



St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

Third Sunday of Lent (C) 23rd March 2025

Readings:	<i>Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15</i>	<i>Psalms 103</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12</i>	<i>Luke 13:1-9</i>
Saturday 22 nd March Third Sunday of Lent	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	David Johnson Bro. Donie Hallissey – Martin Warrillow		
Sunday 23 rd March Third Sunday of Lent	9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Simon Steggles – Ann Furrell Carter Walter Burke – Brendan Kelly Sylvia & Kevin Williams – Richard Carty		
Tuesday 25 th March The Annunciation	10.00am (S.H.) 7.00pm (S.H.) Lenten Talk	The sick and housebound of the parish Liz Ewell Freedom – Speaker Sam Ewell		
Wed 26 th March Weekday of Lent	10.00am (S.J.) 7.00pm (S.J.)	Anne Marie Durkin Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament		
Thursday 27 th March Weekday of Lent	10.00am (S.H.)	Monica Gunn		
Friday 28 th March Weekday of Lent	9.15am (S. E.) 12.00pm (S.J.) 7.00pm (S.J.)	St Elizabeths School Intentions Holy Souls – Followed by Lenten Lunch Stations of the Cross – Led by the UCM		
Saturday 29 th March Fourth Sunday of Lent	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00pm (S.J.)	Tony Soden Nigel Brindley		
Sunday 30 th March Fourth Sunday of Lent	9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Rita Morney – Ken Tansey Archie Boulstridge – Jim Barnwell Amelia Wayne – John Goff		

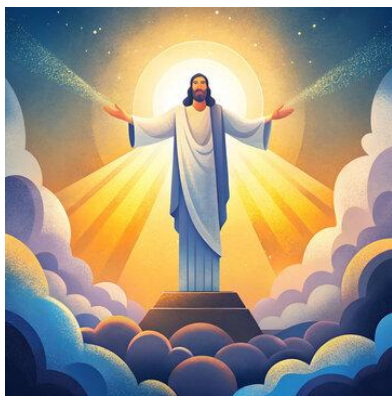
Confession Saturday 11.00- 11.30 am St John's Church 5.15 – 5.45 pm

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 Hesper, 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-Godfrey, 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.

Reflection: The gospel today talks of two tragedies, the abuse of power by Pilate and the tower falling, killing 14 people. These could be tragedies that are happening in our world today. Jesus uses these two incidents to get his listeners to reflect on the vulnerability and fragility of human life. Our lives can be taken from us without any warning. For this reason, we need to turn away from our own selfish desires, value the present moment and use it as an opportunity to turn more fully towards the Lord. In the language of Jesus, use the opportunity to repent. Jesus never gives up on us, he encourages us to keep making the most of the present moment, to keep opening our lives more fully to his call and desire for us.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time James Walker, Alan Orrell, Ean Sharratt, Bernard Bartram, John Robinson, James Weir, Thomas Hennessy, Agnes Tracey, Pauline Law, Bernard Wilkinson, Michael Garry, Lilian Gillespie, William Pywell, William Fleming, Freda Tracey, Oswald Fitzpatrick, Kitty Nicholson, Joseph P. Murphy, Peggy McSharry, Elizabeth Hughes, Roy Downes, Elizabeth Foy, Michael O'Brien, Mary Dow, Martin Cafferty, Karel Vind, Ellen Gibbons, John Roach, Philip George Bates, Dorothy McDonald, Godfrey French, Lefzek Chrusciel, Janet Armstrong, William Reardon, Norah Waterhouse, Patrick Nixon, David Jones, Francis Fallon, Veronica Anderson, Bernadette Black, Andrea Blunt, Matthew Cuffe, Florence Chyla, Dennia Field, Davina Montgomery, Matilde Sarno, James Armstrong, Evelyn Roberts, Josephine Gough, Nigel Brindley, Patrick Smart, George McGuigan, Tony Soden.



