

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

Parish Office: 01827 769403 Parish Centre Queries: 01827 288226

Fr Michael: michael@tamworthrc.church

Fr Ramesh

Deacon Brian Cox and Nora: nora@tamworthrc.church

Deacon Bob: bob@tamworthrc.church

Admin: Wendy: office@tamworthrc.church

Catechesis/liturg: alex@tamworthrc.church

Terry (Bookings): terryobrien@heartoftamworth.org

Kelly-HoT worker: kelly@heartoftamworth.org

Safeguarding: sg.sjtb.tamworth@raob.org.uk

Rebecca: rebecca@tamworthrc.church

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



Third Sunday of the Year A – 22nd January 2023

Psalm Response: The Lord is my light and my help

Readings: Isaiah 8:23-9:3 Psalm 26 St Paul to Corinthians 1:10-13,17 Matthew 4:12-23

Saturday 21 st January	St Agnes	10.30 am (S.J.)	Mass for the sick and housebound
	Third Sunday of the Year	6.00 pm (S.J.)	Catherine Matthews – Joyce Farrington
Sunday 22 nd January		9.00 am (S.H.)	Fitzgerald Family – Meldred Simpkins & Family
	Third Sunday of the Year	10.30 am (S.J.)	Marie Daly – Private Intentions
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Amelia Wayne – Ruth Faulds
Tue 24 th January	St Francis de Sales	10.00am (S.H.)	D Foxall
Wed 25 th January	St Paul's Conversion	12.15pm (S.H.)	Funeral Mass for Isobel Wallis
Thurs 26 th January	Ss Timothy & Titus	10.00am (S.H.)	Melanie Richards
Friday 27 th January	Feria	12.00 noon (S.J.)	Mass for the sick and housebound
Sat 28 th January	St Thomas Aquinas	10.30 am (S.J.)	James McKeefry
	Fourth Sunday of the Year	6.00 pm (S.J.)	Monica Gallagher
Sunday 29 th January		9.00 am (S.H.)	Bella Gillen – Peter Standen
	Fourth Sunday of the Year	10.30 am (S.J.)	Frank O'Reilly – Tony Eivers
		12.00 noon (S.H.)	Stephanie Bradford – Paul Cadwallader

Confession Saturday St John's Church 5.15 – 5.45 pm

Please pray for the following who are sick: Mary Collins, Beryl Smith, Joy Espanta, Maria Alcuaz, Mandy Williamson, Anthony Hayes, Gillian Aoife Sage, Margaret Wainwright, Jemma Vine, Corrie Walker, Fay Bishop, Rose Limm, Raymond Walker, Maureen Walker, Julie Tranter, Augusto Mayores, Edwin Catli, Sheila Bonser, Fr Jim McCormack, Mary Coady, Patricia Burton, Muriel Lawley, Joan Barber, Dominic Hespe, George Williams, Ray Newbold, Nicole Thomson, Mandy Sheridan, Gary Ealing, Marie Purslow, Emma Downes, Sini Thomas, Pat Machin, Joan Hill, Connie de Guzman, Joyce Greer, Tolentino Fabian, Maurice Murdanaigum, Paul Connell, Bob Walker, Marie Cole, Clara Counsell, Jo Hawker, Joan Dauncey, Imogen Sylvester, Olive Arrowsmith, Stan Merryweather, Mark Nelson, Olive Stewart, Kathy Warren, James McKeefry, Ruth Faulds, Michelle Padmore, George McGuigan, Sheila Fullbrook, Brian McCourt, Michael Boulstridge, Felix Sutton-Whittle, Rosie McKenny, Alan Hopper, Matilda (Tilda) Doherty and Pat MacDonald, Peter Scott, Joe Kelly, Maria Freeman, Jane Harper.

Reflection: Jesus the healer applied a therapy that was his own, his compassionate love. He accepted every sick person wholeheartedly. He suffered when he saw them suffering. Healing was Jesus' way of loving. He showed them that they deserved to be loved.

According to Matthew, when Jesus settles in Galilee, he becomes a 'light' for the people of those regions. A question we can ask ourselves today is, 'is Jesus the light enlightening our daily living?'

Lord Jesus, a main part of your healing action was just your warmth and friendship. You drew those in need to trust in the goodness of God and to find courage to move on and spread the light. Help us to do the same.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around 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.

