

# 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](mailto:michael@tamworthrc.church)

Fr Subba: [subba@tamworthrc.church](mailto:subba@tamworthrc.church)

Deacon Brian: [brian@tamworthrc.church](mailto:brian@tamworthrc.church)

Deacon Bob: [bob@tamworthrc.church](mailto:bob@tamworthrc.church)

Bookings: [nora@tamworthrc.church](mailto:nora@tamworthrc.church)

Admin: Wendy: [office@tamworthrc.church](mailto:office@tamworthrc.church)

Catechesis/liturg: [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church)

Youth: [dan@tamworthrc.church](mailto:dan@tamworthrc.church)

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

## Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year (A) – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Psalm Response:** The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy

Readings:	Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7	Psalm 192	Romans 14:7-9	Matthew 18:21-35
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Feria	12.00 noon (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.H.)	Fr Srinu	Staff and pupils of our three schools
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year</b>	9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Francis McKernan Teddy Hallissey Elaine Davis & Family – Tom Welsh	
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Feria	10.00 am (S.J.)	<b>Kathleen Mander Funeral</b>	
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Our lady of Sorrows	8.30am	Arthur Henry	
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Feria	8.30am	Jimmy Ferguson	
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Feria	8.30am	Gemma Luskin	
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Feria	8.30am	Tom Quinn	
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Feria	12.00 noon (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.H.)	Anne & Sidney Green – Margaret Burke	People of the Parish
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year</b>	9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Padraig Gillen Michael Kennedy – Michelle MacNamara Amelia Wayne & Family – Kathy Davies & Family	

**Confession Saturday St John's Church 11.15am – 11.45 am**

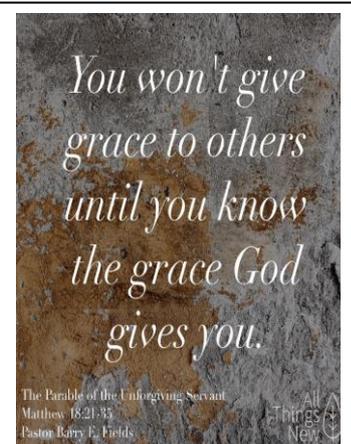
**Please pray for the following who are sick:** Mary Collins, Margaret Gallagher, Maria Leedham, Beryl Smith, Teresa Kearney, Joy Espanta, Maria Alcuaz, Mandy Williamson, Anthony Hayes, Gillian Horsley, Aoife Sage, Katie Niblett, Catherine McGinty, Margaret Wainwright, Iris Bishop, Jemma Vine, Marie Cole, Corrie Walker, Susan Myers, Fay Bishop, Rose Limm, Leonard Carbado, Raymond Walker, Maureen Walker, Julie Tranter, Anna Flynn, Eileen Darcy, Pat Timmins, Bob Johnston, Eleanor Tucker, Dorothy Reardon, Sam Wilson, Augusto Mayores, Edwin Catli, Sheila Bonser, Bill Bonser, Fr Jim McCormack, Mary Coady, Patricia Burton, Muriel Lawley, Joan Barber, Dominic Hespe, Richard Wilson.

**Reflection:** Today we hear about the mercy of God. Nothing except compassionate mercy cancels a debt like the one referred to in the story. It calls us to be merciful as we have received mercy. Mercy is deeper than forgiveness, it sees into the heart of the other and walks around for a while in the others shoes. It includes compassion and active healing. Shakespeare's Portia described mercy as, 'twice bless'd - it blesseth him that gives and him that takes.' To live in an environment of mercy is to live in an atmosphere of peace, healing and growth.

Let us humbly bring ourselves before God who forgives us everything, who loves us beyond any sin. The forgiveness that God gives is often difficult for us to receive. It is given to us generously so that we may give it freely to others.

The theologian Romano Guardini pointed out that forgiveness means pardoning and letting go completely, creating and making the offender new again. It requires great grace to forgive.

So let us pray for those who have caused us hurt and, even if we can't wish them well now, let's pray that one day we might.