Deaths: Please pray for all those who have died recently; **Ryszard Holowenko** who died in India, the funeral service will take place in St John's on Fri, 28th March at 2.45pm; **Teresa Shaw** whose funeral will be on **Ann Lawrence** whose funeral will take place at Fradley Crem on Fri 28th March at 2.30pm; **Mary Murphy** who died during the week; **Georgina Dent** whose funeral will take place in St John's on Tues 15th April at 11.30am May they rest in peace: Pray also that their families will be consoled by their faith.

Confirmation preparation for those in non-catholic schools continues on Mon 24th March 2025 at 5.45pm-7.00pm.

Youth Masses: There will be a weekend of Youth Masses on the 29th/30th March. If any young people would like to read, please email or speak to Alex or one of the team after Mass.

Celebration Choir: The next practice will be on Wednesday 26th March 2025 at 7.00pm. New members, welcome.

Mothering Sunday: Next weekend is also Mother's Day. Please bring your mothers along to Mass to receive a special blessing.



Lent is an opportunity to draw closer to God through prayer, fasting and helping the poor. We have also had two great weeks of talks so far, a wonderful thought-provoking talk from Canon Michael Dolman and then last week two powerful testimonies from Nichola and Tony whose lives have been touched by a God who 'always turns up' and who reveals himself in powerful ways.

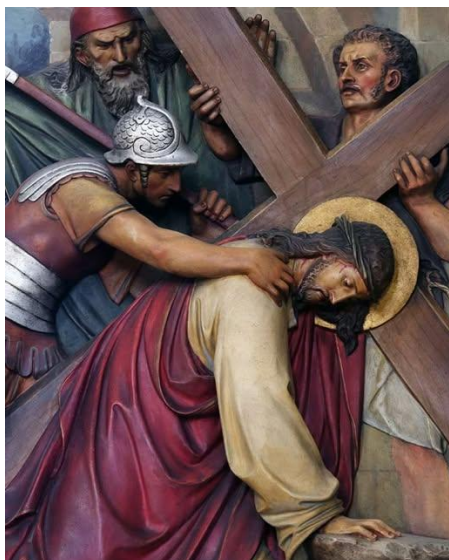
Our third Lent talk this week is on Tuesday 25th March following Mass at 7.00pm. Sam Ewell will give a talk on pilgrimage. Other talks include from Bishop Timothy Menezes and Abigail from CAFOD. Topics will be based upon the Jubilee themes:

- Freedom: Jubilee reminds us that we worship a God who brings freedom.
- Hope
- Restoration and Renewal

Lenten Lunches at St Gabriel's School Friday 28th March (1:15pm-2:15pm), St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School are holding a 'Lenten Lunch' in the school hall, run by the Year 6 children. The children will serve you a cup-of-soup of your choice and a bread roll in exchange for a £1 donation. Any money raised will be donated to CAFOD. Please feel free to come along if you can attend. It will be a lovely way to come together in Lent.



Friday soup lunches for Lent will follow the 12.00 Noon Mass at St John's with funds raised going to CAFOD. If you are free on Fridays, please join us for Mass and fasting that helps the poorest of the poor.



Our Lent Alpha Course continues each Saturday. Is there more to life than this? If you could ask one question of God, what would it be? If these questions interest you, please join us on Saturday mornings at 10.30-12.00 Noon at Sacred Heart. To sign up or for more information please email Alex.

Stations of the Cross: 28th March Fri, in St John's at 7.00pm Led by the UCM.

The next school Mass will be at St Elizabeth's on Friday 28th March at 9.15am. All are welcome.

Journey in Faith: Thursday 27th March 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

2nd Collection this weekend is in support of National Shrines, especially Walsingham.

In Simple Faith: A small group of parishioners meet every fortnight looking at scripture and dipping into the Catechism to explore their faith together. Anyone is welcome to come along. For more information, please email Alex. Many thanks to Igna and Tony who organise the sessions. The next session is on Monday 31st March at 7.30-9.00pm at Sacred Heart in the HoT café.



Sacred Heart Toddlers: Thursdays 10.30am – 12noon, in the Werburgh room! The team have been so encouraged by this fabulous new group. It provides a safe, fun and loving environment as a support for parents and grandparents at this important stage in family life. There is usually some sensory/messy play, so a change of clothing might be a good idea, just in case. Please email rebecca@tamworthrc.church if you have any questions. Toddlers is FREE, no need to book. We look forward to welcoming you!

