

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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



The Baptism of the Lord (B) – 10th January 2021

Psalm Response: The Lord will bless his people with peace

Readings:	Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7	Psalm 28	Acts 10:34-38	Mark 1:7-11
Saturday 9 th January The Baptism of the Lord	12.00 noon (S.J.) 6.00 pm (S.H.)	Tony Soden – William & Jane Matthews Peter Smith		
Sunday 10 th January The Baptism of the Lord	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	People of the Parish Sylvia & Kevin Williams – Anne Marie Purslow Joe O'Dwyer – Melanie Richards		
Tues 12 th Jan Weekday of Ordinary time	8.30 am	John M ^c Caul		
Wed 13 th Jan Weekday of Ordinary time	11.15 am (S.J)	Funeral Mass for Kathleen Titterton		
Thurs 14 th Jan Weekday of Ordinary time	11.00am (S.J.)	Funeral Mass for Robert Marshall		
Fri 15 th Jan Weekday of Ordinary time	8.30 am	Josephine Shields		
Sat 16 th Jan Second Sunday of the Year	12.00 noon (S.J.) 6.00 pm (S.H.)	Sylvia Partan Maureen Carney		
Sunday 17 th January Second Sunday of the Year	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Coleen Tunney – Arthur Hartley Michael Bolger – John McCaul Nora & Brian Cox – The Goff Family		
Confession Saturday St John's Church 11.15am – 11.45 am				

Please pray for the following who are sick: Mary Collins, Margaret Gallagher, Maria Leedham, Beryl Smith, Joy Espanta, Maria Alcuaz, Mandy Williamson, Anthony Hayes, Gillian Horsley, Aoife Sage, Katie Niblett, Catherine McGinty, Margaret Wainwright, Iris Bishop, Jemma Vine, Marie Cole, Corrie Walker, Susan Myers, Fay Bishop, Rose Limm, Raymond Walker, Maureen Walker, Julie Tranter, Anna Flynn, Eileen Darcy, Eleanor Tucker, Dorothy Reardon, Augusto Mayores, Edwin Catli, Sheila Bonser, Fr Jim McCormack, Mary Coady, Patricia Burton, Muriel Lawley, Joan Barber, Dominic Hespe, Richard Wilson, George Williams, Ray Newbold, Nicole Thomson, Mandy Sheridan, Gary Ealing, Dennis Reardon, Marie Purslow and for people with Covid.

Reflection: Have you ever asked yourselves why we bless ourselves when we enter church, or for some in our own homes? We bless ourselves in remembrance of our Baptism with the knowledge that we have been redeemed by the Cross of Christ and that we are a member of God's family.

By the anointment with the Oil of Catechumens, the sign of Christ's gentle strength, to fight against evil. By the Blessed water which is poured over us, an effective sign of interior purification through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The anointment with Chrism to show that we are consecrated in the image of Jesus, the Father's Anointed One and the candle lighted from the Paschal Candle was a symbol of the light of Faith. We have been washed, forgiven, cleansed and purified.

Let us ask Our Lord today to make us faithful to our Baptismal promises. Let us thank Him for the privilege of being joined to His mission of preaching the "Good News" by our transparent Christian lives of love, mercy, service and forgiveness.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: John Larvin, Catherine Turner, Charles Inskip, Daniel McCarthy, Fr. Kennedy, Jeremiah Walsh, Margaret Doyle, Ruth Beirne, Catherine Faulkner, Raymond Davis, Betty Delaney, Simon Burke, Doreen Coleman, Esther Record, Glyn Reed, Katherine Windsor, Kathleen Price, Jean Cuffe, Antoni Czech, Michael Lynch, Sheila Invine, Evelyn Metcalf, Chris O'Hara, Harriet Bambridge, Nellie Wingfield, Catherine Counsell, Winifred Kiff, Eileen Smallman, Frank Baker, Michael Johnson, Annie Miles, Peggy Standen, Robert Cuffe, Denis Tierney, Anthony Hunt, Kevin Hynes, John Prosser, Lilian Davis, Marjorie Brennan, Catherine Watson, Mary Whelan, Anthony Fisher, Patrick Brady, James Salt, Margaret Lawrence, Bridget Shanley, William Heffernan, Nancy Lynch, Br. Martin Morris, Maureen Dunhill, James O'Reilly, Olive Aherne, Ann Chinn, Tracy McLean, Raymond George Smith.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Kathleen Titterton** who will be received into St John's on Tues 12th Jan at 4pm followed by the funeral Mass on Wed, 13th Jan at 11.15am; **Robert Marshall** whose funeral will take place on Thurs 14th Jan at St John's at 11.00am **Mary Miller**, Anne Marie Purslow's mother, **Robert Johnston** who will be received in to Sacred Heart Church on Wednesday 27th Jan at 4.00pm followed by the funeral Mass on Thursday 28th Jan at 12.15pm, **Ted Cotterill** whose funeral will take place on Tues 19th Jan at 11.00 at St John's and **George King**, Anne's husband whose funeral will be on Fri 29th at 12.15 at Sutton Crematorium. We also remember **Sylvia Parton**, Lin Titterton's sister. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen



A Warm Welcome to Gerry Bowen who is training for the priesthood at Oscott College. He is in his second year. Gerry is from the Oratory parish in Birmingham and was a primary school teacher. He is only with us for two weeks. Please keep him in your prayers.

Catechesis on Zoom: First Holy Communions 2021: The next session for children from non-Catholic schools is on Monday 11th January at 6.00pm. This will take place on Zoom. You will be sent a link to join nearer the time. The next booklet is ready for collection at Sacred Heart Church Parish Office.



Confirmations 2021: The next session of Youth Alpha for the Wednesday Group of children who attend non-Catholic schools is on 13th January 6.30-7.30pm on Zoom. You will be sent a link nearer the time.

Parents Catechesis: For Parents of St Gabriel's children preparing for First Holy Communion in Miss Caswell's Class, the next session is on Tuesday 12th January at 6.30-7.30pm on Forgiveness. You will be sent a link nearer the time.

Online Home Groups: These will meet on Zoom on Monday 11th January at 8.00-9.00pm. For more information and to receive a link contact alex@tamworthrc.church. New member's welcome- explore scripture and pray together. A simple way to deepen your faith.

Journey in Faith – A course to explore the Catholic Faith for non- Catholics or adults interested in receiving one or more of the Sacraments for the first time? Perhaps you have missed out on Confirmation or First Holy Communion? Please contact alex@tamworthrc.church as soon as possible as we have just started this course on Thursday evenings on Zoom at 7.30-9.00pm. The next session is Thursday 14th January 2021.

Alpha- Is there more to life than this? Explore the Christian faith with others in a friendly, informal way. Getting back to church or exploring for the first time? This course could be just right for you. Inspiring videos and discussion. Sign up now for more details: alex@tamworthrc.church

Connect: We are still working hard to contact all our parishioners. Thank you to all our volunteers who are phoning from home. They are withholding their numbers so don't be anxious if you get a few withheld numbered phone calls.



The 'Drop Shop' has been run by a group of charities up till now. While those same people will continue to be very much involved, it will now come under the banner of Heart of Tamworth. A shed will be erected to provide more storage space. We will look to try to buy the present shop so that we can continue to provide this service for at least the next 12 months and lose the rental charge.

Maranatha Prayer Chain: If you would like the Maranatha Group to pray for an intention please contact parishioners Terry O'Brien - terryvobrien@icloud.com or Sylvia Geldard 01827 65264.



Lockdown Staying Safe in 2021: Once again we thank our wardens for keeping us safe in Church. They have been so generous and committed for 9 months now.

We need to keep reflecting on what we do and reduce risks. It does seem that the time when people come closest is at the end of Mass. We love it that people want to chat inside, but that is not advisable right now. Please do follow our wardens' advice at all times.

Weekend Masses: Please also note that we have reduced our masses at weekends to 5 (no 9.00am at St John's or 10.30 am at Sacred Heart). We will review it again when Lent comes or if increased numbers mean it will be necessary for social distancing.

The Memory Café and Bereavement Help Point are allowed to open during lockdown: Official Government information on Support groups:- *Support groups that have to be delivered in person can continue with up to 15 participants where formally organised to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support - but they must take place at a premises other than a private home. Where a group includes someone covered by an exception (for example, someone who is working or volunteering).....*

Memory Café but people must book: To join us, contact Karen 01827431002, 01543-625002 or karen.wilkinson@homeinstead.co.uk.

Bereavement Help Point: We can only have up to 15 visitors which will include 2 volunteers. If you would like more information please contact Wendy on 01827 769403 or office@tamworthrc.church.

Christmas Raffle Draw 2020

Prizes	Winner and ticket number
1 ST Prize - £250	Mr Levesley 1238
2 nd Prize - £50	Bob Neville 2996
3 rd Prize - £25	T Joesbury 2049
4 th Prize Litre of Brandy	Ann Smith 1700
5 th Prize Whisky	K Critchley 3013
6 th Prize Jug Kettle	Maureen Edden 1025
7 th Prize Bacardi Rum	James Kelly 0666
8 th Prize Red Wine	Nigel Brindley 2362
9 th Prize White Wine	Harry Ealing 3560
10 th Prize Christmas Cake	McCauley 2656
11 th Prize Rose Wine	Linda 2011
12 th Prize German Wine	Maxine Carbado3520
13 th Prize Christmas Pudding	Sue 1841
14 th Prize Sweets	R M Kinsella 0054
15 th Prize Biscuits	Ruth Shaw 3342



Thank-you for buying tickets. The raffle made approximately £1,100. Thanks to the person who donated the prizes too.

