

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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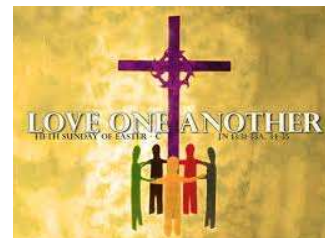
Fifth Sunday of Easter (C) 18th May 2025

Readings:	Acts 14:21b-27	Psalm 145	Revelation 21:1-5a	John 13:31-33a, 34-35
Saturday 17 th May Fifth Sunday of Easter	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Deacon Tony Rigby Christine Breeden – William & Margaret Gallagher		
Sunday 11 th May Fifth Sunday of Easter	9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Celia Goodeve – Deacon Brian Cox Frank Bloxham – Stephen O'Mara Michael Murray – Joan Dunne		
Tues 20 th May Weekday of Easter	10.00am (S.H.)	Ian & Val Haywood		
Wed 21 st May St Matthias	10.00am (S.J.)	Eleanor Woulfe		
Thurs 22 nd May Easter	10.00am (S.H.)	Holy Souls		
Fri 23 rd May Easter	9.00am (S.G.) 12.00noon (S.J.)	St Elizabeth School The sick and housebound of the parish		
Saturday 24 th May Sixth Sunday of Easter	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Tony Soden Tom, June and Peter Sharratt – Veronica Grainger		
Sunday 25 th May Sixth Sunday of Easter	9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Ken Tansey The intention of the people of the parish Margaret Beggan, Brian & June Beggan, Mary Una Beggan		

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, George Williams, Ray Newbold, Nicole Thomson, Maurice Mordanaigum, 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, Kathleen Donoghue, James Derty, 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, Fr 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, David Purslow, Irene Whelan, Anna Flynn, Carol Dolan, Rachel Scarnell, Sandra Massey, Susan Hall, Chito Sutton, Robert Gene Legaspi Jr, Briget Landers, Rory Downes, Janine Nolan, Derek Dillion, Bridie Petricca, Brian Cox, Denise Howell.

Reflection: Jesus showed us all the ultimate act of love by dying on the cross. He clearly urges us today to serve each other in the same way that he did. Not only loving those we agree and feel comfortable with, but also with those who are, in some way, different from us. They don't share our opinions, our faith, our culture. When we love one another – no matter who they are, justice and peace become part of our reality. Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said that "Peace is not the absence of war but the presence of justice." When we work for justice and equality, we are fully living into the love we are commanded to show one another by Jesus.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ernest Inskip, Ellen Flanagan, George Florendine, Sarah Coton, Ann Murphy, Fr. Patrick O'Connor, Thomas McGowan, Helen Titterton, Mrs. Hassell, Thomas Routledge, Francis Savin, May Connolly, Gerry Fitzsimmons, Dymna Harrison, Mrs. Morling, Fred Bates, Florence Wale, John O'Donnell, Frederick Price, Evelyn Sperry, Miciej Kowanda, Frances Knight, Jean Morris, Patrick Brennan, Cathleen Rose, Brian Connolly, Patrick McAteer, Helena Elson, Patricia Pendrey, Ethel Lee, Mary Horth, William Abrosiak, Leonard Thomas, Thomas McEntee, Patrick Maguire, George Davies, Pamela Bentley, Vincas Mazulis, Norman Rogers, Margaret Byrne, Anthony Cuffe, Winnifred Waples, Hannah Tidswell, George Mander, Michael Colmen, Frances Meehan, Florence Adderley, Andrew Hepple, Michael Murray.

Deaths: Please pray for all those who have died recently; **Geoffrey Mephram** whose funeral will take place in St John's on Friday 23rd May at 1.30pm; **Mary Kearns** who died during the week. May they rest in peace: Pray also that their families will be consoled by their faith.

Deacon Tony Rigby: We were all saddened to hear about Tony's passing recently. Tony served our parish faithfully for half of his 33 years as a deacon and then was a real blessing to Haunton and Barton. Many will fondly remember him baptising their children, doing weddings and funerals, visiting the sick, leading catechesis – all done with enthusiasm and a smile. Please pray for Helen and family as they grieve.



Readers Training: A date for your diary: Tuesday July 1st at 7.00pm at Sacred Heart. We are blessed to have so many amazing readers. We would like to offer a session for all readers to hone our skills and receive tips to develop and improve our reading. Please email Alex if you can come.

