

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

First Sunday of Advent (C) – 28th November 2021

Psalm Response: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul

Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 24 St Paul to the Thessalonians Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Saturday 27 th November		12.00 noon (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.H.)	Maureen Craddock Holy Souls
	First Sunday of Advent (C)		
Sunday 28 th November		9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Ruth Faulds – Derek Richardson Anne Marie Purslow Foxall & Barber Family
	First Sunday of Advent (C)		
Tuesday 30 th November	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Patrick Linehan
Wed 1 st December	Weekday of Advent	10.00am (S.J.)	All Refugees
Thurs 2 nd December	Weekday of Advent	10.00am (S.H.) 12.30pm (S.J.)	James Wilson Funeral Mass for Bernadette Higgins
Friday 3 rd December	St Francis Xavier	10.00am (S.J.)	Margaret Johnson
Saturday 4 th December		12.00 noon (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.H.)	The Sick and Housebound Susan Carroll
	Second Sunday of Advent (C)		
Sunday		9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Oliwier Szymanuzka – Ayasami Family Michael Dodds – Michael Serridge Robert Clarke – Mary Miller & John Miller
	Second Sunday of Advent (C)		
Confession Saturday St John's Church 11.15am – 11.45 am			

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, Catherine McGinty, Margaret Wainwright, Jemma Vine, Marie Cole, Corrie Walker, Fay Bishop, Rose Limm, Raymond Walker, Maureen Walker, Julie Tranter, Anna Flynn, Eleanor Tucker, Dorothy Reardon, 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, Rita Fidoe, Pat Machin, Joan Hill, Connie de Guzman, Rafael Lorenzo, Joyce Greer, John Scarnell, Tolentino Fabian and Felix Gray Sutton Whittle, Maurice Murdanaigum, John Carty, Joanne Foster, David Walker.

Reflection: Advent is a season of hope and expectation. We are invited to prepare joyfully for the coming of Christ. He comes in history, his conception and birth, in mystery through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and in majesty, at the Last Day.

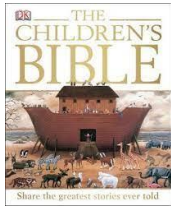
We do not know when the end of time will take place. What is certain is that our own lives will one day come to an end. If we were to be called from this life today, to stand before the Son of Man, would he be able to say to us, "well done, good and faithful servant"?

Lord, may your coming be a glorious and redemptive event. May we so live that, in the words of the hymn, How Great Thou Art, "when you come, with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!"



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Kate Jennett, Joseph Fitzsimmons, Lucy Moore, Ann Murray, James Larvin, Harriett Farrell, Thomas Vaughn, Peter Gilbertson, A. Masterson, Edna Stokes, Mary O'Riordan, Leo Porter, Sian-Marie Brookes, John McDonald, Walter Jones, Edna Newby, Florence Hudders, Nellie Roberts, Matthew Buttery, Ivy Price, Gertrude Allaway, Honora Marshall, Irene Hill, Michael Conway, Mary Turrell, Jane Soloman, Edward Baldwin, Philip Mullet, Frederick Moore, Jaroslav Brandys, Nellie Hall, Peter Szwarko. Charlotte Albone, Johanna Maher, Elizabeth Hunt, Archibald Miller, Andrew Naylor, Joan Roberts, Olive D'Silva Stone, Kathleen Lowe, Joan Burnham, Tilly Malloy, Cyril Payne, Christina Judge, Nora Kinsella, Irene Flynn.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Bernadette Higgins** whose funeral will take place at St John's on Thursday 2nd December at 12.30pm. We also remember **Theresa Ann O'Donnell, Maria Holowenko, Fr Daniel McSweeney** (Jerry's brother who died in the USA) & **Sarah Gillen** who died during the week. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.



Children's Bible Story Library- Well done to those who have joined and are now using the library. Don't forget to bring your books back and exchange for a new one. One per child please. New members just need to sign up to join and then complete the cards inside each book and file under surname. Thank you to Nicky O'Keeffe for her tremendous work setting the library up.



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Christmas Fayre Next Sunday Please join us between 10 and 2.00

Have a late breakfast with us or join us for lunch. There will be lovely food available and it is all to support your parish. Please spare us an hour after Mass next Sunday.

Santa will look forward to seeing the children.

Raffle tickets can still be bought until the draw; please return sold tickets so we can fold them in plenty of time.

Christmas jumpers: we often have good quality jumpers that our children & adults have outgrown or we won't wear again. Rather than people paying out lots of money for new ones, why not bring yours in (washed please) and people can then buy a cheap one from us for this Christmas – good for the environment too!

