attending two or three Christmas Masses as part of their own parish ministry. Everything looked and sounded great so thank-you to all involved in making that happen.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Hilda Casey** who will be received into St John's on Wednesday Jan 9th at 5.00 pm with a funeral Mass on Thursday 10th at 10.00 am; and **Val Archer** will be received into St John's on Monday Jan 21st at 5.00 pm with funeral Mass on Tuesday at 10.00am; **Peter Cuffe** whose service will be at Sutton Crematorium on Wednesday 23rd January 2019 at 12.00 pm; **Gladys Cuffe** whose funeral reception is at St John's on Monday 28th at 5.00 pm followed by funeral Mass on Tuesday 29th at 10.00 am with burial at Wiggington and **Bob Smith** (tbc). May they rest in peace.



Alpha- Our third Alpha finished before Christmas. We have had great feedback on how it has helped many to deepen their faith, discover the Holy Spirit and find a stronger relationship with Jesus. Thank you to all who have helped in any way, leading groups, cooking, washing up, setting tables or washing & ironing table cloths and praying.

Journey in Faith begins this Thursday (10th) at 7.30 pm. Please keep in your prayers the six people who are going to continue their Journey in Faith in January who hope to become Catholics at Easter.

Home Groups- Why not join a Home Group in the New Year and start developing your faith with others? These are quite informal and the time reflecting on the Bible suits all abilities and ages. For details of the Monday or Thursday evening groups or if you would be interested in a day-time Home Group please contact alex@tamworthrc.church or phone 01827 769403. The Home Groups meet fortnightly.

St Elizabeth's Clubs Assistant needed – Check the notice board for more details.

Youth Clubs - We are to be offering two youth clubs! The first for those in year 6-9 (Phoenix) on Thursday evenings and the second for those in year 9-13 on Friday evenings. Both run from 7-9PM and have free pizza. It is a great chance to come together, make new friends, have fun and learn about God. We are desperate for volunteers for both of the clubs, it is a great way to grow in your own faith and have fun while doing it! If you can help email: dan@tamworthrc.church

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 in faith, fun and friendship. 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

Young Leaders and Volunteers – We have various hands-on positions available for any young people who would like to help out in and around the Church as young leaders (year11-13) and young volunteers (year 9-13). For info contact dan@tamworthrc.church



The Archbishop's Visitation to our parish is later this month. He will stay for the weekend of January 26th/27th. During that weekend he will preach at all Masses and want to meet as many people as possible. On Sunday 27th, at 1.00 pm, there will be a short presentation of our work and an opportunity for parishioners to share a simple lunch (maybe soup and sandwiches) and to speak and listen to His Grace.

Would you join us?

If so, put your name on the list in the porch for catering purposes.

This is an opportunity to show our parish at its best so please write the weekend in your diary even if you can't make the meeting.

UCM Meeting this Wednesday 9th Jan at St John's. Please bring Mary's Meals Backpacks.

New Year's Resolutions?

Happy New Year to everyone. People make all sorts of resolutions but the best ones always involve God, since he can make the biggest difference in our lives. What about one of these?



Go on a pilgrimage – then think about Lourdes in May 2019? If you want more information, then sign the list in the porch asap.

Try the Next Alpha – simple but possibly life changing.

What about a tough challenge for Men - Exodus 90! It's a 90 day programme with physical, spiritual and emotional challenges to help all men trying to live out their faith. **Are there 2 more men ready to give it a go (making 6 in total)?**

"Exodus 90 is all about freedom. Why? Because without freedom, we cannot love as we ought. It's about our wives, children, parishes and friends who suffer when we're not at our best. The goal is to achieve the freedom necessary to fully engage the love of God and

the love of neighbour. Exodus 90 is based on a challenging 90-day period of purification, a dying to self, which is supported by a fraternity of like-minded men for greater interior freedom and, eventually, a more purified and selfless love." Google it to find out more.

Or Volunteer

There are lots of volunteering opportunities related to:

1. Work with homeless and marginalised people (speak to Simon on Simon-Peaple@tamworth.gov.uk)
2. Youth work with all ages (contact dan@tamworthrc.church)
3. Alpha (leading, learning, cooking etc), liturgy (musicians or singers), please speak to alex@tamworthrc.church
4. For working with bereaved or people with dementia go to Wendy
5. For building work contact bob@tamworthrc.church
6. For cleaning, office work or other ideas please contact the parish office.