Eucharistic Ministers taking communion to the housebound need an up-to-date DBS. Please contact Anne Goodeve on sg.sjtb.tamworth@rcaob.org.uk to arrange.

Confirmation Group: The next session is on Monday 19th May at 5.45-7.00pm at Sacred Heart.



Communion Group: Congratulations to all the children who received their First Holy Communion this weekend.

May Procession: Next weekend (Sunday 25th May) there will be a simple May Procession after the 9.00am Mass where the children who have made their First Holy Communions may dress in their special outfits and lead the procession.

Confirmations for St Gabriel's School Children is Friday 13th June 2025 at **Sacred Heart** and for St Elizabeth's children and those at non-Catholic schools the Confirmation will be at **St John's Church** on Thursday 19th June 2025.

Pilgrims of Hope- Jubilee 2025 Pilgrim's Passport: If you fancy visiting some local Pilgrimage places, we have a family challenge for you. Try to complete our small booklet visiting as many of the places listed and finding the answers to our clues and questions. The Pilgrimage Year lasts until the Feast of the Epiphany 2026 so there is plenty of time. Let us know how you are getting on!

Journey in Faith next session is on Thurs 22nd May at 7.30-9.00pm and **Sat 24th May** 8.30-10.00am

In Simple Faith is on Mon 19th May at 7.30-9.00pm at Sacred Heart in the HoT Cafe. Please note the date is three weeks from the last session. An opportunity to explore scripture in a relaxed environment.

Teas and Toys after 9.00am Mass at Sacred Heart in the upstairs Kenelm Room. This is a lovely way to meet other parents and have a chat while the young children enjoy some play together.

Choir: The next practice will be on Wed 21st May 2025 at 7.00pm. New members welcome. Come along and see. (No auditions).

Maranatha Prayer Chain- If you would like to ask others to help you to pray for someone, please contact parishioners Terry O'Brien - 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.



Lichfield Cathedral Mass Sponsorship: Bishop Timothy is offering Mass at Lichfield Cathedral for schools in our deanery in June. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help. Are there any people who run businesses or individuals who would like to sponsor the Mass to help pay for Musicians, Booklets and other expenses. Please email alex@tamworthrc.church if you can help as soon as possible as we will be going to print very soon and would like to acknowledge sponsors.

If you have made your first holy communion, why not become an altar server? We will offer training. Just speak to any priest or deacon or email Fr Michael asap. It's open to all ages. If you are a parent, can you encourage your son or daughter to serve please?

Senior Gentlemen's Club: Tues 10.00-12.00 St John's for dominoes, chess, bowling, trips. Subs **£3**.

Youth meet every Wednesday 6pm – 7.30pm. Have you got a young person in years 6 – 13, that would like to attend? We meet in the upstairs Kenelm Room, £1 per child, includes snacks and refreshments. Contact rhannon@tamworthrc.church for more info.

Money Matters	
Envelopes:	51.00
Standing Orders:	1100.00
Loose:	638.55
Tap & Go	236.00
Total:	£2025.55

Thank-you

The games club on Thursday at the Holiday Inn. You do not need to commit to every week but we could do with two more volunteers. If you would like more info, contact Kelly on 07422 721835.

St Gabriel's requires a Caretaker: If you are interested then the school would be very keen to hear from you. For more information, please contact St Gabriel's 01827 213910



Summer Scheme Volunteers Meeting: Tues 17th June, 7pm, Werburgh room. If you have registered to volunteer at the Summer Scheme, please come along for a briefing. If you still haven't completed your paperwork, but wish to volunteer, please email Rebecca ASAP. If you wish to know more, but haven't signed up yet, please come along on the evening.

Heart of Tamworth is dedicated to combatting social isolation, alleviating food poverty and taking care of the most vulnerable in our community. We are always looking for volunteers to help in our Community Cafe, Pre-Loved Clothing Shop and Community Pantry, as well as our groups supporting

those who are bereaved or living with dementia, parent and toddlers, people with addictions and more. If you are interested, please contact jen@heartoftamworth.org.

Needed: Men's size small & medium clothes and men's new pants and socks are needed. Can you help?

Consultation is Ongoing: Please click here for the online version which makes it easier for us to collate. Hard copies available today in English and Polish

It will help us discern how to improve. A full report will be written up once all returns are completed. Just 10 minutes can help shape our parish's future. Thank-you to all who have already filled this in.

