

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 Year B – 3rd December 2023

Psalm Response: *God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved*

Readings: *Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8 Psalm 79 St Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37*

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 2 nd December | Weekday of Advent | 10.30am (S.J.) | Michael Dodds RIP |
| | First Sunday of Advent | 6.00 pm (S.J.) | Pat Bambrick |
| Sunday 3 rd December | | 9.00 am (S.H.) | Peter Shaw |
| | First Sunday of Advent | 10.30 am (S.J.) | James Martin, James Michael & Josephine Kavanagh |
| | | 12.00 noon (S.H.) | Sylvia & Kevin Williams |
| Tuesday 5 th Dec | Weekday of Advent | 10.00am (S.H.) | Michael and Breda Mahon |
| Wednesday 6 th Dec | Weekday of Advent | 10.00am (S.J.) | Private intentions |
| Thursday 7 th December | St Ambrose | 10.00am (S.H.) | Isobel Wallis |
| Friday 8 th December | | 12.00 noon (S.J.) | Carol Ayasamy |
| | The Immaculate Conception of Mary | 7.00pm (S.H.) | Czesława Weiss and Piotr Ceglarek |
| Saturday 9 th December | | 10.30am (S.J.) | Desmond Graves |
| | Second Sunday of Advent | 6.00 pm (S.J.) | Gerard Banks – Jane Scally |
| Sunday 10 th December | | 9.00 am (S.H.) | Olive and Denis O'Connor and Jonathan Howell |
| | Second Sunday of Advent | 10.30 am (S.J.) | Veronica Swinnerton |
| | | 12.00 noon (S.H.) | Thomas Wall – Eleanor Higgott |

Confession Saturday 11.00- 11.30 am St John's Church 5.15 – 5.45 pm

Please pray for the following who are sick: Mary Collins, Joy Espanta, Maria Alcuaz, Mandy Williamson, Anthony Hayes, Gillian Sage, Jemma Vine, Fay Bishop, Raymond Walker, Julie Tranter, Augusto Mayores, Edwin Catli, Sheila Bonser, Fr Jim McCormack, Mary Coady, Patricia Burton, Joan Barber, Dominic Hespe, George Williams, Ray Newbold, Nicole Thomson, Maurice Murdanaigum, Paul Connell, Bob Walker, Marie Cole, Clara Counsell, Marie Purslow, Jo Hawker, Olive Arrowsmith, Stan Merryweather, Olive Stewart, Kathy Warren, Ruth Faulds, Michelle Padmore, Sheila Fullbrook, Brian McCourt, Michael Boulstridge, Rosie McKenny, Alan Hopper, Peter Scott, Jane Harper, John Doherty, Janet Tansey, John McDermottroe, Vincenzo Gizzi, Lisa Smith, Bro Donie Hallissey, Kathleen Donoghue, James Doherty, Paul Heseltine, Kobe Lennox Coverson, David Jarrett, Mark Whitehouse, Rachel Scarnell, Joan Hill, Jean Padmore, Mandy Duffy-Godfry, Eugene Reilly, David Smith, Michael McMahon, Patrick Keogh, Brenda Shaw, Joe Kelly, Margaret O'Donovan, Henry Smith, Paul Vincent Argamosa, Geraldine Lee, James McKeefry, Matthew Downes.

Reflection: Advent begins today. This is our time for preparing to greet the Christ Child into our world. He has left us in charge of his affairs, we are his eyes, his hands, and his feet on earth. It is up to each one of us to stay awake and to recognise the Christ in everyone we meet. We keep in touch with those around us by doing our best to live lives of love, of compassion, of forgiveness, of honesty and integrity. We keep in touch with our God through lives of prayer. And the simplest and deepest prayer is to be aware of the active presence of God permeating every single moment of every single day. "O Lord, help to recognise you and respond to you in love through every person and every experience of this day."



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Rose McKenny, Winifred Holyoake, Emma Glenn, Sara Fear, Marie Titterton, George Pizzuto, Bernard McDonnell, Elsie Hampton, Vincent Tyrell, Mary Brightman, Evelyn Kelly, Marjorie Pulcella, Barbara Cowman, John Hyland, Alan Sargeant, Freddie Eckert, Mary Walton, Mary Dicken, Edward Patrick, Barry Spencer, Gertrude Rogers, Julia Hoey, Joseph Ryan, Vytautas Tarabilda, Basil Baldwin, John James McGee, Bridget Hickey, Annie McNamara, Ethal Bell, Eva Selvester, Thomas Weir, Carmel Edwards, Marinna Scot, David Jordan, Tony Moran, Rose Bridgewater, Catherine Brown, Marian Frymus, Grainne McKeefry, Laurence Sullivan, Moira Davidson, Kathleen Titterton, Edward Cotterill, Rosemary Jameson, Isobel Wallis, Marie Daly.