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

New Wardens Needed – From all age groups and backgrounds. People with a warm smile to welcome people, show them to seats and help with the collections. No commitment outside Sunday Mass so if you attend, why not help with this?



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 6th June and covers around 55 miles in 5 stages. If you couldn't make the meeting and are interested, contact the parish office.

Pilgrimage To Walsingham: we are looking to book a coach to this. There will be a list in the porch so interested people can sign up but we do need a minimum number to make it viable. The cost will be £15 per person.

It will take place on the 10th May with Mass at 1.30 - followed by procession of the Priory Grounds for prayer at

the site of the Holy House. For more info contact Fr Philip Griffin - 01384 395308 or olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk

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>

The Phoenix Youth Group (6 – 7.30pm) and Teen Youth Group (5 – 8pm) run every Wednesday. To attend, email rhiannon@tamworthrc.church. We have lots of fun activities planned up until the Summer Scheme, we look forward to seeing your child there!

Money Matters	
Envelopes:	54.00
Standing Orders:	1100.00
Loose:	664.61
Card:	119.00
Total:	£1,937.61
CAFOD	£1,026.00
<i>Thank-you</i>	

Unlock an Extraordinary Opportunity with Kenelm Youth Trust (KYT) Mission Team! Are you (or someone you know) aged 18-25 and ready to make a difference? KYT's Mission Team invites you to embark on a journey of impact and transformation by joining the Mission Team. For more information: hannah.smith@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk



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 are now in Market Street Tamworth - 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: Their next meeting is 25th March. New members are always welcome.

Diocesan Jobs include:

1. **A Foundation Director for a new Multi-Academy Trust** covering North Staffs and Black Country. Contact acdemies@bdes.org.uk for more information (07984 528321 – Mark).
2. **CEO of Magnificat MAT** covering schools in Worcs and Warks. For an application form and pre-employment documents please go to: <https://www.magnificat.org.uk/join-us/vacancies>.
3. **Kenelm Youth Trust** seeks committed Catholics for senior leadership positions at out retreat centres based in Alton, ST10 4TT. Please visit our website to apply: www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/kenelmvacancies.html or call to discuss with us on 01538 703224.



We are working with the Deanery Schools to hold a **Mass at Lichfield Cathedral**. In the style of the 2012 Olympics 'Games Makers', we are looking for volunteers, preferably with experience of working with children to welcome and direct the children to the Cathedral. Please email Alex for more info.

Sponsor Rhiannon: Our wonderful Parish Youth Worker Rhiannon is training hard for the London Marathon 2025! She is hoping to raise over £1,000 for the **Heart of Tamworth**. You can sponsor Rhiannon via Facebook or this QR code



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 to arrange DBS checks that 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, term time 10.15–11.15am, 1½ – 4 yrs. To book office@st-elizabeths.staffs.sch.uk

You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

From April, HoT will be running a weekly games club on Tuesdays at the Holiday Inn, to support asylum seekers. Whilst waiting for their claims to be processed, asylum seekers are not permitted to work. They do not receive a payment for living expenses, and when they do, it is less than £9 per week.

Many do not feel comfortable leaving the hotel and experience boredom and isolation. The project will help to address this, encourage use of English and demonstrate Christ's love by chatting to the hotel's guests, playing board games and so on) please contact



Kelly Denton: 07422 721835 or kelly@heartoftamworth.org

Tamworth Borough Council are planning to introduce car parking charges on Sundays. This disproportionately affects Christians who use council car parks when attending church. A petition has been set up by a third party and we hope that we can convince the council to reverse its decision: <https://www.change.org/p/reverse-the-implementation-of-sunday-car-parking-charges-in-tamworth>

Next Sunday is Mothering Sunday (and clocks go forward): We invite all Mums to come for a blessing and flowers at any Mass next weekend. That weekend is also one at which we will support Father Hudson's via a raffle – something being led by schools.



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.