

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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



Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year 15th September 2024

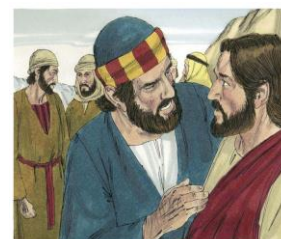
Readings:	<i>Isaiah 50:5-9</i>	<i>Psalms 114</i>	<i>St James 2:14-18</i>	<i>Mark 8:27-35</i>
Sat 14 th Sept Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year	The Exaltation of the Cross	9.00 (Swinfen) 10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Prison Mass Mary Ann and Brian Harvey Fr Karunakar and Fr Charles	
Sunday 15 th September Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year		9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Joan Penman Mary O'Gorman Catholic Women's Association	
Tues 17 th September	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	People of the Parish	
Wednesday 18 th September	Feria	10.00am (S.J.) 7.00pm (S.J.)	Nigel Brindley Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Thurs 19 th September	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Gillian Kenney	
Friday 20 th September	St Kim Taegon	9.15 (S.G.) 12.00am (S.J.)	St Gabriel's School Mass The sick and Housebound	
Sat 21 st September Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year	St Matthew	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Fr Jim McCormack Anne & Sidney Green	
Sunday 22 nd September Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year		9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Pickup family & Phyllis Dillon The People of the Parish Margaret Smith	

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, 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, Judith Cunningham, Geraldine Lee, Matthew Downes, Nelly Jones, Drew Taylor-Hunt, Gillian Satchel, Bert Branagan, Dave Titterton, Joe Gallagher, Beryl Geldard, Pete McNaughton, Eileen Facer, Flor Masters, Ryan O'Doherty, Patricia Devlin, Phyllis Dillon, Chris Davis, David Purslow.

Reflection: Poor Peter! He was just speaking on behalf of the other disciples, when he proclaimed his belief that Jesus truly was the long-awaited Messiah. It must have been a great shock to Peter to hear about suffering, rejection and killing, but also rising from the dead. Then to cap it all, to be called Satan!

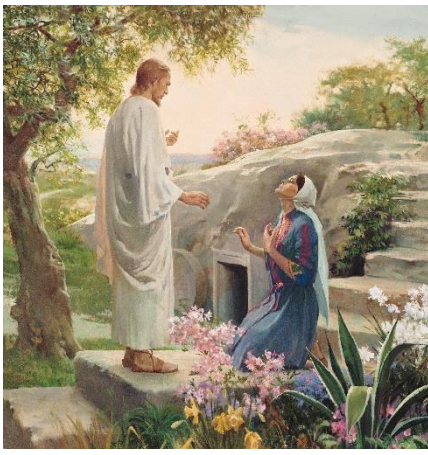
Jesus then explains, we all have choices. In life there are two crosses, the cross of Satan and the Cross of Christ. The former will seem light and pleasant to begin with, but as time passes, it will get heavier, leading to sadness and heartbreak. The latter may seem heavy at the start but will get ever lighter in the long run, leading to a happiness without end.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Henry Hassall, Winifred Tomkin, Evelyn Pasley, Richard Maher, Patrick Foster, Philip Cocrain, Amelia Wainwright, Ignatius O'Rourke, David Fitzgerald, John Lambert, William Walsh, Cecilia McGrath, Daniel Hatley, Frederick Foden, Jan Salaminski, Fred Swift, Terence Clayton, Bernadette McBreaty, Aidan Barron, Helen Rabin, Mary Margaret Courtney, Leslie Wilson, Josephine Osborne, Ronald Fredrick Griffiths, Margaret Burke, Leah Sweeney, Edith Rock., Hanna Ramsden, Charles McHugh, Margaret Sheldon, Teresa Byrne, Catherine Harper, Thelma Grey, Patrick Bumstead, Sheila Mulligan, Patricia Hoseason, Bella Gillen, Baby Bree O'Donnell

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



Deaths: Please pray for all those who have died recently, especially **Bernie Eason** whose funeral will be at Streetly Methodist Church on Wed 18th Sept at 11.00am followed by cremation at Fradley Crem and for **Mary O'Gorman** who passed away last week. May they be forgiven their sins and welcomed into paradise. Pray also that their families will be consoled by their faith.

