



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

Office & presbytery: Sacred Heart Church, Silver Link Rd, Tamworth, B77 2EA

Parish Office: 01827 769403

HoT Phone Number: 01827 259955

Fr Michael: michael@tamworthrc.church

Fr Karun: karun@tamworthrc.church

Fr Venkat (Charles): venkat@tamworthrc.church

Deacon Bob: bob@tamworthrc.church

Deacon Brian Cox and Nora: nora@tamworthrc.church

Catechesis/liturgy: alex@tamworthrc.church

Admin - Wendy: office@tamworthrc.church

Rebecca Downes: rebecca@tamworthrc.church

Terry (Bookings): terryobrien@heartoftamworth.org

Kelly-HoT worker: kelly@heartoftamworth.org

Jen Martin (HoT Manag): jen@heartoftamworth.org

Rhiannon (youth): rhiannon@tamworthrc.church

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

The Baptism of the Lord (C) 12th January 2025

Readings:	<i>Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11</i>	<i>Psalms 104</i>	<i>Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7</i>	<i>Luke 3:15-16, 21-22</i>
Saturday 11 th January	After Epiphany Sunday Baptism of The Lord Polish Mass with Polish readings	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.H.)	Frank Bloxham Rosie McKenny – Charles & Patricia Monika & Robert Gavigan	
Sunday 12 th January	Baptism of The Lord	9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Ray & Kitty Browne – John Deegan Joyce Farrington – Jane Farrell Susan O'Sullivan & Tomas Connon	
Tuesday 14 th January	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Paddy Joyce	
Wednesday 15 th January	Feria	10.00am (S.J.) 7.00pm (S.J.)	Tony O'Dwyer Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Thursday 16 th January	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Louis Manfredi	
Friday 17 th January	St Anthony	9.15am (S.E.) 12.00am (S.J.)	Anne Foote The sick and housebound of the parish	
Saturday 18 th January	Feria Second Sunday of the Year	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Fr Michael White Phil Rogers – Coleen Tunney	
Sunday 19 th January	Second Sunday of the Year	9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Mike & Joan Randell Joan Morris – Colm Carmichael Ruth Faulds – Margaret (Rose) Tovati	

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 Hesse, George Williams, Ray Newbold, Nicole Thomson, Maurice Murdanaigum, Paul Connell, Bob Walker, Clara Counsell, Marie Purslow, Jo Hawker, Olive Arrowsmith, Stan Merryweather, Olive Stewart, Kathy Warren, Ruth Faulds, Michelle Padmore, Sheila Fullbrook, Brian McCourt, Michael Boulstridge, 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, David Jarrett, Mark Whitehouse, Joan Hill, Mandy Duffy-Godfry, Eugene Reilly, David Smith, Brenda Shaw, Margaret O'Donovan, Henry Smith, Paul Vincent Argamosa, Judith Cunningham, Michael White, Geraldine Lee, Matthew Downes, Nelly Jones, Drew Taylor-Hunt, Gillian Satchel, Bert Branagan, Pete McNaughton, Eileen Facer, Flor Masters, Ryan O'Doherty, Patricia Devlin, Phyllis Dillon, Chris Davis, David Purslow, Irene Whelan, Anna Flynn, Carol Dolan, Rachel Scarnell, Sandra Massey.

