

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

Palm Sunday – 24th March 2024

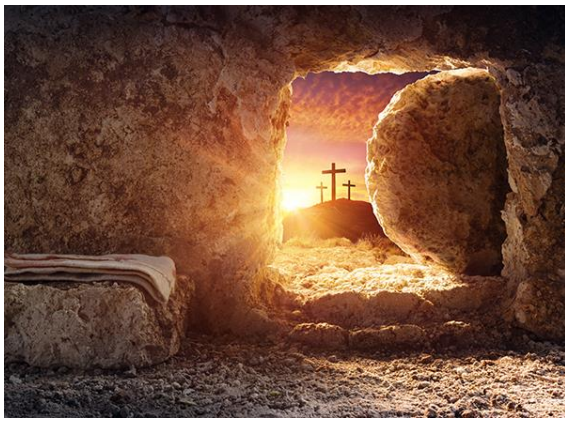
Readings:	<i>Isaiah 50:4-7</i>	<i>Psalms 21</i>	<i>Philippians 2:6-11</i>	<i>Mark 14:1-15:47</i>
Saturday 23 rd March		10.30am (S.J.) 6.00 pm (S.J.)	Philip Dickinson Richard Carty – Tommy & Sadie Joyce & Family	
Sunday 24 th March	Palm Sunday The Passion of the Lord	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Joan Morris – Christine Naylor Jim Barnwell Sylvia & Kevin Williams – Eve Margot Dixon	
Tues 26 th March	Tuesday of Holy Week	10.00am (S.H.) 11.30am (S.J.)	Holy Souls Funeral service for Noel Ormond	
Wed 27 th March	Wed of Holy Week	10.00am (S.J.) 7.00pm (S.H.)	Millie & Reggie Parish Reconciliation Service (with visiting priests)	
Easter Triduum				
Thurs 28 th March	Maundy Thursday	7.30pm (S.J.)	Mass of the Lord's Supper	
Friday 29 th March	Good Friday	3.00pm (S.H.) 3.00pm (S.J.)	Good Friday Solemn Liturgy Good Friday Solemn Liturgy	
Saturday 30 th March	Holy Saturday	11.00am (S.H.) 8.00pm (S.H.)	Święconka - Polish Blessing of Food Easter Vigil – Followed by refreshment	
	Easter Sunday	9.00am (S.H.) 10.30am (S.J.) 12.00noon (S.H.)	Nigel Brindley – Ken Tansey Mark Anthony Feighan – George McGuigan Ann-Marie Purslow & Dec members of Miller Family - Parishioner Intentions	
No Confessions Next Weekend (Wednesday only)				

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, Kobe Lennox Coverson, David Jarrett, Mark Whitehouse, Rachel Scarnell, Joan Hill, Jean Padmore, Mandy Duffy-Godfry, Eugene Reilly, David Smith, Michael McMahon, Patrick Keogh, Brenda Shaw, Joe Kelly, Margaret O'Donovan, Henry Smith, Paul Vincent Argamosa, Judith Cunningham, Geraldine Lee, Matthew Downes, Nelly Jones, Kay Hearn, Drew Taylor-Hunt, Gillian Satchel, Bert Branagan, Mary Hackett.

Reflection: Palm Sunday, the day that begins the journey into the holiest week for all Christians. Today we hear the familiar Gospel, 'The Passion of Our Lord'. Let us not lose sight of each day this week, of each story line, of each character. Holy Week gives us a chance to reflect on our own lives, to walk alongside with Jesus, and to see ourselves within the story. Who are you? One of the women, Judas, Peter? Do you see yourself at the foot of the cross as John, as Mary his mother? Holy Week is an invitation to see ourselves in each character. Let's not let this holiest week of the year in the Christian life pass us by.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Harold Levesley, Ernest Bonham, William Jackson, Annie Doggerell, Catherine Collins, Michael Davey, Harry Glevey, Arthur Wood, Walter Davis, George Radford, Eli Roots, Nora Clover, James O'Rourke, John Fowley, Rose Robinson, Julia Worgan, Eileen McGovern, Emma Riley, Ken Guildler, Eleanor Luton, Elizabeth Lynch, George Cash, Horace Spooner, Margaret McLaeen, Ferdynand Dent, Olive Catherine O'Conner, Alexander Connolly, George Waterhouse, Patrick Healey, David Willis, Irene Moore, Margaret Dowd, Eileen Connolly, Carol Hill, Barbara Coggins, Christina McGregor, Elizabeth Morrall, Beatrice Hughes, Ann Futrill, Barbara Czernuska, James Robinson, Ann Scagliola, John Mannion, Joan Dauncey, Julie Martin.



Deaths: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Noel Ormond**, funeral will take place in St John's on Tuesday 26th March 11.30am; **Mary Farrington's** funeral is at 12.15 on Thursday April 4th. Mary has been a dedicated Eucharistic Minister for many years and is well known to many parishioners; May they rest in peace. Amen.

