



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

Seventh Sunday of the Year (C) 23rd February 2025

Readings:		1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23	Psalms 103	1 Corinthians 15:45-49	Luke 6:27-38
Saturday 22 nd February	Chair of St Peter	10.30am (S.J.)		Tony Soden	
Seventh Sunday of the Year		6.00pm (S.J.)		William John & Margaret Gallagher	
Sunday 23 rd February		9.00am (S.H.)		John McConnon – Charles & Meghan & their families	
Seventh Sunday of the Year		10.30am (S.J.)		Joan Morris – Paddy Morrissey	
		12.00noon (S.H.)		Sylvia & Kevin Williams – Michael & Dymphna Beggan	
Tuesday 25 th February	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)		Kerian Jones	
Wednesday 26 th February	Feria	10.00am (S.J.)		Stuart & Kathleen Parker	
		7.00pm (S.J.)		Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Thursday 27 th February	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)		Betty Scanlon	
Friday 28 th February	Feria	9.15am (S.G.)		St Gabriel's School Mass	
		12.00pm (S.J.)		The sick and housebound of the parish	
		7.00pm (S.J.)		Mass for Bro Donie – all welcome (with Fr Joe McGee)	
Saturday 1 st March	St David	10.30am (S.J.)		Fr Ian Ker	
Eighth Sunday of the Year		6.00pm (S.J.)		Bro Donie Hallissey – Joan Morris	
Sunday 2 nd February		9.00am (S.H.)		Janet Smith – Bishop David McGough	
Eighth Sunday of the Year		10.30am (S.J.)		George McGuigan – Mary Farrington	
		12.00noon (S.H.)		Natalie Page – Mary La Planche	
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, 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, Nicky MacErean.

Reflection: *'Love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, bless those who curse us, pray for those who mistreat us. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other!'* Listening to the news constantly reporting on wars, stabbing, shootings... This feels like a lot to ask! Bishop Tutu served as a leader in South Africa during the struggle to dismantle apartheid, and he certainly gathered a lot of enemies. He is an example of how we can live our lives in the way that Jesus is asking us today. Bishop Tutu never became bitter or hateful. He never deviated from what the Bible taught him – to love and forgive his enemies. He managed to go through his entire life with this focus. In an interview he was asked his secret to doing this. How was he able to live by these challenging teachings of Jesus? Bishop Tutu's answer was both complicated and simple.
"I hold on, and often only by the skin of my teeth, to believe that God is in charge of his world, in spite of all appearances to the contrary. Forgiving, is not forgetting; it's actually remembering – remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning."
 (Bishop Tutu's Hopes and Fears)



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Peter Bradley, Winifred Morrisroe, John O'Malley, John Cuffe, Margaret Curnock, George Bonham, Mary Carney, Frank Meehan, Margaret Bird, Christian Davies, Magdalen Slater, James Porter, Albert Collett, Alfred Duncomb, Alice Woonton, Francis Kelly, Bruno Chyla, Edna Parsons, Albert Maloy, Mary Butler, Mary McDermott, Julie Grace, Beryl Felton, Kevin Stack, Teresa Coleman, John Farrington, Josephine Byrne, Douglas Stait, Michael Moloney, Patrick Hickey, Donald Martin, Vincent Cunneen, Eva Heafield, Patricia Fleet, Enrique Gorriñ Rodriguez, Doris May Phillips, Ann Serriage, Daniel McGeechan, Christine Hastings, Karen Taylor, Patricia Stevens, Desmond Ryan, Michael Ayasamy, Cyril Forshaw.

Bro Donie's Memorial Mass: Fr Joe McGee msc will be joining us to pray for the repose of the soul of Bro Donie on Friday 28th February 7pm at St John's. Refreshment will be served after the Mass. Everyone is welcome to attend to remember this wonderful man and pray for him.