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

First Holy Communion: For Children in Non-Catholic schools in Yr 3 or above sessions will start on Monday evenings on the 14th October 2024 from 6.00-7.00pm at Sacred Heart. To sign up please contact alex@tamworthrc.church

Alpha: Dinner or Breakfast? We will be offering dinner or breakfast over two Alpha Courses. A meal followed by a video and discussion for anyone who wishes to explore their faith or take the first steps to explore becoming a Catholic.

Thurs evenings 7.30-9.00pm at Sacred Heart starting on 26th Sept or **Saturday morning** for starting with breakfast on **Sat 21st Sept.** Contact alex@tamworthrc.church to book a place. It is an 11week course so try it for the first three weeks to see if it is for you.

Mandarin Alpha Film Series: Do you know anyone who would like to watch the Mandarin Series of Alpha, joining us for food and prayer on a Thursday evening? Could lead discussion in Mandarin? We have a guest who would like others to join him. Contact Alex for more information.

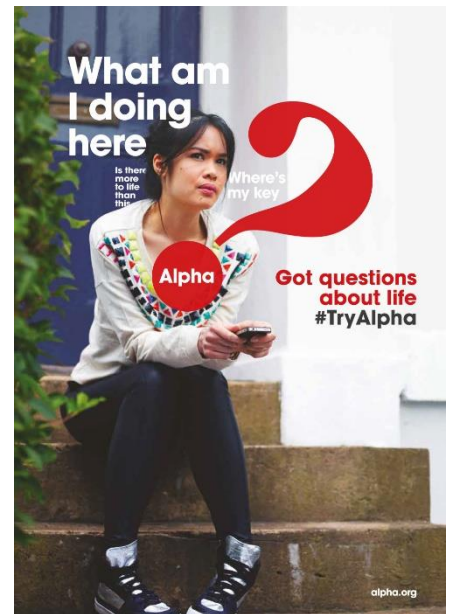
Alpha Cooks & Kitchen team: The Alpha course will start on **Thursday 26th September 7.30-9.00pm.** Already we have 25 guests signed up and a team of about 10-12 leaders and helpers. If you think you could help to cook, serve or wash up then please get in touch with Alex. alex@tamworthrc.church to let us know your availability. It is an 11-week course, each Thursday.

Youth Alpha: For all those in non-Catholic schools who wish to receive Confirmation next year, please join us for this on Monday evenings 5.45-7.00pm starting on Monday 23rd September at Sacred Heart. If you are interested, please contact alex@tamworthrc.church

This is also open to any youth in Y6 or above who would like to support their own faith journey.

Phoenix Youth Group: The next session will be **Wednesday 18th September** from **6. 00-7.30pm.** Please note the new time. We look forward to welcoming new members. It is for those young people in Y6 and Y7. New members welcome. £1 per session if you can afford it. A chance to catch up with friends & enjoy fun activities. Any questions, please email Becky or Liz phoenix@tamworthrc.church

On Saturday 12th October 2024, The Kenelm Youth Trust will be hosting a **Youth Ministry Conference** at Alton Castle, from 10am-6pm and will be filled with practical and engaging workshops; exhibitions and resources; a coffee corner and an opportunity to hear from young people engaged in Youth Ministry. *Our guest speaker, Dr Julia Sadusky, will be speaking on the topic of Trends in Youth Culture & Questions of Faith. This is a session I'm sure you won't want to miss!*



Volunteers Needed to help with collection from Asda and Greencore Atherstone – we need a few people for the weekly Asda collection. Because of Asda's generosity you would need a large car or a Van. The collection is during the daytime on a Wednesday. Greencore Collection is Sandwiches to be collected from Atherstone between 9 -11 am on Tuesday. Another collection is Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon. If you can help with any of these, please contact kelly@heartoftamworth

Are you looking for volunteering opportunities? If you are, then please email Fr Michael, Alex or Jen and arrange to discuss it.



