

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year C – 18th September 2022

Psalm Response: Praise the Lord, who raises the poor

Readings: Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 112 St Paul to Timothy 2:1-8 Luke 16:1-13

Saturday 17 th September	Feria	10.30 am (S.J.) 6.00 pm (S.J.)	Dean Callow Anne & Sidney Green
Sunday 18 th September	Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Jean Terry Margaret Smith Pauline Bradbury
Tuesday 20 th September	Companions, Martyrs	10.00 am (S.H.) 11.30am (S.J.)	Holy Souls Funeral Mass for Christopher O'Neill
Wednesday 21 st September	St Matthew	10.00am (S.J.)	Sick and Housebound of the Parish
Thursday 22 nd September	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Holy Soul
Friday 23 rd September	St Pio	12.00 noon (S.J.) 1.00pm (S.H.)	Joanne Lawton Funeral Mass for Vern Clayton
Sat 24 th September	Our Lady of Walsingham	10.30 am (S.J.) 6.00 pm (S.J.)	Kieran Kennedy & Elaine Darcy Mick and Angela Foster (Anniv)
Sunday 25 th September	Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Her Majesty the Queen Bridget & Michael Hegarty Sylvia & Kevin Williams – Kay Moore

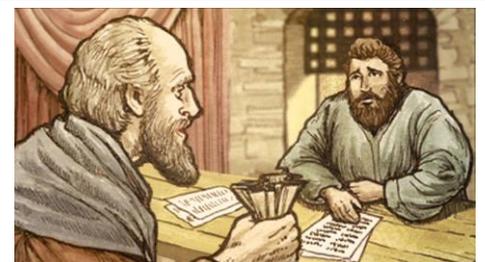
Confession Saturday St John's Church 11.15am – 11.45 am and 5.15– 5.45 pm

Please pray for the following who are sick: Mary Collins, Maria Leedham, Beryl Smith, Joy Espanta, Maria Alcuaz, Mandy Williamson, Anthony Hayes, Gillian Horsley, Aoife Sage, Margaret Wainwright, Jemma Vine, Corrie Walker, Fay Bishop, Rose Limm, Raymond Walker, Maureen Walker, Julie Tranter, Augusto Mayores, Edwin Catli, Sheila Bonser, Fr Jim McCormack, Mary Coady, Patricia Burton, Muriel Lawley, Joan Barber, Dominic Hespe, George Williams, Ray Newbold, Nicole Thomson, Mandy Sheridan, Gary Ealing, Dennis Reardon, Marie Purslow, Emma Downes, Sini Thomas, Pat Machin, Joan Hill, Connie de Guzman, Joyce Greer, Tolentino Fabian, Felix Gray Sutton Whittle, Maurice Murdanaigum, David Walker, Marie Trevelyan, Paul Connell, Mary van Roy, Bob Walker, Marie Cole, Clara Counsell, Jo Hawker, Monica Gallagher, Josie Williams, Joan Dauncey, Imogen Sylvester, Elsie Newbold, Olive Arrowsmith, Stan Merryweather, Dean Callow, Mark Nelson, Olive Stewart, Kathy Warren, Rosemarie MacDonald.

Reflection: *You cannot be the slave of both God and money*

The point of today's Gospel is in the commendation of the dishonest steward, not for the moral quality of his behaviour, but for his worldly prudence in using the things of this life to ensure his future in the next life.

It is a difficult parable, with two lessons: first, that we should serve the Lord with even more energy and ingenuity than traders/ sellers employ in their business dealings, and secondly that we should use our resources to help the poor. 'The only things we take with us from our life on earth are those which we have given away.'



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, Pdraig Gillan, Daniel Wyatt, Charles Thomas, Julie Norris Roberts, Irene Jones.

Deaths: please pray for the repose of the soul of **Christopher O'Neill** who will be received into St John's on Monday, 19th September at 3.30pm followed by the funeral service on Tuesday, 20th September at 11.30am, **Vern (Vernon) Clayton** who will be received into Sacred Heart on Thursday 22nd September at 6.00pm followed by the funeral Mass on Friday, 23rd September at 1.00pm, **Marsden Bradford** whose funeral service will take place at Sacred Heart on Monday, 3rd October at 12.15pm. We also pray for **Michael Bush**, Sarah's father-in-law, **Baby Bree O'Donnell** and we remember **Her Majesty the Queen**. May they rest in peace. Amen



A Brief Introduction to Rebecca Arnold who has just been appointed as our parish youth worker. Mother of 2 girls, Rebecca is currently studying counselling at South Staffordshire College. In her spare time, she loves to go walking with her family. Rebecca, a member of our parish, will soon be introducing herself at Mass and looking to recruit both volunteers and young people.