Deaths: please pray for the repose of the soul of **Isobel Wallis**, funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday, 25th January at Sacred Heart 12.15; **Walter (Wally) Debono**, funeral service will be on Thursday 2nd February at St John's, 1.30pm; **Monica Gallagher**, who will be received into St John's on Thursday 9th February at 4.00pm followed by the funeral Mass on Friday 10th February at 11.00am; **Kathleen Richardson**, will be received into Sacred Heart on Monday 13th February at 3.30pm followed by the funeral Mass on 14th February at 10.00am; **Marilyn Page** whose funeral service will take place at the Robin Hood Crematorium, Shirley on Wednesday 15th February at 10.00am; **Marie Daly** whose funeral will take place in Sacred Heart on Wednesday 15th February at 11.00am; **Elsie Newbold** whose funeral Mass will take place in Sacred Heart on Friday 24th February at 11.30pm. We also remember **Dennis Reardon** and **Rosemarie McDonald**, who passed away recently. May they rest in peace. Amen



Praying

At the Request of Some Parishioners there will be a mass with Polish readings and the people's prayers also said in Polish on Sat 28th Jan at 6pm, at Sacred Heart. The music will be provided by a Polish musician and will include Polish and English verses. This is open to all and is an opportunity for a more 'charismatic' style of worship and praise. The priest's prayers will be in English and English translations of readings will be available.



Maranatha Prayer Chain: If you would like to seek prayers for someone, contact Terry - terryvobrien@icloud.com or Sylvia 01827 65264 who will organise others to pray for your intentions.

Celebration Choir: There is no practice on Wed 25th January due to Thursday's Worship as One evening.

Worship as One: Thurs 26th Jan 7.00-8.30pm at Sacred Heart. Come and join all the choirs as we learn new music for the coming term, with a few favourites too. St Augustine once said: *'Whoever sings, prays twice'*. If you like to sing, please use your voice to praise God. Speak to Alex for more info. 01827 769403

Prayer Partners: Most people will have received a letter in the post from their prayer partner. To reply please put: "from and your name" on the envelope so that we can match you with the child and hand the envelope into the Parish office marked "Prayer Partner".

Teaching - Catechesis

Journey in Faith: continues on Thursdays from 7.30-9.00pm If you are interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith please contact alex@tamworthrc.church or speak with Fr Michael. 01827 769403.

First Holy Communion Preparation for children at non-Catholic Schools continues on Mondays 6.00-7.00pm at Sacred Heart.

Confirmation: For children in non-Catholic Schools, the next session is on Monday 23rd January 5.45-7.00pm when we continue with the Youth Alpha Sessions

Home Group in the Café: The next meeting is on Mon Jan 30th in the café from 7.30-9.00pm. We will be focusing on St Paul's Letter to the Philippians. New members welcome. Optional preparation - have a look at this summary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oE9qqW1-BkU> You can of course also read the four Chapters which make up this letter in your Bible.



Vocations Weekend for Women: Discerning God's Call in your life the 3rd - 5th February 2023 in London: The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday. There will be an opportunity for

prayer, reflection and input, a chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. Contact Sr Lynne fcJ at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or www.fcjsisters.org

Safe Haven: A place of hope when there is distress. **Crisis Café** at Sacred Heart. We will offer a safe space to talk, signpost to services, improve your wellbeing and support your recovery. Powered by the NHS and delivered by Mind in partnership with HoT. Let's talk: 5pm-11pm Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. 9.00am-5pm Saturdays and 1.30-9.30pm Sundays. Contact 07380 460551



A safe, non-judgemental, evening space,
for people experiencing emotional distress.

The family of Imogen and Frank and I as grandparents would like to thank our parishioners for their prayers which have been answered. Last week Imogen "rang the bell" at Birmingham children's hospital and received her certificate stating she is now cancer free.

Teaching - Youth Ministry

This is another area where teaching takes place. But here it is informal, negotiated with our young people and voluntary (unlike school, they choose to come). It is vital to the work of the Church.



Working With Young people in their teens is starting up in February. We delayed it because we needed a new co-ordinator and two more volunteer leaders. Would you be up for helping on Friday evenings? We will be offering support and a little training. You just need to like young people, listen, enjoy their company and help organise some good activities. We have lots of ideas already. You might be all that's missing? No experience needed.

Welcome on Board to Rhiannon Goodeve who is taking on the Teens youth work post. Rhiannon will be leading this on Friday evenings and hoping to recruit some volunteers to help her. Our thanks

to Rhiannon for taking this on. For any young people or volunteers watching, we will have an email address for Rhiannon next week.

The Phoenix Youth group is pitched at young people in yrs 6, 7 and 8 we have space, superb leaders, pizza & the opportunity to have fun together. It is open to all and is on Wednesdays from 6.30 till 8.00 pm, upstairs at Sacred Heart. If you have any questions, then email rebecca@tamworthrc.church.