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.

St John the Baptist with the Sacred
Heart Tamworth -
Parish Consultation 2025



Sacred Heart Toddlers sessions run every Thursday, 10.30am in the upstairs Kenelm room, exploring different stories from the bible, and feast days in a subtle way through play. We post regular updates on social media, and post pictures of what we have been doing, please continue to share this lovely group with people you know, who have children under 5. We are looking for more volunteers to join the team! Contact rebecca@tamworthrc.church for more info.

Lichfield Bower: Rebecca, Kirsty and Fran are walking alongside the procession of floats collecting donations, which means that

Sacred Heart Toddlers will receive a cut of proceeds. We need 3 more volunteers to help - are you available on bank holiday Monday? The walk is roughly 2.5 miles, very gentle with a lot of stopping and starting. If you are up to the challenge, please contact Rebecca (over 18's only unfortunately).

If you know of any Catholics who are poorly, please let us know. We can arrange for them to have the sacraments. Just email details to patrickstanden@virginmedia.com who kindly takes charge of this.

Memory Café meets Tues 10.30am and Tues 1.00pm. Email sally.clough@Tamworth.homeinstead.co.uk or contact 01827 259955.

Deacon Brian remains in Good Hope. Please keep him, Nora, Phil, Mark and family in your prayers.

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

Safe Haven is a Crisis Café, now in Market St, Tamworth. Contact Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk

If you are on social media, please follow us on Instagram and Facebook. We post regular updates on there, please 'like' and 'share', the good work that goes on across our Parish.

Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 21st May at 8.00pm at Sacred Heart. If you have any issues you would like to raise, please email office@tamworthrc.church by Tuesday 20th May.





It's the Summer Fayre on 8th June and we would be grateful for your support. There is a form on the notice board at the back of church, if you can sign up for either volunteering on the day by helping with a stall or running a stall or baking a cake for the cake stall Helping with setup or clearing away. Any or all of these, even for an hour would be greatly appreciated.

Summer Fayre Prizes: can you get anything exciting for our Summer Fayre. Meals, adventure activities, signed Villa

or Blues shirt – anything through some connection you have. Email bob@tamworthrc.church.

- Raffle tickets available this week. Can you take and sell a few, please? This gives us a great starting point for the fayre.
- Bottles are always a big hit. Please search the house and bring some **next week**.
- **Then, all those unwanted presents would be perfect for clearing drawers and helping the parish.**
- And do you know a restaurant or business that might, through you, offer a prize? Businesses are often generous towards local community charities. We just need to ask them.



Please start bringing items in and returning Raffle stubs and money.

Lay Chaplain Vacancy: St Thomas More Catholic Academy and Sixth Form, Nuneaton Full time or Part time considered. Starting in Sept. A practising Catholic with a deep understanding of Catholic teachings and traditions. Details on the school website www.st-thomas-more.net Principal Mrs Leearna Thomas.

New Parishioners Social on July 12th 7.00pm at Sacred Heart. If you are new to the Parish just enquiring about faith, new to the area and would like to meet others please keep this date free.

Assisted Dying Bill: If assisted dying does become legal in England and Wales, it would be a historic change for society. Current laws prevent medics from helping any patient to carry out their wish to die. The new bill in England and Wales would allow any doctor to be involved in assisted dying. GPs are often a large part of the practice in countries where it is legal.



A BBC investigation found family doctors in England are deeply divided on the issue.

Of the 1,000 GPs who responded to a survey conducted by the BBC, 500 said they were against an assisted dying law, with 400 saying they were in favour.

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) said it believed there were "*concerning deficiencies*" with the bill that would need addressing, including tougher safeguards such as using doctors known to the patient for prognosis, face-to-face checks to prevent coercion and no cuts to other care.

Earlier this week, the Royal College of Psychiatrists said it had "*serious concerns*" and could not support the bill in its current form.

Some have blamed opposition to this on '*undeclared personal religious beliefs*'. Our faith does influence our actions and decisions. If we believe in God, it seems reasonable that He should influence us – more so than social media or TV personalities. Pope Leo, Pope Francis and every previous Pope would say that the answer to suffering is not to kill or help people commit suicide. Assisted suicide goes against our belief in the sanctity of human life and the duty that families, medics and society have to alleviate suffering rather than hasten death.

Please consider making your feelings known by writing to your MP.

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.