The Parish Council is meeting this week, Dec 6th. If you want to raise any questions or make any comments to share at that meeting, then please email Bob.

Deaths: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Calum Lindsay** whose body will be received into St John's church on Thurs 14th at 4.30pm, with funeral Mass on Friday 15th Dec at 11am at St John's followed by cremation at Fradley; **Bob Smith** and **Andrea Harris** who recently passed away. May they rest in peace. Amen.



Confirmation Dates are Monday July 1st, 2024, at St John's for St Elizabeth's and non-Catholic Schools children, and Tuesday July 2nd at Sacred Heart for St Gabriel's children.

First Holy Communion: The next session is on Monday 4th December at 6.00pm-7.00pm at Sacred Heart.

Alpha: The next session is on Thursday 7th December 'What about the Church?' Please continue praying for those on this Journey of Faith.

Youth Alpha: The next session is on Monday 4th December 5.45-7.00pm.

Parents Catechesis: The sessions for parents of those preparing for First Holy Communion will take place this week. Please try to attend. Your leader will be in touch to remind you of the times and places. If you have not heard, please email alex@tamworthrc.church There are sessions on Monday Tuesday Wednesday and Saturday. If you can't make your own group, then it may be possible to join one of the others. Please contact Alex if this applies to you.

Prayer Partners: We are looking to pair up prayer partners with the children who are preparing for First Holy Communion or Confirmation. Please help if you can.



Born for This: Thank you to all those who have come forward to get involved. It is not too late to join us. We would love to have some more in the cast, so people are not doubling up and to add to the impact of crowd scenes. Rehearsals are mainly on Saturday mornings and are going well. We will have auditions on 9th Dec for the solo parts and narrators. Email alex@tamworthrc.church to register interest in auditions or to be part of Born for This or just for more info. If you would prefer to just sing you would be welcome too. If you can help with props, simple costumes, sound or lighting then do get in touch. We will put this presentation on Friday 22nd March in the evening.

Maranatha Prayer Chain: If you would like to ask others to help you to pray for someone, please contact - terryvobrien@icloud.com or Sylvia Geldard 01827 65264 with a simple prayer request which will be passed on to our chain of people who will then pray for your intentions.

Parents, there is a Children's Library in both churches. Just borrow a book of Bible stories for use during the week and swap it next week.

School Masses: Thank you to the children and Staff of St Elizabeth's who are leading the liturgies at our 9.00am and 10.30 am Masses this weekend.

Working With Young people in their teens: Rhiannon needs a few more leaders so if you are interested in helping, please let her know. It will be an exciting programme with lots of lovely young people. Email rhiannon@tamworthrc.church if you want to know more.



Phoenix Youth Group: The next meeting is on Wednesday 6th December from 6.30-8.00pm. **There will be no youth group on Dec 13th.** It is for those young people in Y6 and Y7. These will be available to be signed on the night. A voluntary contribution of £1 per session would be appreciated each session to help towards the cost of pizza and squash. A chance to catch up with friends, make new ones and enjoy fun activities and games. A new contact email has been set up. If you have any questions please email Becky, Liz or Marie using the new email address: phoenix@tamworthrc.church

Choirs: If you can't make Wed evening practice but would like to be part of the choir, come to any Mass half an hour early as we go through the music then. Just introduce yourself to Annie or Alex.

Advent



Advent marks the beginning of the new year for the Church. Pope Francis has designated this as a year of prayer in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year. It is to mark another 25 years (like many Jubilees) of Christianity, a year to celebrate and deepen our faith. That Jubilee year will be called 'Pilgrims of Hope'. To make the most of it, we are invited to pray and reflect this year. In 2024 we will be looking at different ways in which we can develop our prayer life.

We can make a start this Advent by using the Walk with Me booklets. After Christmas, we will also look at other ways in which we can deepen our life of prayer.

Advent is a good time to start since we are preparing spiritually to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. We have the Walk With Me booklet, there's a Carol service and we also have a penitential service

on Wednesday December 20th to help us prepare. But most of the preparation depends on what we do privately and unnoticed. Let us all reflect on how we can make this Christmas joyful but in a deep and meaningful way this year.