The plan is get our youth activities up and running by the end of the month so look out for more information next weekend. If you want to help, please email rebecca@tamworthrc.church

First Holy Communions: If your child is starting Year 3 or above in a non-Catholic school and is Baptised a Catholic, they would be eligible to join our programme for Communion this coming term. Please contact Alex to sign up for this course. Email: alex@tamworthrc.church or speak to one of the Priests.

Confirmation: If your child is a Catholic at a non-Catholic school and is starting Year 6 or above and has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist they are eligible to join the Confirmation Programme. Just email alex@tamworthrc.church or speak with Fr Michael. Tel 01827 769403

Journey in Faith: If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or wish to find out about the Catholic Faith, please get in touch with us. Contact alex@tamworthrc.church or Fr Michael. Phone 01827 769403.

Anyone for dinner? Alpha starts again on Thurs 29th Sept at Sacred Heart 7.30-9.00pm. Food, an inspiring video and discussion! Why not give it a try? If you know someone who would like to explore the Christian faith, email alex@tamworthrc.church or phone 01827 769403 for more info.

Pick up an Alpha 21 Day Prayer Card and do 3 simple things:

1. Write down the names of **three people** who you would like to explore their faith.
2. Set a daily alarm for **11.02** as a reminder to pray for your three people for the next 21 days.
3. Be **open & expectant** to see how God might use you.

Why 11.02? In Luke's Gospel chapter 11 verse 2 is where Jesus explained how to pray the Lord's Prayer.

Alpha Invites: Please take Alpha invitations and pray that the Holy Spirit will give you courage and opportunity to hand them out to the right people- perhaps to the three people you have been praying for.



Cooks: Food and hospitality is an important part of Alpha. Volunteers are needed to prepare the meals for Alpha. Please get in touch with Alex 01827 769403 or email alex@tamworthrc.church if you can help.

Alpha - Setting up tables: we would appreciate a hand on a Thursday afternoon to help set the tables, - from 29th September? Please contact Alex 01827 769403 or email alex@tamworthrc.church

Worship as One: An opportunity for all choirs to come together to learn new music for our Masses this term. If you are interested in joining one of our choirs, then please do come along on Thursday 22nd September at 7.00pm.

Celebration Choir: No choir practice this Wednesday 21st September due to Worship as One on Thurs.

St Stephen's Guild Medals will be awarded next Sunday at 10.30 Mass for children who have served at least one year. If anyone has served for 10 years or more, please let Fr Michael know.

Communion From the Chalice stopped during Covid. We are looking to re-introduce it soon by what is called 'intinction'. That means we take the host reverently over to the chalice and dip it in the chalice and consume it. We will explain how this can be done safely and reverently next weekend.

Imogen's family want to thank everyone for the prayers for her recovery from cancer. She is doing well, still receiving chemotherapy but had two days at school last week. Our prayers have been answered.



Pakistan Floods Appeal Devastating floods have hit, leaving millions in urgent need of help to survive. A third of the country is now underwater (that's an area almost the size of Great Britain). Your donation will help CAFOD's local partners support communities with clean drinking water, food, emergency medical assistance and shelter. Please pray for those affected and donate now at cafod.org.uk/give

We will hold a retiring collection this weekend in aid of CAFOD's Pakistan Appeal

Fr Hudson's – Next weekend 24th-25th September the second collection will be for Father Hudson's Care to support their mission of supporting vulnerable people throughout the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Father Hudson's reaches out to people of all ages who need support many of whom will be badly affected by the cost-of-living crisis. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

Relics of St Bernadette will be at St Chads Cathedral Birmingham, arriving on Friday 7th October 4:30pm and departing on Saturday the 8th October at 7:30pm. The Relics then move onto The Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Hednesford on Saturday 8th October 7.00pm and leave on Sunday 9th October at 9:00pm.

We are co-ordinating a trip see the Relics on Sunday after the 12.00 Mass on Sunday 9th October. Anyone who is interested, please put your name on the list at the back of both churches.

Our Youth Groups will be starting up again soon. We always depend on good volunteer youth leaders to assist. Would anyone else like to give it a go this year? They normally meet on Thursday and Fridays across two age groups – 10 to 13 and 14 to 16.



Social Action

Senior Gentlemen's Club: Meet on Tuesday morning 10.00 – 12noon at St John's Community rooms (at the side of St John's Church). Other activities: put the world to rights, dominoes & chess, crown green bowling, trips, annual Christmas meal. £2 per week for the kitty for the trips and events. Contact Bill Field on 07985581794 – billfield123@btinternet.com

Brainstorming For Food: we buy food to supplement the HoT shop. Has anyone any ideas or connections to enable us to get basic foodstuffs (tinned, dried etc) more cheaply? Or do you know anyone from a supplier or distributor or manufacturer. Or are you based at Aldi Head office, or Ocado or Brakes, Greencore or elsewhere? Ideas would be welcome, please. Demand will increase this autumn. We want to be ready to help people meet their basic needs.