Penance Service: There will be 7 priests available to hear confessions at the Penance Service on Wednesday 27th March at 7.00pm at Sacred Heart. It is a Sacrament of Healing and even if you haven't been to confession for many years, you will be welcomed with open arms and guided through what to do.

Maundy Thursday & Holy Saturday Masses: in keeping

with Tradition please, there is no Mass on Maundy Thursday morning nor on Holy Saturday Morning. Masses on those days in the evening.

Communion Preparation for Children at Non-Catholic Schools continue Monday 25th March at 6.00pm-7.00pm.

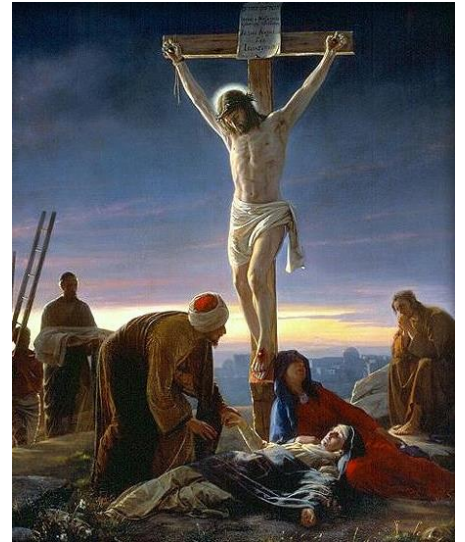
Confirmation - non-Catholic School children: For the four young people who are being Confirmed at Easter the next session is on Monday 25th March at 5.45-7.00pm at Sacred Heart, upstairs in Kenelm Room.

Journey in Faith; Please pray for the candidates who are to be received into the Church at Easter.

Easter Cards have now been printed with times of Holy week Masses and confessions. Please take one for yourself and some for anyone who might not be here to encourage them to come for Easter.

Easter Readers and Eucharistic Ministry: There are some gaps for readers over Easter. If you haven't contacted Alex with your Easter availability, please do so this weekend.

Young Readers: we will be looking for the next group of young readers for all Masses on the Fourth Sunday of Easter the 20th and 21st April. If your young person would like to read, then please get in touch with alex@tamworthrc.church



Maranatha Prayer Chain: To ask others to help you to pray for someone, please contact - terryvobrien@icloud.com or Sylvia Geldard 01827 65264 with a prayer request which will be passed on to our (prayer) chain of people.

Celebration Choir: The next practice is on Wed 26th March at 7.00pm. Contact alex@tamworthrc.church

Teas and Toys: An opportunity for young families to meet together for a chat and a coffee after 9.00am and 12.00Noon Masses in the Kenelm room upstairs. We are looking for more volunteers to help with serving teas and coffees. Could you perhaps do it on a rota?

Chris Bains the local Councillor for Glascote Ward has his Surgery at Sacred Heart. If you have any local issues do pop in for a chat on Second and Fourth Monday of each month *Time:* 6.00pm at Sacred Heart.

Parents, there is a Children's Library in both churches. Take one and swap it next week.

Phoenix Youth Group: Next gathering is on **Wednesday 10th April** from **6.30-8.00pm**. It is for those young people in Y6 and Y7. New members welcome. A voluntary contribution of £1 per session would be appreciated each session to help towards the cost of pizza and squash. A chance to catch up with friends, make new ones and enjoy fun activities and games. If you have any questions, please email Becky or Liz phoenix@tamworthrc.church.



Senior Gentlemen's Club: Meet on Tues 10.00 – 12 at St John's. Activities: dominoes, chess, bowling, trips. £2 per week subs. Contact Bill Field on 07985581794.

Help Points on Thurs evening 5.30pm – 7.00pm, in the café and on Friday from 10.00am till 12 noon, at Sacred Heart. If you are struggling with loss & wish to talk to someone, just come along.

Help Points Easter Opening Time: Closed Thursday 28th March and Thursday 4th April. Reopen Thursday 11th April. Closed Friday 29th March. Reopening Friday 5th April.

The Memory Café meets Tues 10.30am 12.30pm - email sally.clough@Tamworth.homeinstead.co.uk
The Memory Café will be open on Tuesday 2nd April as usual.

East Staffs Diabetes UK Patient Network is a support group for people living with diabetes and families. Contact John 07590379892 Email: bridgesjohn763@gmail.com

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

Games Afternoon: Thursday afternoon at the Sacred Heart, 1pm – 3pm. Great chance to meet new people and play some favourite games. Soup and/or a cup of tea/coffee are available.