Reflection: Today is an opportunity for all of us to reflect on our own baptism. It's not something which happened a long time ago and which 'made' us Catholics. It's not just a ceremony lasting a few minutes which produces magical effects. Rather, it is the beginning of a lifelong journey. It is the beginning of a process of growing into the Body of Christ as one of its members. Baptism involves us to be actively participating in the life of the Church and not just as a passive member. Each one of us is called to be a living witness to the Gospel, to be the salt of the earth, a city on a hill, a lamp radiating light for all. It is a sobering fact that without our co-operation and involvement, much of God's work on earth will never get done.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Margaret Mattison, Patrick Gibbons, Thomas Connell, Walter Shears, Roderick Gleeson, Joseph Carroll, Maria Agatiello, Mary Berns, Michael Reardon, Frank Patrick, Giovanni Amato, Margaret Minchin, Andre Freeman, Teresa Wooton, Anne Jewkes, Alice Fitzpatrick, Agnes Sheridan, Margaret Plunton, Miss Meomartini, Brian Kerslake, John Mason, Anne Cuffe, Patricia Pitt, Judith Gibson, Cornelius Flynn, Ivy Hardwick, James Scott, Maureen Taylorson, Paul Weir, Patrick Hunt, Peter Mattison, Joseph Lee, John Hopkins, Anthony Yourell, Ewald Burg, Rose Green, Louis Nealon, Olive Ranayne, Jean Crowley, Winifred Latham, Norman Northall, Kathleen Read, Teresa Hynes, Cyril Hodgkinson, Nancy Chadwick, Joachim Lehmann, Angela Connolly, Phyllis Wiltshire, Gerrard Quinn, Frederick Chadwick, Jack York, Arthur Thomas, Coleen Tunney, Helena Sidwells, Denise Haynes, John Hever, Francis James, Annette Beech, Mary Cutler, Michael Davis, Annie Dearne, Joyce Farrington, Yvonne Cotterill, Lawrence Tomson, David Flanagan, Rosie McKenny.



Deaths: Please pray for all those who have died recently; **Edward (Terry) Bashford**, will be received into Sacred Heart on Thursday 23rd January at 3.30pm the funeral Mass will take place on Friday, 24th January at 10.30am. Please also remember **Anne Foote** many of you will remember Anne from when she taught reception classes at St Elizabeth's. The funeral Mass will take place at St Michael & St James, Haunton on Thursday 23rd January at 11.00am. May they rest in peace: Pray also that their families will be consoled by their faith.

Blessing of the newly Baptised: This Sunday 12th January is the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. At all the Masses this weekend we will offer blessings for those who have been baptised in the last year. Invites have been sent out, but if you haven't received yours, you would be welcome to come forward for a blessing or bring your child if they have been Baptised in 2024.

First Holy Communion: For Children in Non-Catholic schools in Year 3 or above sessions continue Monday evening 13th January 2025 from 6.00-7.00pm at Sacred Heart. Any questions please contact alex@tamworthrc.church



Communion Parents Catechesis- the next small group sessions are during this week commencing 13th January for parents of those preparing for their First Holy Communion this year. Please email alex@tmaowrthrc.church if you are not sure of your group or time.

Confirmation Preparation: Confirmation preparation for those in non-Catholic Schools continues 20th January 2025 at 5.45pm-7.00pm. For those also making their First Holy Communion please attend on Monday 6.00-7.00pm 13th January in Sacred Heart in the Werburgh Room.

Journey in Faith: If you are an adult who is interested in exploring the Catholic Faith in more detail or to prepare to receive any of the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation please email alex@tamworthrc.church to discuss enrolling. Journey in Faith will continue from Alpha on Thursday evenings on Thursday 16th January at 7.30-9.00pm in the upstairs Kenelm Room.

In Simple Faith: IF you are interested in exploring scripture a little to deepen your faith with the support of the Catholic teachings found in the catechism, why not join this group on Monday 20th January at 7.30-9.00pm in the HoT café. They meet fortnightly. All are welcome.

Celebration Choir: The next practice will be on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7.00pm. New Members welcome.

Prayer Vigil for Fr. Michael: Thank you all for your prayers. For those who have joined the Prayer Vigil thank you too for your daily prayers. There are over 80 parishioners signed up keeping a 24/7 prayer vigil going. If you would like to join to focus your prayers with others, please scan the QR code, or sign up on the sheet at the back of Church to commit to ½ an hour or an hour's prayer, every day at the same time. Once you have chosen the slot that suits, simply pray or offer your work wherever you are at that time, as a prayer for Fr Michael at that time each day. Don't be afraid to double up if someone else has a slot you would like! And don't worry if this is not



for you. Your prayers whenever you can pray would be really appreciated by Fr. Michael and his family.



