

# St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter



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

## Third Sunday of Lent (A) – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Psalm Response: O that today you will listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts

Readings:	Exodus 17:3-7	Psalm 94	Roman 5:1-2. 5-8	John 4:5-42
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Lent feria</b>	10.30am (S.J.)	Antonio Socci	
	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	6.00pm (S.J.)	Mary Plunkett – Catherine Dillon	
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	9.00 am (S.H.)	Mrs Gunn – Derek Brotherhood	
		10.30 am (S.J.)	Mary McLarnon – Darren Burford	
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Mary Lane – Kit Liversidge	
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Lent feria</b>	10.00 am (S.J.)	Communion Service	
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>St Patrick</b>	7.00 am (S.H.)	For those vulnerable to infection	
		10.00 am (S.H.)	Big Brother Vinnie	
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Lent feria</b>	10.00 am (S.J.)	Nell Mattison	
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>St Joseph</b>	7.00 am (S.J.)	Sean Kelly	
		10.00 am (S.H.)	The People of the Parish	
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Lent feria</b>	12.30pm (S.J.)	Mass for the sick and housebound	
		7.00pm (S.H.)	Stations of the Cross	
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Lent feria</b>	10.30am (S.J.)	Elizabeth Maher	
	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	6.00pm (S.J.)	Michael Dwyer – Anna Wood	
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	9.00 am (S.H.)	Richard Carty – Simon Steggle	
		10.30 am (S.J.)	Anna Wood – Eileen Behan	
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Fr Jim McCormack	

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

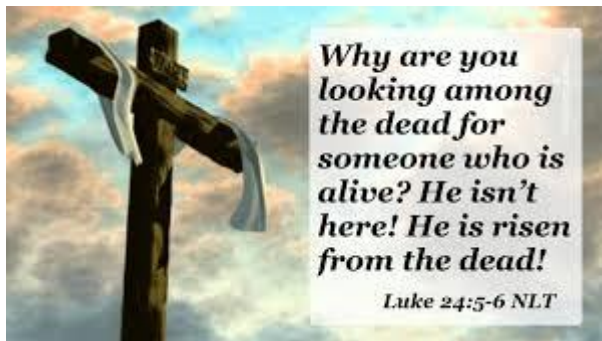
**Please pray for the following who are sick:** Mary Collins, Sean McCauley, Margaret Gallagher, Maria Leedham, Beryl Smith, Teresa Kearney, Joy Espanta, Maria Alcuaz, Mandy Williamson, Anthony Hayes, Gillian Horsley, Aoife Sage, Katie Niblett, Fergal Maguire, Catherine McGinty, Margaret Wainwright, Iris Bishop, Jemma Vine, Marie Cole, Corrie Walker, Susan Myers, Fay Bishop, Brenda Seul, Celine Brown, Rose Limm, Leonard Carbado, Raymond Walker, Maureen Walker, Julie Tranter, Pat Bernes, Anna Flynn, Eileen Darcy, Pat Timmins, Bob Johnston, Eleanor Tucker, Dorothy Reardon, Sam Wilson, Zak Edwards, Augusto Mayores, Dante Larga Sr, Edwin Catli, Shelia Bonser, Fr Jim McCormack and Maureen Coll.

**Reflection:** What happens to us as 'people of faith' when the stranger confronts us and asks us for "a drink?" - A "drink" could be anything from help with bus fare, help for something to eat, or just wanting someone to listen to them.

Like the Samaritan woman, we're generally taken by surprise and sometimes quiet shocked. In such circumstances, we just don't know what exactly to do! So much for spontaneity! You can't predict these chance encounters, they just seem to come our way. The next time a person "asks you for something to drink" (symbolically) try following the Samaritan woman's example and go against the tide.



**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:** John Weir, John Morley, William Glen, Celia Hughes, Molly Reardon, Kenneth Fitzpatrick, Peter Cadwallender, Mrs. O'Sullivan, Sydney Smith, Mary Smith, John O'Rourke, Sam Tranter, James O'Reilly, Martin Connell, Sam Archer, Christine McGeough, James Corbet, Mary McCormack, Ann Hadley, John Titterton, Brian Clements, George Darley, Mary Iwanicki, Eleanor Hardicker, John Lynn, Gertrud Jarvis, George Czernuszka, William Roberts, Linda Ashley, Francis Kinsella, George Baker, Gerald Dowling, Margaret Rose Whalley, Joan Lees, Frank & Ethel Edden, Margaret Newitt, John Sneddon, Rose Duncombe, Michael Gillen, John Gillen, Owen Kenna, Stanley Davis, Francis Baldwin, Leon Brailet, Catherine Ariss, Mickey Gillen, Phyllis Turver, Mathias Weinberg, Anette Potter, Emily Johnson, Andrew Goddard, Dennis Davies, Maureen Jefferies, Veronica Grainger, Nell Mattison, David Green, Mary Peart, Nancy Gunn, Mary Lane.



**Please pray** for the repose of the soul of **Anna Wood** whose funeral will be on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 10 am at St John's followed by cremation in Sutton and **Maureen Carney** whose funeral will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at Sacred Heart at 10.00am. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. May they rest in peace. Amen.