Please Pray for the Staff and children in our Schools: It would be easy to think that things have become easy for the staff with no children in but they have to teach the children via the internet. It changes all their preparation, their communication, their ability to interact as they normally would and adds lots of technical problems too. It is a stressful time. It is also hard for parents trying to manage work and home with the sudden changes caused by the lockdown.



Building Update: We have started moving our offices over now. Many of you have also been to the Church and entered through the new building. There have been many positive comments, thank-you. Community Together have also moved into their office too, car park lights are now working. But there are still jobs to do like the internet connections (scheduled for this weekend), the café kitchen (next week), furnishing the café and going through a number of items on a snagging list but the end is in sight.

We won't be opening the café for a few weeks, for obvious reasons and we won't be having any opening events either. Hopefully, we can plan both around Easter time. Thank-you to so many people who have played a part in all of this.

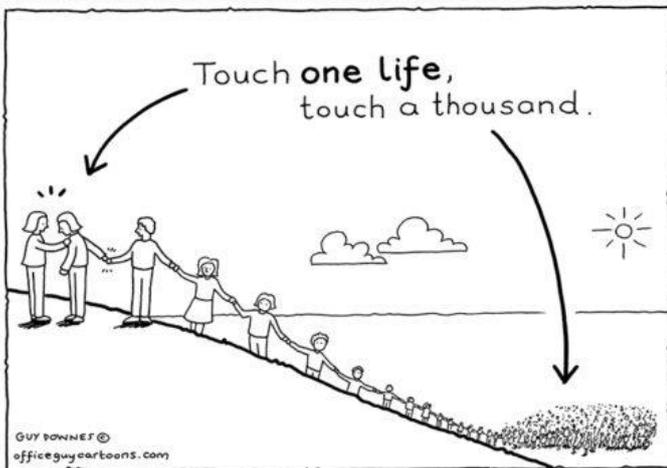


Hope

I am sure that we are all facing this latest lockdown feeling tired and a little downhearted. We are in the tenth month of this pandemic. It has been a long 10 months and we can see the lives of our parents, children, friends and neighbours badly affected – our own too. My father was taken into hospital last night and my sister works in infectious disease control in the Q.E. – it's tough but both are trying to be optimistic. It is hard to feel positive; we can easily slip into despondency but here are two things we might do to avoid that:

1. As negative as we might feel, we should not behave as though we have no faith. It does test our faith. But, in order to avoid giving in to despair or negativity, begin with praying as much as you can. If you are watching mass online, then please make sure that for those 35 minutes, there are no distractions, a candle is lit and you prepare yourself spiritually. It is in the midst of deep prayer that we find peace and hope.

If you are not too vulnerable then come along to Mass and receive communion. We might not be able to sing or even chat with people but the depth and reality of God's presence is the primary reason for coming. God is truly present and we receive him in the eucharist.



2. People have learned over the centuries that the best way to find happiness or peace is to try to bring it to others. It is easy (and very human) for us to turn inwards but that just increases the sadness.

So, if you feel negative, then find someone in need – a friend or neighbour. Most of us are probably doing it already or maybe you have a family of your own that you are encouraging. This is part of our mission as disciples of Jesus. And when we bring hope to others, we find it ourselves.

Father Michael

The USA has distracted us a little from Covid this week but not for good reasons. It is unquestionably one of the great nations of the world and has so often been a real force for good. We should all be praying for the people there right now, that they will unite, speak up in truth and protect the vulnerable.

Pray too for the new president who is charged with this task and for the existing president that he will find peace and spend his final days in the service of God and the people of America.

And let's pray for our own politicians too. It is a truly awful time where every decision can cost lives or leave people in despair. It must be harrowing for them. Pray that they will be guided by the wisdom of God and a desire to humbly serve the people of this country.

Let's remember the Church as well. We have no small part to play and what we do, in prayer and action, is important for the spiritual and mental well-being of so many. We thank God that the nation recognises this in letting us operate vital services, especially allowing us to meet in prayer. It is not everyone who recognises this as an essential service. It is good that the government does. Maybe that will remind us that what we do isn't a luxury or a hobby but something vital. Our first hope must always be in God. Let's place our trust in Him.