Christmas Baubles / Tree Decorations – have you got any baubles or tree decorations that you no longer use? Bring them in so we can recycle them.



What else do we need?



Bottles of wine or spirits and can you bring your bottle in an old bottle bag too? Any old bottle bags welcome please.

Those gifts you've never used for our gift tombola.

Chocolate

New Toys

Can all you great bakers please bake some lovely cakes to be brought on the day?

Can you help on the day? Or setting up the day before?



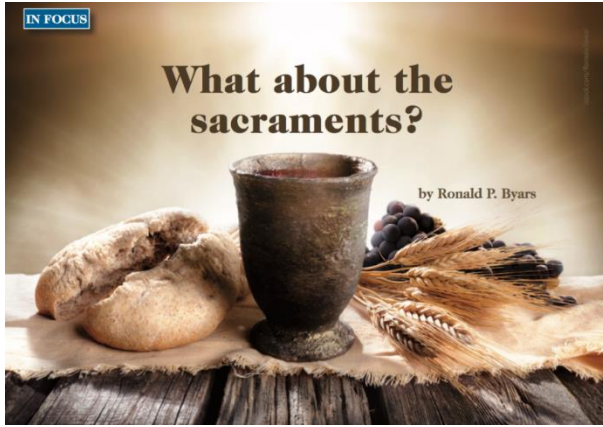
Learning About the Faith

Deacon Bob is thinking of running an Alpha Course within a prison environment. Would you be interested in helping? If we find that we are able to do this we could start a course on Friday 14th January for 13 weeks. For more details, please speak to Bob.

Maranatha Prayer Chain: If you know of someone in need of prayer, please contact parishioners Terry O'Brien - terryvobrien@icloud.com or Sylvia Geldard 01827 65264

Children's Worship: There is an opportunity for children up to Year 5 to attend Children's worship at all of our Sunday Morning Masses and experience the Gospel reading and early parts of the Mass in a simpler form. Adults should attend with children in Reception Year or younger.

Thank you to the Youth Band for their beautiful singing on Youth Sunday last weekend. They are now preparing for Christmas – new members who enjoy singing or playing an instrument would be most welcome from Year 6 and above. Please come along on Fridays from 6.15-7.00pm at Sacred Heart Church.



First Holy Communion preparation for children in non-Catholic school for those in Year 3 or above 6.00pm-7.00pm at Sacred Heart Church on Mondays.

Confirmation preparation for those in non-Catholic Schools continues on Monday 29th November with Faith in Action Project 5.45-7.00pm at Sacred Heart Church.

Confirmation Enrolment and Commitment Masses- For parents of children at St Elizabeth's and St Gabriel's who are Catholic and wish to be Confirmed in June/July there is an Enrolment meeting and short service on Tuesday 30th November at 6.00pm at Sacred Heart. Please bring your completed forms with you. The Children are also asked to attend one of the Masses on the weekend of 4th/5th

December to make their promises of Commitment.

Home groups are taking place **in the café** for the time being. The next session is on Mon 29th Nov 7.30-9.00pm. An opportunity to meet together, explore some Scripture and discuss and pray together. All are welcome. If you are interested, please contact alex@tamworthrc.church or phone 01827 769403.

Advent Walk With Me booklets are available this weekend. Donations welcome. Please try to make this Advent the spiritual journey it needs to be. Maybe try to attend Mass during the week as well as Sunday or spend some more time in prayer.

Youth Work

Youth Groups have Restarted: It has been a great start to the Phoenix youth club each Wednesday 6.30 till 8.00pm). It is open to any young person in years 6, 7 & 8.

Social Action



Christmas Day lunch: we need volunteers to help cook, serve and clear up afterwards. Most importantly, to welcome and chat to the guests. Volunteers can help any time from 12.00 to 3.30. We have had some amazing volunteers in the past who can't do it this year. Previous volunteers have said it is a great experience and a wonderful atmosphere. Please email kelly@heartoftamworth.org if you can help please.

Food Collections take place every night from various food outlets and also during the day sometimes. This then supplies our HoT Community Shop. Simon People leads this but help always needed.

Food donations for the Community Shop of tins and non-perishables food are needed. Could you ask your employer if you can have a basket for people to donate and bring them to Sacred Heart or St John's?

Wonky Walkers Group: Wednesday 1st December - Kettlebrook Nature Reserve meet at Sacred Heart at 10.00am Thursday 2nd December - Packwood Hall - meet at Sacred Heart at 9.30 (car share?)