First Holy Communion: Sessions for Children in Non-Catholic schools in Year 3 or above will resume on Monday evening 24th February 2025 from 6.00-7.00pm at Sacred Heart. Any questions please contact alex@tamworthrc.church



Confirmation Parents Catechesis- The next session for Confirmation Parents' Catechesis will be Monday 24th February 7.30-8.45pm for St Gabriel's Parents and Tuesday 25th February at 6.15-7.30pm for St Elizabeth's Parents and those at non-Catholic Schools. Please if you can't make your allocated time come to the other one or email alex@tamworthrc.church.

Confirmation Preparation: Confirmation preparation for those in non-Catholic Schools continues on Monday 24th February 2025 at 5.45pm-7.00pm.

Celebration Choir: The next practice will be on Wednesday 26th February 2025 at 7.00pm. New Members welcome.

Dates for your diary: First Holy Communion Masses will take place on the weekend of 17th and 18th May 2025.

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

For adults being received into the Catholic Faith - Baptisms, Confirmations and First Holy Communions will take place at the Easter Vigil on 19th April. Keep free also the afternoon of the 9th March when we visit St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham for a special service.

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 **3rd March** at 7.30-9.00pm in the HoT café. They meet fortnightly. All are welcome.



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

Journey in Faith: Thursday 27th February from 7.30-9.00pm at Sacred Heart or Saturday's group at 8.30-10.00am also at Sacred Heart. Please keep the groups in your prayers. Any queries please contact alex@tamworthrc.church



Children's Worship: we are blessed to have this opportunity for children to experience the Word of God at their own level each Sunday. This takes place at all of our Sunday Masses and a huge thankyou to all of our team members. St John's team have requested more helpers please for the 10.30am Mass. No experience is necessary, no qualifications needed just a willingness to help and a love of working with children. DBS checks would be made, but this is quite straightforward. If you can help at the 10.30am Mass please email Lisa Fahy on lisafahy77@outlook.com

Sacred Heart Masses would always welcome new members too.

Please contact alex@tamworthrc.church Or speak with Gee Bernstein after Mass.

School Masses: The next Mass in school is this Friday 28th February at 9.15am at St Gabriel's School. Everyone is welcome.

Jubilee 2025: Our young people had the launch of their Jubilee Year in our Catholic schools recently. We are all 'Pilgrims of Hope'. A special Jubilee Passport is being published for our Parish and those nearby, to encourage visits by families to special Pilgrim sites. More details on this soon.

New Parishioners' Social on Pancake Day - March 4th at 6.30pm. Are you new to the parish in the last 12 Months? If so, we would like to get to know you and help you to know others. Please come along to Sacred Heart for a bite to eat including some pancakes Please complete an invitation and hand to one of the team with your details on or email alex@tamworthrc.church Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements.

Ash Wednesday is 5th March. Please save the date in your diary. During Lent we will have talks on five Tuesday evenings starting on 11th March following Mass at 7.00pm with guest speakers including Bishop Timothy Menezes, Canon Michael Dolman and Abigail from CAFOD. More updates to follow soon. Topics will be based upon the Jubilee theme:

We would like to offer **refreshments after the Lent** talks so that conversations can continue. If you can help to organise these for about 8.00pm - 9.00pm on any of the five Tuesday evenings in Lent (Not Holy Week) please email alex@tamworthrc.church



Reconciliation: Jubilee is a special year of reconciliation - **Pilgrimage:** how do we make our life's journey a pilgrimage? - **Freedom:** Jubilee reminds us that we worship a God who brings freedom. - **Hope - Restoration and Renewal**



During Lent we will start a twelve-week Alpha Course for those interested in exploring the Christian Faith. Already there is a lot of interest (14+ signed up). It's on Saturday mornings from 10.30 till 12 noon starting with 'Brunch', followed by Alpha Videos and discussions. The big questions are: 'Is there more to life than this?' 'Why did Jesus die?' 'Who is the Holy Spirit? Does God Heal today?' And many more.

It starts on **Saturday 8th March at Sacred Heart**. For more information, email alex@tamworthrc.church We do need to know numbers for refreshments, please.

Alpha 21- Day Prayer Campaign- Who would you like to bring into or back to the church? The first most important step is to pray for them. Please take a Prayer card and fill in the names of three people you would like to pray for.

