St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

**Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year (A) –2020**


**Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>People</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 10th October</td>
<td>Isaiah 25:6-10</td>
<td>12.00 noon (S.J.)</td>
<td>Margaret Burke</td>
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<td>6.00pm (S.H.)</td>
<td>Jim Donnelly – Patricia Davidson</td>
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<td>Sunday 11th October</td>
<td>Psalm 22</td>
<td>9.00am (S.J.)</td>
<td>Katherine Ford</td>
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<td>9.00am (S.H.)</td>
<td>Daphne &amp; Veronica Hall</td>
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<td>10.30am (S.J.)</td>
<td>Sylvia &amp; Kevin Williams – Margaret Smith</td>
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<td>10.30am (S.H.)</td>
<td>Tom Quinn – Katherine Kelly</td>
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<td>12.00 noon (S.H.)</td>
<td>Mary Hanranhan – Dan Malin - Veronica Ann Johnson</td>
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<td>Tuesday 13th October</td>
<td>St Teresa</td>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Pauline Whitehead</td>
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<td>Wednesday 14th October</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.00am (S.H.)</td>
<td>Funeral Mass for Bill Bonser</td>
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<td>Thursday 15th October</td>
<td>St Ignatius</td>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Bill Popowycz</td>
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<td>Friday 16th October</td>
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<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Mary Miller &amp; Alec Lynn</td>
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<td>Saturday 17th October</td>
<td></td>
<td>12.00 noon (S.J.)</td>
<td>Tony Soden</td>
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<td>6.00pm (S.H.)</td>
<td>Simon Doherty – Nancy Clark</td>
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<td>Sunday 18th October</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.00am (S.J.)</td>
<td>Sean Ford – Norah Casey</td>
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<td>9.00am (S.H.)</td>
<td>Bridget Stone – Nancy Clark</td>
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<td>10.30am (S.J.)</td>
<td>Tom Quinn – Katherine Kelly</td>
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<td>10.30am (S.H.)</td>
<td>Sarah &amp; Patrick Gillen- Special Intentions</td>
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<td>12.00 noon (S.H.)</td>
<td>John &amp; Tony O’Dwyer - Ned Nolan</td>
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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, Teresa Kearney, Joy Espanta, Maria Alcauz, Mandy Williamson, Anthony Hayes, Gillian Horsley, Aoife Sage, KatieNiblett, 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, Bob Johnston, Eleanor Tucker, Dorothy Reardon, Sam Wilson, Augusto Mayores, Edwin Catli, Sheila Bonser, Fr Jim McCormack, Mary Coady, Patricia Burton, Muriel Lawley, Joan Barber, Dominic Hespe, Richard Wilson, Peter Smith.

**Reflection:** The parable of the wedding in today’s gospel was spoken when Jesus saw that his own people were moving to reject him. The story is symbolic, but the invitation to us is a real one. It is an invitation to live a good life. The invitation to the kingdom of heaven is cast wide, yet we are free to say yes or no. No matter how low a stature we seem to have in life, we will always be welcome. We can shake off the rags of our injustice, our less good self and dress in the clothes of a new, more loving person. Let us ask God to help us to respond as best we can to this real invitation and for the grace to be consistent in our choices and become people of integrity.

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:** Patrick Dunlop, Florence Archer, Daisie Reed, Peter Smith, Sarah Gillan, Annie Garry, James Cavin, Christine Godfellow, Agnes Hughes, Laurence Haiste, Catherine Whelan, Dot Fairfield, Thomas Sunter, Kevin Hirons, Annie Smith, Veronica Hall, Kathleen Oxenbold, Dr. Philip Vaughan, Ellen Brotherhood, Dennis Stokes, Michael Dunleavey, George New, James Watts, John Dola, Tony Reading, Leonard Reading, Veronica (Ronnie) Johnson, Raymond Coleman, Aidrie Hewitt, Olive Clancy, Marjorie Bishop, Bernadette Whitlock, Alec Cockeram, Emma Novakova, Justine Entwistle, Dephne Hall, Violet Seekings.
Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bill Bonser whose funeral will take place in the Sacred Heart on Wednesday 14th October at 10.00am. We also remember Peter Barass, brother in law of Pat who died recently and Tricia Healy who died last week. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Please check new Mass times
See Below

If you are at Mass and have not booked in with Eventbrite, please tell the wardens so your name is recorded for track and trace purposes.