**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:** Martin Kennedy, Thomas Garrity, Catherine Davis, Beatrice Collins, Elizabeth Tricklebank, Winifred Tomson, Nellie Brown, Patrick Gallagher, Mary Florendine, James Hunt, Mary Hails, Joseph Fogg, Michael Fenelon, Josef Grobleney, Paddy Larvin, Mary Heafield, Sarah Smith, William Tully, Philip Carroll, Mary Plant, Hugh Twomey, Louise Bull, Vera Stevens, Robert Robertson Thompson, Kathryn Pomeroy, Lily Cureton, David Farrell, Anthony Shevlin, David Hepple, Louisa Keane, Nancy Kinsella, Caroline Pully, John Black, Andrew Bennett, Clifford Walters, Margaret Burke, Jean Hopkins, Oliver Meaney, Padraig Gillen, Daniel Wyatt.



**Please pray** for the repose of the soul of **Kathleen Mander** whose funeral will be at 10 am on Monday Sept 14<sup>th</sup> at St John's; **Marc Gassy**, father to Claire Roberts, will be received into Sacred Heart Church on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Sept at 5pm, the funeral Mass will take place on Tues at 12noon and **Alice Fitzsimmons** whose funeral will be at Sacred Heart with reception into Sacred Heart on Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3.30 and funeral Mass on Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Sept at 12 noon. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

**Seating in Mass.** Please keep more than a metre away from people alongside you and **please sit instead of kneeling during Mass, until further notice.**

**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.**

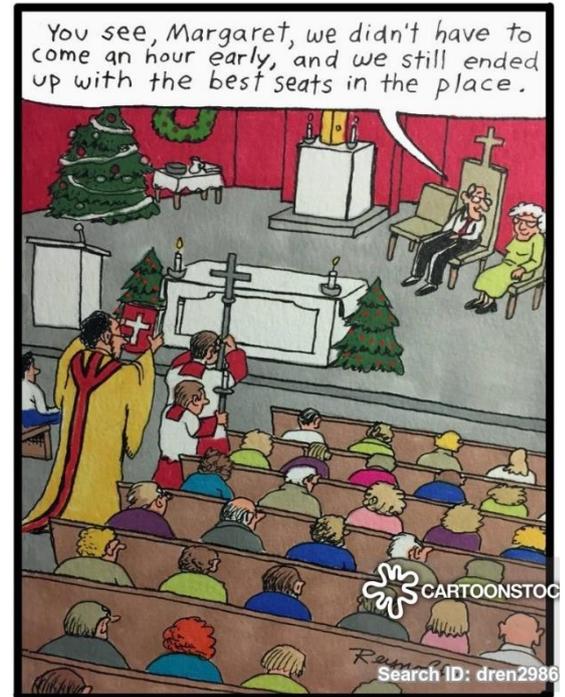
**Masses in Our Churches and the Future:** As the school term begins our numbers usually jump with parents and children committing to Sacramental preparation. To increase capacity, the parish council have agreed that we should have two extra Masses (albeit with reservations due to the additional workload).

Mass times at **St Johns:** Saturdays at 12 noon.  
**New Mass Times** Saturdays at 9.00 and 10.30 am.  
 at **Sacred Heart:** Saturdays at 6.00 pm &  
 Sundays at 9.00, 10.30 & 12.00 am.

**These will start on the weekend of October 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> (underlined Masses are new).**

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, we should thank God for that.

7 Masses is a lot and if either Fr Michael or Fr Subba is ill or away it will be impossible to cover them all. So, the 2 new 'mass times' would become Eucharistic services.