Teas and Toys after 9.00am Mass at Sacred Heart in the Upstairs Kenelm Room.

School Masses: We are blessed to have Mass each week at one of our two Catholic primary schools, St Elizabeth's and St Gabriel's. The next school Mass is at St Elizabeth's on Friday 17th January at 9.15am. All are welcome.

Maranatha Prayer Chain: Contact - terryvobrien@icloud.com or Sylvia Geldard 01827 65264 with a prayer request to be passed on to our (prayer) chain of people.

Sacred Heart Toddlers: We love God and want to serve our community. Rebecca is starting a **FREE** toddler group on Thursday mornings in January, providing a safe, fun and loving environment as a support for parents and grandparents at this important stage in family life. If anyone has some good quality toddler toys that they wish to donate, please email rebecca@tamworthrc.church, we are particularly looking for crash mats, soft play equipment, sensory tables and a ball pool. If you would like to volunteer your time, please contact Rebecca. More info to follow in the new year.



**PHOENIX
Youth**

@ Sacred Heart, Tamworth

Phoenix Youth opens on Wednesday 15th Jan 2025, 6pm – 7.30pm, in the upstairs room. We always look forward to meeting new members, Phoenix is for young people in years 6 - 8. A chance to catch up with friends, make new ones and enjoy fun activities and games. A £1 contribution per session helps towards drinks and biscuits. If you have any questions, please email Becky or Liz phoenix@tamworthrc.church

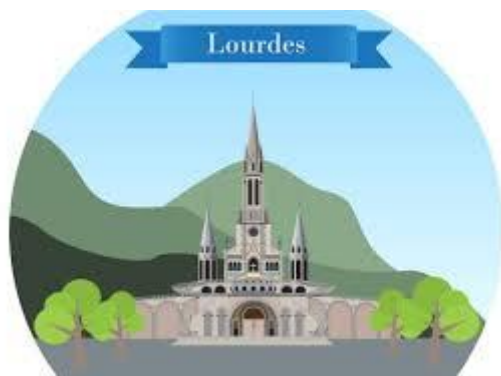
The Jubilee Year is approaching; we are exploring some opportunities for pilgrimages. Organised pilgrimages to Rome and Santiago de Compostella during the Jubilee Year are more expensive and very heavily booked so there are only a few spaces available. This means that we would not be able to travel as a parish group. For those wishing to go to Rome or Santiago opportunities may be available in late 2025 or early 2026.

For those wishing to go to Lourdes, pilgrimages are accessible through other Birmingham parish groups. Let us know if you want to avail yourself of these.

We have investigated more local pilgrimage and could follow St Kenelm's Way, a saint with connections to our parish. This is proposed for June 2nd to June 7th, covering about 55 miles in 6 days, starting near Halesowen and ending in Winchcombe in the Cotswolds. Once we have a list of names of those interested in this, we can start organising food and accommodation. We aim to keep the cost for travel, food and accommodation at £250 per person. We will also arrange two, one-day local trips suitable for families. One in Lent and one in September. Contact details Brenda at johnlevesley2013@gmail.com Or Una at unacooke@aol.com or Stephan at sbenkert@doctors.org.uk



Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 10th March 2025. £799.00 pps, 4 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, B&B. Lunch on three days. Entertainment and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Quiet Man Museum. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.



Booking is now open for this year's Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage You are most welcome to join us this Jubilee Year as we journey to Lourdes in May.

The pilgrimage runs from Saturday 24 - Friday 30 May 2025 with the theme: "With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope".

If you would like to travel to Lourdes but in need of assistance we can help. Assisted pilgrims have the support of doctors, nurses, carers and hospitaliers throughout their time on pilgrimage. You will participate fully in the pilgrimage and experience the love of God through the care, love and friendship of volunteers. Please contact the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office to discuss assistance requirements: 0121 230 6288 / admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk.

As well as applications from assisted pilgrims we're also keen to hear from doctors, nurses and carers eager to volunteer their time and experience Lourdes.

