



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

Second Sunday of the year (C) 19th January 2025

Readings:	<i>Isaiah 62:1-5</i>	<i>Psalms 95</i>	<i>Corinthians 12:4-11</i>	<i>John 2:1-11</i>
Saturday 18 th January	Feria	10.30am (S.J.)	Fr Michael White	
Second Sunday of the Year		6.00pm (S.J.)	Phil Rogers – Coleen Tunney	
Sunday 19 th January	Peace Sunday	9.00am (S.H.)	Mike & Joan Randell	
Second Sunday of the Year		10.30am (S.J.)	Joan Morris – Colm Carmichael	
		12.00noon (S.H.)	Ruth Faulds – Margaret (Rose) Tovati	
Tuesday 21 st January	St Agnes	10.00am (S.H.)	Michael McMahon	
Wednesday 22 nd January	Feria	10.00am (S.J.)	Lynch Family	
		7.00pm (S.J.)	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Thursday 23 rd January	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Peter & Sheila McNaughton	
Friday 24 th January	St Francis de Sales	10.30am (S.H.)	Funeral Mass for Edward (Terry) Bashford	
	NOTE TIME CHANGE	12.30pm (S.J.)	The sick and housebound of the parish	
Sat 25 th Jan	The Conversion of St Paul	10.30am (S.J.)	Tony Soden	
Third Sunday of the Year		6.00pm (S.J.)	Barron Family – Catherine Matthews	
Sunday 26 th January	Third Sunday of the Year	9.00am (S.H.)	John Deegan - Liam (Luke) Ryan	
		10.30am (S.J.)	Bro. Donie Hallissey – Paul Cadwallader	
		12.00noon (S.H.)	Sylvia & Kevin Williams – Michael & Dymphna 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, Dominic Hespe, 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, David Purslow, Irene Whelan, Anna Flynn, Carol Dolan, Rachel Scarnell, Sandra Massey.

Reflection: Too often we live with the illusion of our own self-sufficiency. That illusion is shattered on the day the 'wine' runs out and the jars of our life stand empty and dry. It might be about the death of a loved one or the loss of a friendship or marriage. Many of the stories that are told will be about fear of what is or what might be. They are not all stories from the past, some of us are living these stories today. By allowing Christ into our lives the miracle at Cana never ceases to happen. Every moment of every day Christ pours himself into the empty jars of our life. He is the good wine; extravagant, abundant, endless. Every time that good wine is poured, our lives are changed and transformed.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canon J. Lane, Mildred Reynolds, Evelyn O'Reilly, James Salt, Geraldine Mulligan, John Shine, Philip Murdoc, May D'Arcy, Digger Wood, Roy Buxton, William Miles, Eric Mason, Annie Allen, Bernard Keogh, Ellen Chadwick, Eileen Albrighton, Winnie Evans, Rita Flanagan, Owen Cotterill, George Dagnall, Vincent Arbraitas, Edgar Lawrence, Thomas Taylorson, Eileen Salt, Stanley Hinds, William Jordan, Bethan Sorohan, Mary Alice Davies, Dion Latham, Thomas Cassidy, Emil Walezek, Bertha Wheeler, Joseph Keane, John Girvan, Kathleen Elliott, Nancy Serrage, George Jones, Mary McGrath, Ann Panting, Theresa Ensley, Marie Taylor, James Collins, Anthony Eivers, Anne Pearson, Stewart Masefield, Joyce Stack, Dennis Chipman, Theresa Woodcock, Joyce Anderson, Peter Corcoran, Florence Kimberley, Mary Griffiths, David Haynes, Mark Adams.

Today is Peace Sunday - The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year is 'Forgive us our trespasses' Today let us pray for peace and compassion around the world.



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; **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; **Margaret Anne Elkins**, the funeral service will take place on Tuesday 4th February, 1pm at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium. May they rest in peace: Pray also that their families will be consoled by their faith.



First Holy Communion: For Children in Non-Catholic schools in Year 3 or above sessions continue Monday evening 20th January 2025 from 6.00-7.00pm at Sacred Heart. Any questions please contact alex@tamworthrc.church

Confirmation Preparation: Confirmation preparation for those in non-Catholic Schools continues at Sacred Heart 20th January 2025 at 5.45pm-7.00pm.

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 23rd 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 22nd 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: Due to the special Launch of the Jubilee at our Parish schools and the funeral at Sacred Heart there is no Mass at St Gabriel's school this coming week. Please pray for all the young people in our schools as they launch their Jubilee Year.

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 is beginning on Thursday 6th February 10.30am – 12noon in the Werburgh room! Rebecca and Kirsty are really excited to begin this new group, providing a safe, fun and loving environment as a support for parents and grandparents at this important stage in family life.

We love God and want to serve our community, so Sacred Heart Toddlers is **FREE** and welcome to all families with children under 5 years old. Please email rebecca@tamworthrc.church if you have any questions, we look forward to welcoming you soon!



The Jubilee Year; 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.

JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025



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

Flash Sale – Our pre-loved clothes shop is holding a flash sale on Sunday 26th January from 11am - 1pm. All adult clothes will be £1, children 50p coats just £3.

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>

The ever-popular Multi Cultural Food Festival is back! Please put 7:30pm Saturday 22nd February in your diaries. Sample delicious food from around the world and celebrate the many cultures that make up our parish. Anyone interested in providing a dish from their culture, please contact terrymcelroy117@gmail.com, or jen@heartoftamworth.org



Fr Michael: Continues with his therapy. He is staying with family at the moment. Please continue with your prayers, he really does appreciate it and gets enormous strength from your love. In the meantime, your support in helping the parish to fulfil its mission and support for Fr Venkat, Fr Karun and the parish team is extremely welcome

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.

Week of
Prayer for
Christian
Unity



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 18-25 January The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 offers an invitation to draw on this shared heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians.

The parish youth had their first meeting of the new year this week. They started to plan ways that Phoenix can focus on various things for the Jubilee Year – Pilgrims of Hope. Is this something that your young person would be interested in getting involved with?

Youth takes place every Wednesday 6pm – 7.30pm, in the upstairs room. We always look forward to meeting new members. Phoenix is for young people in years 6, 7 and 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 phoenix@tamworthrc.church



**PHOENIX
Youth**

@ Sacred Heart, Tamworth



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: Meets on Tuesday 10.00-12.00 St John's Activities: dominoes, chess, bowling, trips Please note now **£3** subs please.



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



Craft Club: The next Craft Club meeting will be 28th January 1.00pm-3.00pm New members always welcome.

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:	41.50
Standing Orders:	1100.00
Loose:	637.38
Card:	117.00
Total:	£1895.88

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.sitb.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.