**HOW TO SPOT INFREQUENT MASS ATTENDEES.**

**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>

**YouTube Masses** – We are live streaming the 10.30am Mass from St John's. <https://youtu.be/L2jHrQsXKzw>



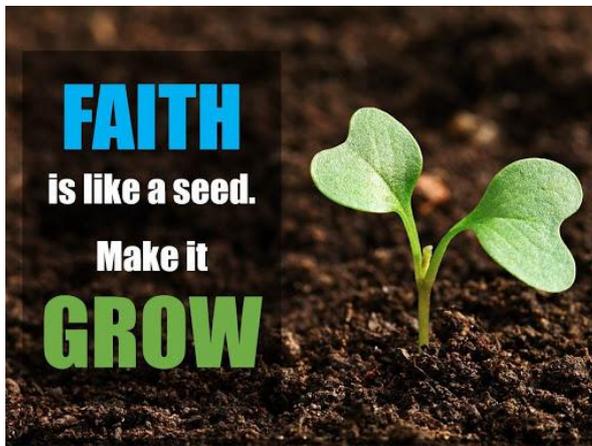
**Connect has started!** Thank-you to the 18 people who have already volunteered. We wish to connect with all our parishioners. Trained volunteers will give each of our Parishioners a phone call to see how you are and how you are staying connected. Please tell us if you think we don't have your contact details.

There will be a training session for remaining and new volunteers this Tuesday 7.30pm on Zoom. If you would like to volunteer for Connect contact alex@tamworthrc.church. You just need to be a good communicator and able to keep vital confidentiality.

**Alpha 21- Day Prayer Campaign-** Who would you like to bring into or back to the church? The first most important step is to pray for them. Join our 21- day prayer campaign for Alpha. Pray for three people that you would like to see strengthen their faith. Set an alarm for 11.02 and pray the Lord's Prayer each day for them. Why 11.02? Luke Chapter 11 verse 2 is where Jesus teaches his disciples the Lord's Prayer!

**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>



**Do you or anyone you know want to deepen your faith?**

Maybe you know someone who wants to learn what the Catholic faith is about? A programme to explore the Catholic faith and discipleship starts in four weeks. Come and see if this is for you starting on Oct 1<sup>st</sup> at Sacred Heart. Just contact michael@tamworthrc.church or alex@tamworthrc.church for a chat and more details. We would love to see you.

**Journey in Faith-** Congratulations to Delphine, Nigel, Alex, David, Leonard, Ashley, Samantha, Steph and Sarah who were received into the church on Saturday evening. Also, Sarah's daughter Nyah who was Baptised too.

The next programme for new candidates starts soon 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

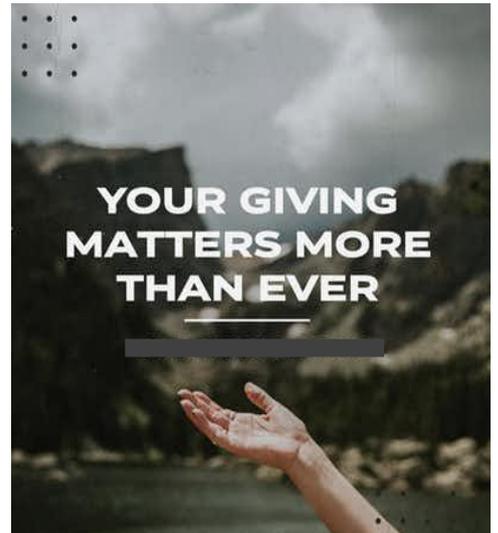
**Community Together (CIC) Hub to Home Meal Delivery** – Set price £7 Meal Delivery twice weekly, Monday and Wednesday – To find out your weekly choice and order your meal call 01827 59646.

**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.

**Collection baskets** will be brought around the pews as they used to – on an extended pole. They will be cleansed before and after Mass. Please put your offering in without touching the bags.



**Birmingham Justice and Peace Assembly 2020:** The Climate Emergency: 'Listening to the cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor'.



This year the Assembly will take place ONLINE over three evenings at 7.30pm: Mon 28 Sept, Wed 30 Sept, Fri 2 October and culminating with an Evening Prayer with the participation of Archbishop Bernard on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Oct at 7pm.

Sessions include: Ecological Conversion – an 'examination of conscience' on our care for our common home. Prepare the Future – building back better to address the climate emergency; and Local Government Responsibilities – planning for the West Midlands. For more information and to book go to <https://bit.ly/JPassembly2020> or email [bham.jandp@gmail.com](mailto:bham.jandp@gmail.com).