Writing Club: Interested in joining the Sacred Heart Writing Club? Want to explore different aspects of writing, story writing, poetry, factual etc? Go to Terry: 07422722540. terryobrien@heartoftamworth.org

Sacred Heart Craft Club - Do you enjoy arts or crafts? Can you knit, sew, crochet, write, paint, glue, cut out, sculpt etc. Anything goes! We meet at SH in the Modwen room every fortnight on a Tues afternoon from 1 -3.30. Our next meetings are on Tues 7th Dec and 21st Dec. Come along and join us. We are really looking forward to meeting you.

Hygiene Bank: Latest update - 54.95KGS donated in October. We are hugely grateful as demand is growing. We need roll-on deodorants (50p from ALDI), Tampons and Sanitary towels.

HoT Kids Christmas Craft Club - Come and join us at the Sacred Heart Community Centre on Thursday 2nd December from 4pm to 6pm to make all kinds of Christmas gifts. Please donate £4 for the materials used. If interested please contact: Terry O'Brien at: terryobrien@heartoftamworth.org

Father Hudson's Christmas - we are supporting @fatherhudsons, show you care to by sharing a picture of your Christmas preparations and by donating to support people in need in your Archdiocese to <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/FHCChristmas2021> #fatherhudsonscrib
The Parish Christmas Crib Appeal will also be supporting Father Hudson's again this year.



Memory Café on Tues 10.30am-12.30pm Karen 01827 431002 karen.wilkinson@homeinstead.co.uk. Can you offer a skill/craft that others can do? Please speak to or contact Wendy office@tamworthrc.church

Bereavement Help Point meets every Friday from 10.00am till 12noon.

Evening Bereavement Support has started on a Thursday evening 6 – 7pm at Sacred Heart. If you are struggling with a recent, or

not so recent loss and would like to talk to someone, just come along you will be made very welcome. No appointment is needed.

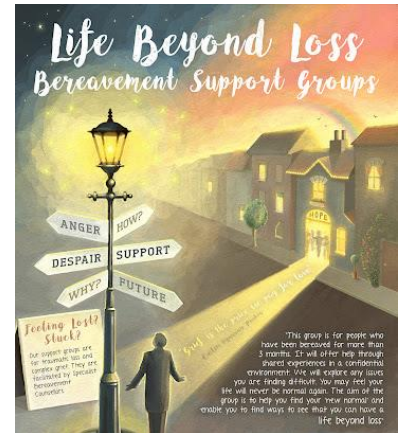
The Tamworth Stroke Patients and their Carers Group meet on the first Friday of the month at St John's community rooms at 1-30pm. All are welcome. We have speakers and visits to places of Interest. Contact Trevor Baker on 07934351144 or email: tgbdeltic@hotmail.co.uk

Money Matters	
Envelopes	81.60
Standing Order	920.00
Loose	492.82
Total:	£1494.42
<i>Thank-you.</i>	
Gift Aid: Signing a Gift Aid form will increase your gift by 25% at no cost to you. For info call the office or office@tamworthrc.church	

Tai-Chi: Tues mornings at Sacred Heart 11.30 – 12.30, everyone welcome.

Brownies for girls aged 7 – 10 yrs. To register go to www.girlguiding.org.uk

A New Family Group, run by Homestart, is on Thursday mornings at Sacred Heart. It runs from 9.30 till 11.00 – just £1.50; all welcome. Contact Amanda - homestart.tam@btconnect.com



Volunteers are needed in all sorts of areas: It is our generous volunteers who make sure all our activities and services can run. We depend on you for this. Can you do something? Rather than spread the requests for volunteers over the whole bulletin, we have grouped these opportunities together.

Volunteers Needed		
Role	Where	Contact
Helping with Children's Worship	at both churches	lisafahy77@outlook.com
Choir Practice on Wednesdays at 7.00pm	Sacred Heart Church	alex@tamworthrc.church
Volunteers in café much needed. Welcoming, serving, till work etc	HoT Café Weekends	kelly@heartoftamworth.org
An evening a week collecting food from to support HoT food shop	Aldi, M&S, Sainsbury's etc	sppeople@btinternet.com
Welcoming and supporting people who have lost someone	Bereavement Group	office@tamworthrc.church
Christmas Fayre Fundraising	Sacred Heart	michael@tamworthrc.church



Please follow us on Instagram, so we can grow the popularity of this place @Hot.communitycafe/Like us on facebook @heartoftamworth We need to get as many followers as we can. Check out our page for the latest info & updates. Look forward to hearing your comments & feedback



If you are new to the parish, welcome. Please let us know who you are and if there is anything we can do to help you settle in.