Christmas Day? Do you want to do something different? We need a team of cooks to do Christmas day dinner for people who are isolated or needy. Can you help? Venue will be Sacred Heart for about 30-40 guests. For info email jen@heartoftamworth.org

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

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.

Bereavement Help Points: Thurs evening 5.30pm – 7.00pm, in the café. Friday morning Help Point will resume on the 6th September

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

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

Friendship Friday: Chats, quizzes, games. Fri 1pm – 3pm

The next craft club meeting will be on Tues 10th Sept. New members welcome.

Hygiene Bank need the following items for our school packs: Shower Gel, period pads, soap bars, nappies, size 4, 5, 6. All donations help local people in need.

World Osteoporosis Day 2024: Community Outreach Bone Health Education and Exercise Session will be held at Sacred Heart on Saturday 19th October 9.30am – 12pm. The event is open to everyone interested in improving their bone health, with presentations from experts in osteoporosis and a simple but fun exercise session. There will also be resources from the Royal Osteoporosis Society and an opportunity to speak to the experts.



Money Matters	
Envelopes:	62.00
Standing Orders:	1100.00
Loose:	654.41
Card:	66.00
Total:	£1882.41
<i>Thank-you</i>	

Sacramental Enrolment Evening for parents. For all those who are to receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion for the first time (Y3 and above) or Confirmation in 2025 (who are in Y6 or above), there is a meeting to enrol the young people onto the programme on Tuesday 1st October at 6.00pm for Communion parents and 6.45pm for Confirmation parents at Sacred Heart Church.

If you are new to the Parish, then please let us know and get yourself registered as soon as possible. Email michael@tamworthrc.church as well as introducing yourself before or after Mass.

Christmas Fayre and Raffle: Firstly, can you, or a friend or your company provide any raffle prizes? Please think about it and get back to Fr Michael this week. That might be cash, or holiday homes, balloon rides, meals, tickets to things etc.

Secondly, does the company you work for match-fund employees fundraising efforts? Many will give up to £500 to match what an employee does. Someone on a stall that raises that amount gets a further £500! 4 people doing that could make a big difference.

Companies that do it include **nearly all the big banks**, Tesco, Andersen, Argos, Astra Zeneca, Ernst & Young, Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Sky Broadcasting, KPMG, National Grid Transco, Shell, Sigma, Texaco, Vodafone, Centrica and others. Do you work for any of these or know someone who does? Can you ask your company if they do it? And spare 2 hours at a fayre to boost our fundraising by a massive amount?

In two hours, you could, if you work for such a company, raise £500 for our charity.



MATCHING GIFTS

Celebration Choir: The next practice will be on Wednesday 18th September 7.00pm at Sacred Heart. New members always welcome.

Please note that there are 8 Masses from Fri to Sunday, plus confessions and baptisms, meeting and greeting and appointments, admin etc. It's a lot for one priest so please try to support the parish in ways which relieve some of the pressure.

Next year is a Holy Year or a Jubilee Year since it is 2025 and jubilee years are celebrated every 25 years. It's a chance to renew our commitment (like some couples renewing their marriage vows after 25 years) and to reflect on our journey as individuals and parishes. The Church encourages us to do this with the help of pilgrimages too.

Next year we will organise pilgrimages to holy places in the UK like Walsingham, Hednesford and Harvington. The top picks for a pilgrimage abroad were Rome, Santiago and some for Lourdes. We might try to see if we can do more than one by pairing up with others.

Can someone help Fr Michael administer this please?