And we desperately need a few volunteers to help collect food once a fortnight. Please, email Kelly if you can help.

Bereavement Help Points on **Friday from 10.00am till 12noon**, at Sacred Heart and on **Thursday evening 5.30pm – 7.00pm**, held in the café. If you are struggling with loss and wish to talk to someone, just come along (Thursday evening is quieter); you are welcome to simply turn up.



Volunteers needed at the Bereavement Help Point. You don't have to have any specialist training; you just have to have a listening ear. We will do a very simple training session to anyone who wishes to join us. There will be a meeting for anyone interested on Friday 21st October. To chat before that, please contact Wendy at the parish office or office@tamworthrc.church.

The new **HoT Lunch Club** got off to a flying start this week, with our guests meeting new people and enjoying a delicious two-course lunch (thanks to Jen and her team).

We still need some volunteers to help out each week with greeting guests, serving lunch and generally making the event run smoothly (Wednesday 12-2pm). Volunteers wouldn't need to commit to helping every week, just on a regular basis. If you can get involved, please contact Kelly Denton,

Terry O'Brien or call the parish office. Thank you.

Thank-you to those who have offered to help collect food. Even once a fortnight is a big help. If you can help, please contact Kelly as soon as possible. Please note that most car insurance companies do not usually require any extra insurance for this voluntary work.

The Tamworth Stroke Patients and their Carers Group meet on the first Friday of the month at St John's at 1-30pm. All welcome. Contact Trevor Baker on 07934351144 or tgbdeltic@hotmail.co.uk

Memory Café every Tues 10.30am-12.30pm; email Karen karen.wilkinson@homeinstead.co.uk 431002

The Walking Group – Wed 21st Sept Tame Nature Reserve - meet at Sacred Heart at 10.00am **Thurs 22nd Sept:** Alrewas & Yoxall Circular - meet at Sacred Heart at 10.00am. A sheet with all the Autumn walks can be collected from Reception at Sacred Heart.

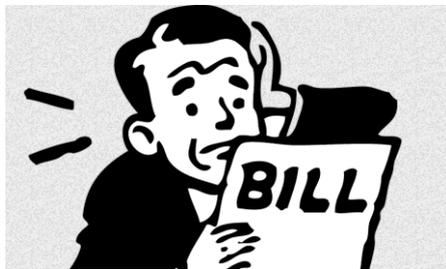
St Gabriel's RC Primary School Open Day will take place on Friday October 7th from 9.30 to 10.30 or 11am till 12noon. All are welcome. www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk

Ukraine Crisis: Some of you who use Sacred Heart car park will have noticed several 4 by 4 vehicles near the entrance. These vehicles are purchased in this country and then sent over to Ukraine. The voluntary group have asked if anyone has got a yard or land that they can use. If you can help, please contact the parish office or directly Sandor Fandalyuk 07760508008

The Hygiene Bank: Thank you for your continued and much needed support. Supplies are running low on the following items. Can you help us please? Toilet Rolls, toothpaste and toothbrushes (adults and children's), deodorant, clothes wash tablets.

Kick Start: Bitesize financial support sessions to help you move forward in life and make a new start. Sessions are free and run by CAP – Christians against poverty. First session 23rd September 10am – 11.30am at Manna House. Pick up a leaflet in reception.

Josh 100: thank-you to all who sponsored Josh last weekend. To pay his way he is doing a 100-mile sponsored bike ride (Fr Michael is supporting him by doing it with him). If you want to sponsor him online this is the link: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/joshsjourneytokenya>



Help With Energy Debt! People can now apply for help with their energy bills through the British Gas Energy Support Fund. Anyone can apply in energy debt. To apply <https://britishgasenergytrust.org.uk/grants-available/>

As the energy crisis deepens we would welcome any ideas on how we can respond as a parish. You know we are planning to develop the shop and we are still working on this. However, there may be other things we can do. One thing we can all do is pray for people at this time.

Regards our own usage, please remember to turn off lights and anything on stand-by. Apparently, appliances on stand-by use 9-12% of our electricity.

This Sunday Alton Castle is marking its 25th anniversary. Since I was there at the start, I will be attending the day's celebrations and will not be in the parish this Sunday.

Fr Michael

A Reflection on a Life Well Lived – Extract from Bishop Cotterill:

At her Coronation, as I've already heard said several times, in perhaps one of the most poignant moments of the service, she steadfastly walked past the throne upon which she would sit and knelt at the altar, giving her allegiance to God before anyone else gave their allegiance to her.

Echoing those comforting words of scripture from the book of Lamentations, which is itself a book written out of the heart of the profoundest grief and tragedy, the Queen said this in one of her Christmas broadcasts – "Each day is a new beginning... I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God."



There are prayer cards in the Church offering prayers for the Queen. Feel free to take one.