Find out more here: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>

Parish Council Meeting: We are meeting again on January 22nd at 8.00pm. We are still recruiting new members. We would like to be more representative of the cultural diversity of the Parish and are looking for a few more new members to help ensure this is happening and who are also actively involved in the Parish and committed to their faith. If you think you could spare the time for four meetings and an AGM please email alex@tamworthrc.church who will forward your email to Anne Goodeve the Chair of the Parish Council so any new nominees can be considered at the meeting.

Fr Michael: Has had some more treatment this week. Please keep him in your prayers and the recovery time is quick.

He appreciates and gets enormous strength from your love and prayers. In the meantime, please help the parish fulfil its mission. Support everything you can, please. That will be a great boost.

Fr Karun will not be available from Monday, 13th January until Tuesday 4th February. He is covering for Fr Srinu in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Rednal while Fr Srinu is on holiday.

Bereavement Help Points: Thurs evening 5.30pm – 7.00pm, in the café.

Friday, 10.00am till 12 noon, both at Sacred Heart. If you are struggling with loss & wish to talk, just come along.



Safe Haven is a Crisis Café for people aged 18+ with mental health problems: 5pm to 11pm Wed to Fri and 9am to 5pm on Sat and Sun. For info, email: Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk

The Memory Café meets Tues 10.30am 12.30pm email sally.clough@Tamworth.homeinstead.co.uk

Senior Gentlemen's Club: Meet on Tues 10.00 – 12 at St John's. Activities: dominoes, chess, bowling, trips. £2 subs. Contact Bill Field on 07985581794.



East Staffs Diabetes UK Patient Network supports groups for people living with diabetes. Contact John 07590379892 Email: bridgesjohn763@gmail.com

The Next Craft Club meeting will be in January. more details to follow.



Hygiene Bank - In November 2024 The Hygiene Bank, Tamworth celebrated 5yrs of work in our town. We are still a small group of only 6 volunteers (and would welcome more), but the amazing support from our parishioners has enabled us to supply hundreds of local individuals and families with essential items at times of hardship. We have also continued to provide many local primary schools with twice termly supplies of hygiene products which they can distribute to the families that they know will benefit.

We rely on trusted partnerships with many local agencies, churches, schools, CAB, H.O.T, Food Pantry, Food Bank who may make referrals to us and who also provide discreet collection points for recipients.

This is a summary of the way you have helped so many and in so many ways:

Individual Financial Donations. Online Purchasing through 'For the Common Good'

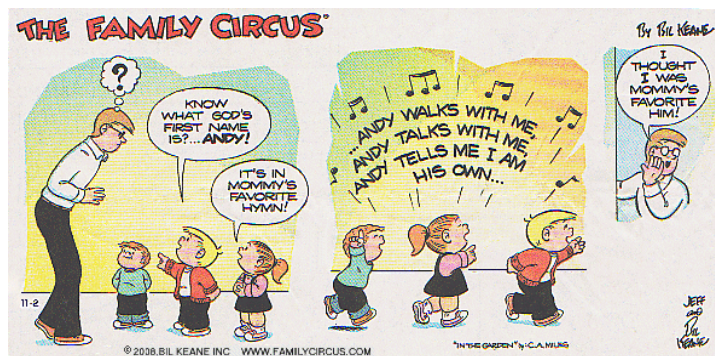
Donation Bins in both churches. total over 5yrs = 881kgs!

2020 = 197KGS - 2021 = 177KGS - 2022 = 70KG - 2023 = 215KG - 2024 to October so far 222kgs

Money Matters	
Envelopes:	33.50
Standing Orders:	1100.00
Loose:	497.35
Card:	144.00
Total:	£1774.85

A special thankyou also to Tess Vigus who has made *hundreds... yes hundreds....* of beautiful bags which we use to package items for recipients.

The parishioners of St John's and Sacred Heart have been phenomenal in their unstinting generosity, and we want to extend our appreciation to you all. **Thank you.**



The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Anne Goodeve, who 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 concerns.

Registered as a charity 234216