Stewards and Cleaners after Mass- Many thanks to those who are helping with the stewarding and cleaning. We couldn’t go ahead with our Masses without you. We urgently need to expand our teams especially with the extra Masses happening soon. If you can help, please contact the Parish office.

Connect has started! Our admin team of volunteers have worked brilliantly to get us organised with the paperwork. We could do with a few more phone volunteers as we hope to phone all parishioners in the coming months. We just want to see how you are and if you need or can offer any help. Please tell us if you think we don’t have your contact details.

Thank you to the 23 Volunteers now involved. It has been a fantastic response to this worthwhile project and shows what a great community we have. If you want to help please contact Alex

Are you good at administration? Help is needed with this project in the office too. Please contact alex@tamworthrc.church – this is much needed but just for a few weeks.

Interested in Becoming a Catholic? A programme to explore the Catholic faith and see if this is for you is running on Thursday evenings at Sacred Heart. It is not too late to join. Just contact michael@tamworthrc.church or alex@tamworthrc.church for a chat and more details. We would love to meet you. If you can’t make Thursday evenings do still get in touch we will try to accommodate you at another time.

Journey in Faith- The next programme for new candidates has just started, so if you know anyone who would be interested in becoming a Catholic, please get in touch now 01827 769403 or contact alex@tamworthrc.church

Online Home Group- There are two Online groups meeting on Mondays fortnightly and Wednesdays. If you would like to attend on Zoom, please contact alex@tamworthrc.church. All are welcome. The next Monday session is on 2nd November.

This Weekend our parish is marking CAFOD’s Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We’ve all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let’s come together to help the most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected and donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or by using one of the envelopes.

You can also give easily via text. Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10.

Text donations show on your mobile phone bill as £10 plus one standard rate message and you’ll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you’d like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085. For more information please see our Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice.

Thank you for your continued support of these important Catholic charities.

Thank-you to everyone who has continued to support the Tamworth Hygiene Bank. We continue to have an increased demand for hygiene products for local people in need. We have now supplied all Tamworth schools with hand sanitisers, disinfectant and hand wash. We especially need: Men’s deodorants, Children’s toothbrushes, washing powder, washing up liquid. Contact Sue: 251197. or see https://www.facebook.com/thehygienebanktamworth

Sacristan for St John’s – We need one please. Would you be available at weekends to prepare the Sacristy and Altar before Masses? Training will be offered. Contact the Parish Office, Fr Michael or Rev Bob for more information.

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<th>Money Matters</th>
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<td>Collection</td>
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<td>Standing Orders</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>Peter’s Pence</td>
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Thank-you to all.
We are thrilled to announce our youth clubs will be returning next week! To book onto our youth clubs please fill out our new online membership form [https://forms.gle/2EmwV8WKHRgbmayH9](https://forms.gle/2EmwV8WKHRgbmayH9) and follow all instructions.

**Phoenix** (School year 7-9) will be returning on Wednesday 7th October, it will run two sessions each week, 6.45-7.45pm and 8-9pm.

**Friday Night Youth** (School year 9-13) will return on 9th October. It will run one session, 7.30-9pm. Both youth clubs will have various changes made to them to ensure we are “Covid secure”. If anyone has any questions about the youth clubs then please feel welcome to get in touch with Dan at: dan@tamworthrc.church

**HoT Re-opening** services in our community centre is going to happen in the coming weeks. These activities are exempt from many restrictions (although still need to be planned with care and safety in mind). This is because they are regarded as essential to people’s mental, emotional and physical well-being – much like Mass is essential to our spiritual well-being. We also hope that this will tie in with opening the Café some time in November.

**First Holy Communion 2020** - Next weekend there will be 4 Masses when children will be making their First Holy Communions- Saturday 17th October 10.00am at St John’s and Sacred Heart, 12.00 Noon at Sacred Heart ( Saturday) and at the 10.30am Mass at Sacred Heart on Sunday 18th October. These Masses are booked for the children and their families only. Please note that there will be no spaces available to book on the Sunday 10.30am Mass at Sacred Heart. Please keep all the children from our Parish making this Sacrament in your prayers.