Leaders: We need people who enjoy working with young people, work well as part of a team and are free on Fridays. Can you help? We can offer training. Contact Rebecca for more info.

'Word of God Sunday' is this weekend: Why not borrow a book from the Book Libraries at the back of church for children and adults to help us learn about God. The Bible stories contain the Word of God for children. These can be read and then exchanged for a different one. The libraries are open before and after Mass for you to borrow books. Please ask if you need assistance.



The Incarnation is 'Love in Action' and the Gospel asks us to do the same. That means making concrete the love of God, especially for those in need. These are some of the things we do.

The Housebound are visited by our wonderful team of 25 Eucharistic ministers with communion, each week/month. Currently there are 90 people. This is part of what the parish does to carry out its pastoral responsibilities. If you know anyone who wants communion but is housebound then please let us know.



Provide Great opportunities to meet new people in a warm, sociable environment and enjoy free soup, snacks and hot drinks on Thursdays at the Games Club, 1-3pm, Sacred Heart Community Centre and at the Friendship Friday group, 1-3pm, Sacred Heart Community Centre. We are also running a Winter Warmth group on Saturdays and Sundays - 1-3pm, at St John's Church community rooms. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Building a New Shop is to make the experience more dignified but also to create a community environment so we can engage more with people who visit. The plan is also to develop space for clothing, children's books and toys. The £5000 raised at the Christmas Fayre recently will be for the new shop.

Thank-you to so many individuals and businesses who have also donated thousands of pounds to our food project in the last few weeks.



Thank-you to those who have offered to help collect food. If you can help, please contact Kelly asap.

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

Bereavement Help Points on Friday from 10.00am till 12 noon, at Sacred Heart and on Thursday evening 5.30pm – 7.00pm, held in the café. If you are struggling with loss and wish to talk to someone, just come along (Thursday evening is quieter); you are welcome to simply turn up.

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 or tqbdeltic@hotmail.co.uk

Sacred Heart Craft Group will be meeting on Tuesday 31st January at 1pm. All are welcome

Games Club: Every Thursday at Sacred Heart 1pm – 3pm, now with hot soup and a roll. A great way to meet new people while playing your favourite board games. Open to all, free to attend, no need to book.

Thank-you to all who have recently done standing orders and gift aid. If you give cash, please consider doing it by standing order. It helps save us time counting and banking it and the cost of banking it too (they charge for banking cash!!). Just contact Wendy or Fr Michael if you are interested. There are forms in the porch.

There will be an annual report next month detailing our accounts for 2022 but also some of our activities.

Please continue to support the Hygiene Bank so that we can help local people that really need our help. We need: toilet paper, deodorant, shower gel, clothes wash tablets/sachets and period pads. There are drop-off points at Church and at Boots store.

Senior Gentlemen's Club: Meet on Tuesday morning 10.00 – 12noon at St John's Community rooms (at the side of St John's Church). Other activities: put the world to rights, dominoes & chess, crown green bowling, trips, annual Christmas meal. £2 per week for the kitty for the trips and events. Contact Bill Field on 07985581794 – billfield123@btinternet.com

The Walking Group: please check with your own networks for what is happening this week.



CAFOD Walking Challenge: Not to make the year go any faster than it already will but, Lent will be here before we know it! CAFOD are asking people to get involved in their 'Big Lent Walk' to help fight global poverty. There are many ways you can get involved, whether you're taking on the 40-day challenge by yourself or as part of a school or community/parish group, CAFOD would love you to take part.

For more information or to sign up:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Big-Lent-Walk>

Volunteer for CAFOD: We are looking for School Volunteers across Lichfield and Walsall where you'll deliver assemblies and workshops about CAFOD's work. No experience necessary. Full support, resources and regular training provided. If you'd like to know more, please get in touch with Joanne O'Meara: birmingham@cafod.org.uk

Lent Begins in about a month: Any new ideas on how we might challenge ourselves this coming Lent? Maybe it is something we can do together. What works best for you? Please let us know and we will see what we can arrange.

Scaffolder Needed: do you know anyone working in scaffolding who will give us a good price for a job at St John's? Please speak to Fr Michael if you do.

Money Matters	
Envelopes	58.50
Standing Orders	1000.00
Loose:	747.56
Total:	£1806.06

Thank-you
Would those giving cash consider
giving by direct debit to help the
parish?
Speak to Fr Michael or Wendy for info