Walk With Me Booklets are now available. Take one for yourselves and take one for a neighbour or friend. They have meaningful reflections and prayers for each day of Advent.

Christmas Fayre: Sunday December 3rd 10.00am-2.00pm at Sacred Heart. A range of stalls, food and games. Santa will visit too. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help at this event. All proceeds to support our work building God's Kingdom through support of the vulnerable and needy in our community.

Celebration Choir: Practice on Wednesday 6th December 7.00-8.00pm

Carol Service: Wednesday December 13th at Sacred Heart at 7.30 pm. Contact alex@tamworthrc.church if you would like to be involved. It will be another opportunity to welcome members of the Community as well as our own Parish members at this special time of year. If you know anyone who would benefit from seeing the sign Language supported Carol Service, please pass on the details.

Home Group The next session will be on Monday 4th December 7.30pm-9.00pm at Sacred Heart in the HoT Café. Anyone is welcome to join us. A simple way to explore the Bible together and get to know others in our Parish Community. Please email alex@tamworthrc.church for more information.

Bereavement Help Points on Thurs evening 5.30pm – 7.00pm, in the café and on Friday from 10.00am till 12 noon, at Sacred Heart. If you are struggling with loss & wish to talk to someone, just come along.

Heart of Tamworth will once again be delivering 450 food parcels to local families in need in time for Christmas (via schools). Can you help add a special treat to these parcels by donating a selection box/ Please bring your selection box to Sacred Heart community Centre by Friday 15th December?



Heart of Tamworth offers various volunteering opportunities. There will be many more opportunities once the new 'HoT' Clothes and Food Shops open, especially if you have retail experience.

Senior Gentlemen's Club: Meet on Tues mornings 10.00 – 12noon at St John's Community rooms (at the side of St John's). Other activities: put the world to rights, dominoes, chess, crown green bowling, trips. £2 per week for the trips and events. Contact Bill Field on 07985581794.

Retiring Collection for Poor Parishes next weekend 9th – 10th December.



Sacred Heart Craft Group: meet every fortnight in the Modwen room from 1pm-3pm. We do lots of different crafts such as knitting, sewing, painting, collage etc. Please join us. You don't have to be an expert! Our next craft club meeting is on Tuesday 12th December.



"ADVENT CALENDAR? NO JUST MY PILL ORGANISER!"

The Memory Café meets Tues 10.30am 12.30pm - email karen.wilkinson@homeinstead.co.uk

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

The East Staffs Diabetes UK Patient Network is a support group for people living with diabetes and their families. For info, contact: John Bridges: 07590379892 Email: bridgesjohn763@gmail.com

Safe Haven is a Crisis Café at Sacred Heart, for people aged 18+ with mental health problems: 5pm to 11pm Wed to Fri and 9am to 5pm on Sat and Sun, and bank holidays 1.30pm to 9pm. SafeHaven provides a safe environment helping people recover through promotion of self-empowerment. Interested in volunteering? For more info, please email: Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk.

Tamworth Hygiene Bank - We supply 'school packs' to most primary schools in Tamworth, including our 2 Catholic schools, so that they can help families in need. We also distribute packs through all our project partners such as CAB, CIC, HoT. We know that so many more local people are having to make difficult choices. We hear of children sharing toothbrushes and unable to buy soap. If you can, please donate unopened items into the **yellow bin** at Sacred Heart or the **basket** at St Johns. We need shampoo/shampoo bars, shower gel, soap bars, children's toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, packs of 'Magic Leaves' clothes detergent.

| Money Matters | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Envelopes | 37.50 |
| Standing Orders | 1040.00 |
| Loose: | 510.48 |
| Card: | 46.00 |
| Total: | £1,633.98 |
| Kenelm Youth Trust | £510.48 |

Thank-you

Volunteering in 2024

Any Plans for 2024? Are you looking for any volunteering opportunities for next year? One of our new projects will be the development of a clothing project, trying to make affordable clothes available to people who are struggling, as well as trying to make some funds to fund our work. We need volunteers who are committed and might have an interest or experience in retail, clothing, ebay, Vinted etc.

You can see how the buildings are going to look good, but it will be the people running them that will make all the difference.

If you want to know more, then please get in touch with Jen - jen@heartoftamworth.org. We need a vibrant team of people to get this exciting project off the ground. Could you be part of that team?



The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Maureen Hopper. They can be contacted at: sg.sjtb.tamworth@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.