Does anyone have any expertise in CCTV? If so, could they advise us please? Just contact Fr Michael.

Fr Srinu is in India with his family for a few weeks and wishes everyone a happy New Year.

We warmly welcome Fr Noel who is helping us again this weekend. Please pray for the DR of Congo that the elections may lead to a better future for a people who have suffered so much for so long.



A Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage that His Grace, Archbishop Bernard, mentioned in his letter last weekend will be celebrated on Sunday 3rd February, 11am at St Chad's Cathedral. We are encouraging couples who will be celebrating a particular milestone anniversary (10, 15, 20, 25, etc and every year over 60) to attend as well as those newly married or preparing to marry in 2019.

If you know of any couples celebrating a milestone anniversary please ask them to contact me via email – lianne.pap@rc-birmingham.org marking the email 'Marriage Mass'. Lianne is also trying to find the longest married couple in the Diocese and the Communications Team will be interviewing couples who get in

touch to gather testimonies. To date the longest married couple to get in touch is 62 years.

The EU Settlement Scheme is for European citizens who have contributed to the UK over the years who want to settle here when we 'leave Europe'. It may feel divisive or unjust that they are now obliged to apply to stay and have to pay too after giving so much while here. The Catholic Church has opposed this charge and the hurt the whole process might cause. The Church has raised this issue with the Home Office. However, we need to let people know that, for now, they have little choice. People can get more information from gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families

In this parish we thank God that, just as the Irish enriched this country over the years, so now our parish has been blessed by the arrival of people from so many European countries (and other nations) more recently. If we can help you in any way, please let us know.

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 have arrived and can be seen on the parish website (Mary and St John the Baptist). As well as buying beautiful artwork we are supporting a fantastic social action project in a country facing terrible oppression. Bethlehem Icons is providing work for Christians who are struggling to remain in the land where our Christian faith began. This project is a lifeline for them.

Plans for Sacred Heart renovation were revealed last month. These have been drawn up by Brownhill Hayward Brown architects. We showed images at all Masses and invited people to comment. We have received 101 so far. If you are yet to comment it is not too late.

Money Matters	
Envelopes	170.60
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	490.58
Total:	£ 1461.18
Building Fund	277.04
Donations	£2,000.00
<i>Thank-you.</i>	
Signing a Gift Aid form will increase your giving by 25% at no cost to you. For more info call the parish office or email office@tamworthrc.church	



Sacred Heart Design Responses - December 2018

Forms returned	Yes votes	No votes	Other
104	100	3	1
104	96%	3%	1%

Comments: Out of 104 responses, there were **58** comments from people approving the scheme. **2** comments on those opposed to it and **1** comment on 'other' return which was neither for nor against proposal.

Comments in favour: Many of the comments talked about the benefits and the need for refurbishing and it represents good financial planning for the future. The plans were overwhelmingly well received and the light colours preferred.

"The plans look wonderful and are much needed. If it looks anywhere near as good as St John's, it will be worth it. Thank you for all your work on developing the church."

Some comments reflected the need to extend the church as some masses are becoming very crowded.

"The plans look amazing and will really enhance the sanctuary and capacity."

There are some concerns about church structure and that similar designs to St John's may not work at Sacred Heart but recognise the need for updating. The painted ceiling scheme was also queried.



Suggestions: *"Could those asked to tender also be asked to consider a donation to a charitable cause?"*

"Please keep the statues, especially the one of the Sacred Heart and places for candles to be lit to Our Lady and The Sacred Heart."

"I would like to see more seating, stained glass windows and statues to remain."

Critical comments

- "Would prefer a traditional shaped church and felt proposals would give the church a cold feeling. Liked the idea of moving the tabernacle to the centre."*
- "An unnecessary expense, but I'm sure it has already been decided."*
- "Finish St John's First"*

Thank-you for the critical comments which can often be more valuable than the positive ones. It is a shame that they are sometimes anonymous since such comments usually lead to more questions. When developing St John's it was critical comments that helped shape the final designs.

There is no plan to remove statues or candle stands.