Alpha Invitations: The most fruitful way to get more people coming to church is by personal invite. Please take a few Alpha Invites and give them to at least three people, hopefully the ones you are praying for. Perhaps offer to come with them on the course for the first session. You can make all the difference to other people's lives in this way.



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.

Stations of the Cross at Sacred Heart: There is only one Station left to sponsor. If you would like to contribute towards the tremendous amount of time Justyna puts into each one (we suggest around £100) please contact or email Wendy on office@tamworthrc.church

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.



Walk the St Kenelm's Way: This will be our first pilgrimage walk for the parish. Our plan is to follow St Kenelm's Way from the Clent Hills to Winchcombe in the Cotswolds. The walk will be on 2nd to 7th June 2025 and covers around 55 miles in 6 stages. If you couldn't make the meeting and are interested, contact the parish office.

Booking is now open for this year's Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage The pilgrimage runs from Saturday 24 - Friday 30 May 2025 with the theme: "With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope".

Find out more here:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>

Youth - We are excited to announce that both the Phoenix Youth Group (6-7:30 pm) and Teen Youth Group (5-8 pm) will be running every Wednesday. If you would like your child to attend, please email our Youth Leader Rhiannon rhiannon@tamworthrc.church to enquire for more information. We look forward to seeing your child there!

Craft Club: The next Craft Club meeting will be 25th February 1.00pm-3.00pm New members always welcome.

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

Church Wardens: Thank you to the wardens who serve the parish with this important ministry. The Church Wardens are invited to a catchup meeting on Saturday, 8th March 1.00pm at the Sacred Heart. We do need some more; if you think you could assist the wardens please contact alex@tamworthrc.church or bob@tamworthrc.church

Rhiannon's London Marathon Challenge Is 70 days away! You may not know, that our amazing Parish Youth Worker is training hard for the London Marathon 2025! She is hoping to raise at least £1K for the **Heart of Tamworth Community Project** Please donate if you can, by visiting the link on our Parish Facebook page, or by scanning the QR code, thank you



Summer Scheme Volunteers We are already thinking about Summer Scheme 2025! If you would like to volunteer this year between 21st July and 1st August, please contact rebecca@tamworthrc.church as arranging DBS checks can take a couple of months! You do not have to commit to the whole 2 weeks, just an odd day if you prefer? This is the 13th year we have run the Summer Scheme, let's make this one the BEST YET!

Toddler group at Saint Elizabeth's Every Wednesday during term time 10.15 - 11.15am, a lovely stay and play for children aged 18 months - 4 years old. Please support if you can, to ensure the future of this group. Cost: FREE 😊 To book your place contact office@st-elizabeths.staffs.sch.uk

Father Hudson's Caritas

does amazing work around the Diocese with people who are homeless, running a care home, work with people with disabilities, refugees and much more. In March they are running a ball to raise funds for their work. It includes a 3-course meal and great band. Would you help support this great work by coming along?

Date: 15 March 2025 at St John's Hotel 651 Warwick Road Solihull B91 1AT. Start time: 19:00 - Tickets are £55 each. Please contact kevinhateley@fatherhudsons.org.uk or 01675 434000 or email michael@tamworthrc.church since Fr Michael hopes to go and can arrange tickets.



International World Women's Day is being hosted by Home Start Tamworth on 5th March at The Coton Centre, near Rawlett School. Explore the TCs of Wellbeing. A wellbeing workshop for self-care & empowerment. For more info contact Amanda office@homestarttamworth.org.uk

The Archdiocese is recruiting for the following four positions:

- Operations Director,
- IT Manager,
- Finance Manager and
- Gift Aid Officer.

Full details and closing dates can be found at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs. If you think you have the skills, please do apply.

The next Parish Council Meeting is 26th February at 8.00pm.

Money Matters	
Envelopes:	56.50
Standing Orders:	1100.00
Loose:	577.54
Card:	248.00
Total:	£1982.04

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.sjtbtamworth@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.