St John's Former Presbytery now houses 6 mums and 6 babies. It's a great project and a real help to pregnant girls not knowing which way to turn. It looks like the roof of that building needs replacing. Marie Sharratt-Freeman left £5,000 to the parish recently. She loved St John's so that money will go towards the work which will cost £15,000+.

If you are new to the Parish, then please let us know and get yourself registered as soon as possible. That way, we can arrange to meet you, bless your house if you wish and let you know what is happening here. Email michael@tamworthrc.church as well as introducing yourself before or after Mass.

New Missals have now been ordered and should be with us some time in October. The standard version will cost £20 and presentation one is £30. We have ordered a few extra standard missals in case anyone else wants one. People can pay once they arrive.



Fr Charles (left) and Fr Karunakar (a Hindi name meaning 'ocean of compassion'. Fr Karunakar was granted a visa but not Fr Charles. It must be so upsetting for them (plus more big fees £1,000 per application). The plan might be changing and Fr Karunakar could be coming over sooner. We await confirmation of that.

Fr Ramesh is settling into Aldridge and has had a warm welcome there. He sends his love to everyone. There are envelopes in the porches. We want to give him a parting gift, so, if you wish, please put a donation in the envelopes and return them this weekend or as soon as

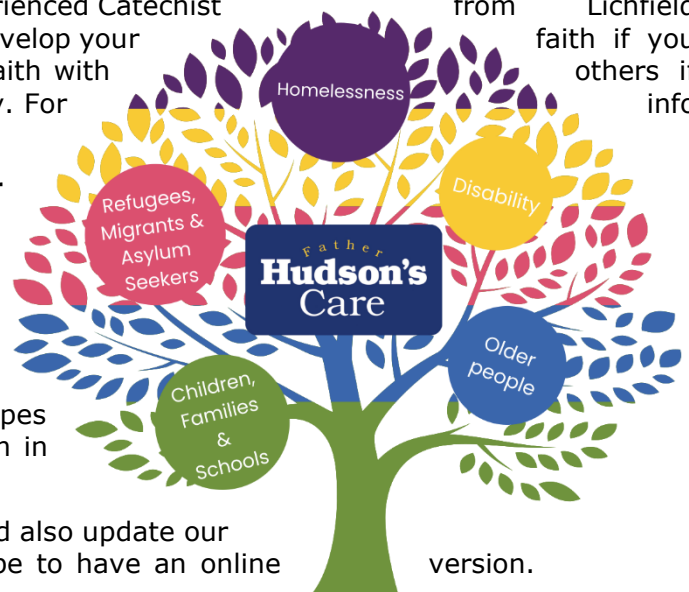
possible. Many have already done this. Presentation on Sunday 29th at 12noon Mass. Help needed for teas and cakes after Mass.

Today's Retiring Collection is to for Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation (CASE): it works to enthuse and engage and equip us to evangelise. They provide resources through their website and leaflets. Please pray for this core Church work this weekend.

In Simple Faith: A new course coming soon on Mon 30th Sep at 7.30-9.00pm in the HoT café, to be led in the style of Home Group i.e. drink & biscuit to chat and catch up for 10 minutes or so, then Scripture and catechesis, followed prayer. It will be led by experienced Catechist from Lichfield Igna Evans and Tony Appleby. This is a great way to develop your faith if you are new to the church or explore and deepen your faith with others if your faith is more established. This will run fortnightly. For info ask Alex.

The Retiring Collection Next Sunday is for Fr Hudson's Care which is the social care agency of the Diocese. It works with people who have disabilities (care homes and independent living), runs a care home, works with asylum seekers, homeless people and so much more. They do depend on our support. If you pay tax, please take an envelope and put your donation in that, to boost what they receive. Envelopes can be found in the Church porch; please bring them in next weekend.

We are planning to do some consultation soon and also update our census information. Forms nearly ready and we hope to have an online



version.