**First Holy Communions 2020** - The final session of preparation for the children from non-Catholic schools for their First Holy Communion next Sunday is on Monday from 6.00pm-7.00pm at Sacred Heart.

**Confirmations 2021** - If you have a child just starting in Year 6 or above who attends a non- Catholic School and would like to be Confirmed, please contact alex@tamworthrc.church or phone 01827 769403

**First Holy Communions 2021** - If you have a child in Yr 3 or above at a non-Catholic School who would like to receive their First Holy Communion, please contact alex@tamworthrc.church or phone 01827 769403.

**Parents from St Gabriel’s of those being Confirmed in 2021.** Meetings will be held this Tuesday 13th October at Sacred Heart Church- At 6.00pm for those whose child is in Mr Fowler’s Class and 7.00pm for those in Mrs. Taggart’s Class.

**New Mass Times**

Masses at St Johns: Saturday at 12 am.
Sundays at **9.00** (new) & 10.30 am

**Sacred Heart:** Saturday at 6.00pm
Sundays at 9.00, **10.30** (new) & 12.00 noon.

When you book and sometimes find your Mass is full, please don’t give up. We are in the middle of a pandemic and we need to be flexible. Just choose one of the other 6 masses. This is not a time to be rigid or territorial. We need to focus on what Jesus asks of us and that is to bring more people to him. If they choose to come to our usual Mass, should we not thank God for that?

**To save a place at one of these Masses please** click on [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-john-the-baptist-catholic-church-tamworth-30528677234](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-john-the-baptist-catholic-church-tamworth-30528677234)

For track and trace purposes there are now QR codes in both churches and meeting spaces.
We Continue to pray for healing and solutions in this Covid crisis. Most places remain open but people are right to be careful and avoid them if they are at risk. But our Churches and faith is also vital. If you are going to other places, then attending Mass is safer than most places and much more important than many of them too, so please join us.

Growing Leaders: This course of development of lay leaders in the Parish will continue on Zoom on Monday 19th October from 7.30-9.00pm. Those on the course and their mentors will be sent a link to join on Zoom.

Is there more to Life than this? Try Alpha- Online with a twist! It is not too late to join this Online Alpha Course - with just a couple of sessions in person at the Sacred Heart too. Zoom just needs downloading from zoom.us then we send you a link to join these sessions on Thursday evenings from 7.30-9.00pm. Please come along to explore the Christian faith and meet new people! To book a place please contact alex@tamworthrc.church or phone -01827 769403

The CAP Money Course is a free course that will teach you budgeting skills and a simple, cash-based system that works. In just a few weeks, you will get to grips with your finances so you can budget, save and prevent debt.

Whether you feel pretty organised or whether it’s like a lucky dip every time you try to withdraw cash from your account, the CAP Money Course will help you take complete control of your finances. There are hundreds of courses run throughout the country each year, along with specific courses for students, youth and kids. To contact us use the form or send an email to cap@tamworthrc.church

Community Together (CIC) Hub to Home Meal Delivery – Set price £7 Meal Delivery twice weekly, Monday and Wednesday – To find out your weekly choice and order your meal call 01827 59646.

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

Parish Finances have been hit heavily in the past 6 months. We estimate our income will drop by £35,000 (£10k of fundraising and £25k in reduced collections) and we will also have an increase in our Diocesan levy of about £20,000. That’s a massive £55,000 difference over last year when both figures added together.

What has helped us has been people giving via standing Orders and those who saved envelopes. If you don’t use standing orders, please take one and sign up. Your giving is a real sign of your faith and commitment to God.

It is only through people giving financially that we can spread the Good News, help the poor and minister to young and old pastorally.

Recent Donations have included over £90 collected from family and friends at Marc Gassy’s funeral. Our thanks to all the family for contributing that to our work here in the parish. We also thank Irene Jones for leaving £200 to us in her will. May she rest in peace. And we have had £3,000 donated to our building project (landscaping) by a member of the parish. This has gone into our HoT account. Our thanks to this parishioner and his wife for their generosity.

Thank-you to all for your financial support which is crucial to us doing God’s work in the way we do.

Landscaping at Sacred Heart will begin this week. It will have some impact on use of the car park but it will remain open. The work will include a lit pathway from the road to the entrance, a patio at the side and some planting areas. Finally, the car park will be tarmacked and new lines added. It will take about a month to complete.