**Alpha continues this Monday** at Sacred Heart 7.30-9.00pm. Free food, a video and discussion. A great way to do something for Lent. It is not too late to join. Please phone 01827 769403 or email

[alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) to book a place.

**Every Friday there will be a soup lunch at St John's.** All are welcome. It starts at 1.00 pm after the 12.30 Mass. Proceeds will go to CAFOD.

**Stations of the Cross** are also on Fridays at Sacred Heart at 7.00 pm.

**Early Morning Masses** on Tuesdays (SH) and Thursdays (SJ).

**Home Groups:** The next meetings are Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at Eva's home on Deltic; Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at Lisa's Home on Willington Road and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at Margaret's on Halford Street. All 7.30-9.00pm Please contact Alex for more details if you would like to join a group. New members welcome. [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church)



**Year of the Word:** Journey with Matthew in Lent- Perhaps you could try to read through St Matthew's Gospel during Lent Please look on our website and also follow the link below where there is a plan for reading through Matthew's Gospel - [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/gws-resources](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/gws-resources). If you have not got access to the Internet and would like a copy please speak to Alex



**Going Deeper** is yet another initiative of Wojciech's on our website. It is a series of links to sites that help us deepen our faith. Take a look and see what you think - our thanks to Wojciech for his ongoing work and enthusiasm for helping us all deepen our faith. His website design is admired all over the country and we are blessed having him in our parish.

**Parents' Catechesis Session** for Parents of First Holy Communion children in St Gabriel's in Miss Connolly's class is on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>

March at 6.30-7.30pm at St John's Church. Please use the side entrance, but note that the session will take place at the back of church.

**Confirmation Classes** for children who attend non-Catholic Schools continues on Wednesdays 6.00pm-7.00pm at St John's.

**School Masses-** The two primary schools will lead the liturgy for the 9.00am and 10.30 am Masses this weekend on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**Easter Music-** If you would like to help with the music by singing or playing an instrument for the Easter Vigil on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April, rehearsals are on Wednesday evening at 7.30pm at the Sacred Heart. Youth are welcome too!

**Youth Band:** Are you in Year 6 or above? Do you enjoy singing or playing an instrument? You are welcome to join the Youth Band who rehearse on a Friday from 6.30-7.15pm at Sacred Heart. Just come along or email [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church)

**Evening of Recollection for Eucharistic Ministers At Maryvale** - Thursday the 2nd April 2020 5.30pm to 9.30 p.m. Led by: Rev. Fr. Joseph The-quang Nguyen. This evening will start with prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. To Book telephone to 0121 360 811

Dear parishioners,

With the coronavirus affecting all nations, it has been a troubling time for many these past weeks. I can't think of anything quite like it in my lifetime. However, previous generations have faced tests like this and worse. They have done so with courage, determination and faith, as must we. So please do pray for all but especially those on the front line working in health care settings, those who are most vulnerable and anyone who has been infected. I hope that in this time we as Christians can also be examples of kindness and charity to others.

In Church we are taking our own precautions. We started last weekend but these are now compulsory in every parish:

- *the sign of peace will involve a bow and the words 'Peace be with you' rather than shaking hands*
- *there will be no holy water in the water stoups*
- *people taking communion will only receive in their hands and not directly onto their tongues*
- *there will be no use of hymn books (we don't use them anyway)*
- *we will have gel dispensers in each church but please wash your hands before you come and when you return home*

This weekend we will be praying for all nations facing this threat and especially vulnerable people. Please join us since prayer is a really positive response in which we can all engage.

Like everyone else, we are not sure what services we will be able to offer in the coming weeks but if you find yourself unwell for any reason and you want a priest we will come out.

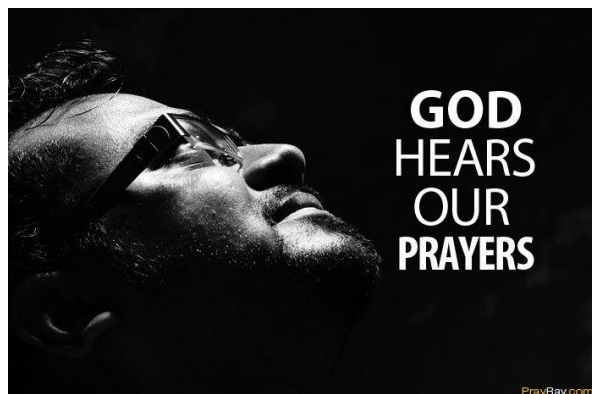
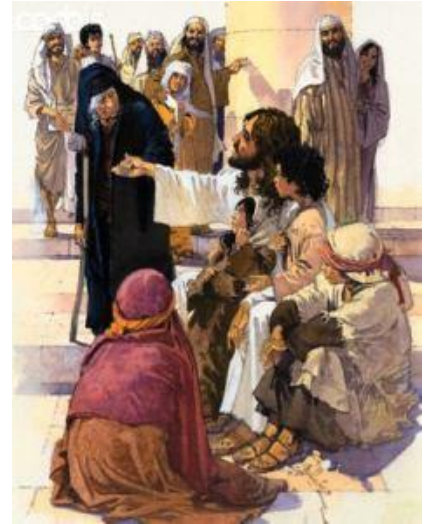
We must also continue to plan for the future and to get on with our lives. We have children, parents, jobs, friends and homes to look after. These are all precious to us. Let's celebrate and enjoy them and not let anxiety spoil that.