**Online Home Group-** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 7.30-9.00pm. If you would like to join please contact [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) The session will explore a

small Scripture reading and involve discussion using Zoom. It is easy to download Zoom from Zoom.us A simple way to deepen your faith and get to know like- minded people.

**Confirmation 2020** will be on September 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. Preparation session on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September from 6.00-7.00pm at Saint John's is for pupils who have just left St Elizabeth's or non-Catholic Primary Schools who are being confirmed.

**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](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) or phone 01827 769403



**First Holy Communions 2021-** If you have a child starting in Year 3 or above who is at a non- Catholic School who would like to receive their First Holy Communion in 2021 and has been Baptised please contact [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) or phone 01827 769403

**Fr Srinu will return** on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September for a presentation and farewell Masses.

# ...and now the **GOOD NEWS**

**There has been a lot of bad news lately.** But, as Christians, we are all about the Good News. That is needed as much as ever before, maybe more so. But when it's hard to hug, visit, talk and sing, we can feel like our hands are tied. Our legs and tongues seem to be tied too!

So how are we going to proclaim the Good News? Well it might be different but it needs to be louder and clearer than before.

Personal approaches are always the best. Inviting someone to Mass or the Journey in Faith, to pray or to read scripture. A direct approach from someone who cares about them is the most powerful way. Who is waiting for you to approach them?

**Mass Has Changed.** But we are still meeting Jesus in each other, in listening to His Word and receiving communion. We can't sing or shake hands but we can pray, open our hearts to the Lord. We can listen and meditate. Maybe these Masses can be deeper and more reflective for us. Maybe we need to do that?

Three ideas:

1. *Arrive early and pray in silence before Mass begins. Work harder to listen to the readings and homily. Give thanks to God from the bottom of your heart after communion.*
2. *If you read well, commit to being a reader at one of the Masses. Help us to shout out the Word of God that enlightens the minds of those who listen. We need our readers to play a big part.*
3. *Come to receive the mercy of God in the Sacrament of reconciliation. It's the best way of recognising our need for God and enjoying his mercy.*

There are five Masses now but we are moving to seven Masses. They might not be as joyful without the singing but God can touch us deeply in other ways. We just need to be open to that.

**Let's Celebrate the Good News already going on.** A group has now come together to help people in financial need with financial advice. They have been trained by **Christians Against Poverty**. In this time when people are facing increasing debt, loss of jobs, struggling with mortgages this is a great new service being offered by 4 parishioners.

**Connect** is another great initiative - from parishioners who are doing a Growing Leaders course. We are trying to connect with members of the parish who have gone off the radar. 16 have volunteered – an amazing response. Their work will be done on the phone, mostly from home. There is a real need to connect people & also to connect them with God.



**Schools are open again!** May God bless our teachers and parents as we try to bring them the Good News. We will also be able to celebrate Mass in school, in small groups. We have great staff in our schools. It is a real blessing.

**Our parish building project has progressed.** It is already looking really good. We will be better equipped to serve the thousands of people who live in our parish with better meeting space, more space to meet and greet, a café to welcome people off the streets and engage with them, and space in which volunteers can work.

These projects are all dependent on parishioners. If you can play a part in bringing Good News let us know. It can be from home, in the office, reception desk, café etc.

We will be sensible but we will not shrink from proclaiming God's love in the face of this pandemic because God's love is so much needed. Please join us.

**Maranatha - Prayer Chain-** We would like to build a network of people praying. So, could we contact you to ask you to pray for special intentions? Do you have time to set aside to pray for others? People who are housebound may be especially good at this, so if you know someone who could help with prayer please get in touch. If we can contact you by email please contact parishioner Terry O'Brien: [terryvobrien@icloud.com](mailto:terryvobrien@icloud.com). For those who are not on email please phone Sylvia Geldard 01827 65264.

If you would like prayers for the Maranatha Group to pray for please contact Terry or Sylvia.