Friendship Friday: Another great chance to meet new people or catch up with old friends. Chats, quizzes, games - each week is different. Sacred Heart Friday 1pm – 3pm. For any information about the above check our website www.heartoftamworth.org or contact the HoT office on 01827 259955 or email jen@heartoftamworth.org

No Friendship Friday next Friday, 29th March



Retrouvaille is a programme for couples who are having difficulties in their marriages. The next face-to-face Retrouvaille programme is the weekend 14-16 June in Welwyn Garden City. The good news is that couples who attend the programme, where both really work at it, have, in the ministry's experience, an 85% success rate even when they are separated or already divorced but want to try again. The programme is presented by trained volunteers who themselves have experienced the programme and want to share the benefits they have experienced first-hand in their own relationships. Further information is available via the Retrouvaille website:

www.retrouvaille.org.uk or telephone/text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443; email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

Heart of Tamworth offers many opportunities to volunteer in the centre – Drivers, café, reception...



With the opening of the 'Vintage Clothing' shop, we need to recruit volunteers to help run it. So:

- if you have any retail experience or just an interest
- if you want to support a good local charity
- if you can sell clothing online

To know more, contact jen@heartoftamworth.org as soon as possible to be part of a team that can make a difference and have good fun at the same time.

If you are among those saving good quality clothing for us, then please hold on a little longer. Thankyou.

The Craft Group Thank you to everyone who supported the

Craft Groups sale of their incredible work last Sunday. They collected over £400 for the parish. Well done.

The Craft Group meet every fortnight in the Modwen room from 1pm-3pm doing lots of different crafts such as paper folding, sewing, macrame, collage etc. You don't have to be an expert! The next craft club meeting is on Tuesday 9th April. We hope to see you there.

Church Giving: We are doing the accounts for 2023 and will present these in due course. Thank-you for supporting the parish. 'Loose money' on the collection has increased. It was £700 last week and included £5, £10 and £20 notes.

Can people who give this way please swap to standing orders? For us, it means no counting, banking or security issues. That way, it can also be gift aided (government adds 25% from taxpayers to increase the donation). If all our 'loose' money was gift-aided it would increase our collection by **£7,000 per annum** at no cost to you. That's a big increase and would cover a loss we made last year. Forms can be found in the church porch.

This QR code will also take you to a site where you can donate online.



Money Matters	
Envelopes	80.00
Standing Orders	1050.00
Loose:	703.76
Card:	88.00
Total:	£1921.76
Thank-you	

Jesus, Passion, Death and Resurrection

Born for this: Thank-you to all those involved who have put in so many hours of practice. Special thankyou to Nicola Critchley, Abigail Gallagher and Nicola Burley (not Parishioners) who have given their time and talent to direct the acting; to Vaughan Taylor who gave equipment and time to do the lighting and Wojciech who helps with every technical thing! We hope that all who saw it will be touched by what God has done for us and that it will help us prepare well for Holy Week that starts this weekend with Palm Sunday. Most of all we thank Alex for initiating, leading and inspiring everyone to get involved.



Good Friday Service: There will be a children's Stations of the Cross at both churches on Good Friday during the 3pm service. All children welcome.

Holy Week begins today, Palm Sunday: Please try to come to the services throughout the week. They begin with confessions on Wednesday March 27th and we have 7 priests here to help us be reconciled with God. This is followed with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday at St John's (7.30pm) and Good Friday liturgy at 3.00pm in both churches. There will also be a walk of witness on Good Friday starting at New Look on Ventura Park. We meet there at 10.30am and walk to St Editha's for prayers.

All times are on Easter cards which you can collect today.

Holy Thursday

'...it's painted with pity and love. It's not only a loaf of bread and a flagon of wine; it's the bread of life and the blood of Christ... it's the daily fare of suffering men and women... It was as though... hardly knowing what he was doing, [the painter] wanted to show you that if you only have enough love, if you only have enough sympathy, out of pain and distress and unkindness, out of all the evil of the world, you can create beauty.'

from Christmas Holiday by W. Somerset Maugham

As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

John 13



Good Friday: Like a sapling he grew up before us, like a root in arid ground...

Isaiah 54

Behold the wood of the cross, on which our redeemer hung. Come, let us adore the saviour of the world.

Good Friday Liturgy



Holy Saturday

It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Lamentations 3

"If we enter into the silence of Holy Saturday, its bareness gives us no distractions. There is nowhere to go but inwards; into the very empty places of our own soul and imagination. Holy Saturday takes us beyond grief and mourning into the deepest purification of our faith. Like the bare altar and the empty tabernacle, this Saturday strips us of all comfort. It even strips away faith itself, leaving us so utterly naked and impotent that we can only wait."

James Hanvey SJ

Easter Vigil

This eleventh century 'Exultet roll' has illustrations of bees (candle made from beeswax) to accompany the Paschal vigil text. St. John Chrysostom wrote: *The bee is... honoured... not because it labours, but because it labours for others.*

This year we are receiving 23 people into the Church. These are men and women of all ages from our community who have been preparing for 7 months and longer. Some will be baptised, many confirmed and making their first holy communion. It is a joyous occasion for them but also for the parish. Please pray for them to experience the power of God's spirit and to grow strong in faith.