*"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup>We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body."* (2 Cor. 4:8-10)

The parish also has to look to the future and serving people as best we can. At Sacred Heart our building project is moving forward fast. Work in the Church itself started this week. All these things are about bringing hope and nurturing faith. Let us do that in the midst of the challenges ahead.

Your priests,

Fr Michael and Fr Srinu



**Pray the Rosary-** With so much uncertainty and anxiety around the Coronavirus it reminds us that life is fragile, handle with prayer. Join with us in saying the Rosary daily and offer your prayer for protection and solutions to the current world- wide situation.

**Restrictions have been put in place for hospital visitors** to Heartlands, Solihull Good Hope and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals. Visiting times have been reduced - just between 11am to 2pm; anything else has to be in agreement with the ward manager; there has to be a strong clinical reason for visiting. Only 2 visitors allowed and they must wash their hands before entering and when leaving the clinical areas.

Handwashing also applies to those attending out-patient appointments. Please do not go to the hospital if you have flu like symptoms - dial 111 for advice. Please reduce the amount of visiting to a hospital.

**Visiting the Sick:** Fr Srinu and I will be available if called out. Please do not be afraid to call. However, we will not visit anyone who is ill unless we are called on to do so. I know that my own father is anxious about becoming infected

**Youth Clubs:** Anyone in School year 6-9 is welcome to our Wednesday night youth club, "Phoenix" and anyone in School year 9-13 is welcome to our Friday night youth club, both run from 7-9pm, full of fun games and even free pizza!

**Bereavement Support Service** on Friday (10–12.00am) at Sacred Heart. We always need more volunteers, you don't need any qualification, just to be a good listener. Contact Wendy on [office@tamworthrc.church](mailto:office@tamworthrc.church) or 769403.



**Memory Café** is held every Tues morning at Sacred Heart from 10.30am – 12.30pm. More volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Wendy for more info.

**Men's Club St John's Tuesday 10am–12 noon** upstairs room – a great opportunity for men looking to meet new people and a great way to spend a couple of hours and get out the house. The men play chess, cards or just have a chat over a cuppa. They also have the odd day out bowling. If you are at home complaining of nothing to do, then give this a try

**A.A.** continue to meet every Mon and Fri evening at St John's.

**Gamblers' Anonymous** meet at St John's on Monday evenings.

**Some Advice For Our Friends and Parishioners from other parts of Europe:**

- Any EU, EEA or Swiss citizen living here is required by the government to apply online by 30 June 2021 in order to protect their existing rights
- To be eligible people must be living here by 31 December 2020
- Some non-European family members of EU, EEA or Swiss citizens are also eligible
- Irish citizens do not need to apply
- All details and links to the application process can be found at [gov.uk/eusettledstatus](http://gov.uk/eusettledstatus)

**The Winter Night Shelter** has just two weeks to go. While we thank all those involved, we are also grateful to God that some have found permanent accommodation. However, our numbers have still gone up (to 11 at its peak)! Such is the nature of rough sleeping, it can happen to people really quickly. Please pray for them as they face the streets again next month.

**Hygiene Bank:** so far our parish has donated approx 70kg of items but there is an ongoing need in Tamworth. Specific items needed now are: Clothes washing powder and liquids.

**Friendly Faces Tamworth** is a brand new community group for the over 50's starting on Wednesdays at the Sacred Heart. However, due to the coronavirus it has to take a break. If you are interested in a group like this then look out for when it returns in a few weeks.



It is aimed at reducing social isolation and encourage people to live well and link in with their community making friends and having fun dancing, singing and playing games.

**Sing for Fun:** The group will be singing at John Lewis', Ventura on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 10.30-12.00am and 2.00-3.00pm to promote the group. All welcome to come and sing along.



**Summer Fayre-** Our Summer Fayre will take place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 10.00-2.00pm at Sacred Heart Church. We need to start planning. If you would like to help with planning or can offer help in other ways like contacting businesses for prizes please get in touch with [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church). If you work in a business that offers match-funding for fundraising like Banks and Building Societies, please get in touch with Fr Michael too. Our fayres are always a huge success made so by the tremendous numbers of volunteers that

come forward.

**St Elizabeth's School quiz night** (adults) on Sat 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the school hall. Tickets are £8.00 per person. This will include a chip shop supper (£3.00 per ticket without food). Teams of 4 - 6. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Tickets are available from Jane McSweeney on 07849 439867 or Marie Kennedy on 07745 655994. Come and join the fun and help raise funds for the school.

<b>Money Matters</b>	
Envelopes	126.05
Standing Order	800.00
Loose	369.63
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1295.68</b>
CAFOD	939.21
<i>Thank-you.</i>	
<b>Gift Aid:</b> 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 <a href="mailto:office@tamworthrc.church">office@tamworthrc.church</a>	