

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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

Pentecost Sunday – 28th May 2023

Psalm Response: *I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living*

Readings: Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 103 1Cor 12:3-7, 12-13 John 20:19-23

Saturday 27 th May	St Augustine of Cant Pentecost Sunday	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00 pm (S.J.)	Holy Souls Monica Gallagher – George McGuigan
Sunday 28 th May	Pentecost Sunday	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Nigel Brindley – Drew Taylor Tony Soden – Jean Cannon Jane McSweeney – Margaret Beggan, June & Brian Beggan
Tuesday 30 th May	Weekday of Easter	10.00am (S.H.)	Fr Michael Serrage
Wed 31 st May	The Visitation of Mary	10.00am (S.J.)	George McGuigan
Thursday 1 st June	St Bede	10.00am (S.H.)	Michael Ayasamy
Friday 2 nd June	SS Marcellinus & Peter	10.00am (S.H.) 12.00 noon (S.J.)	Memorial Mass Magdalena Turton The sick and housebound of the parish
Saturday 3 rd June	St Charles Lwanga & comp	10.30am (S.J.) 6.00 pm (S.J.)	Immaculate Mary, St Joseph + Holy Sacraments Sr Rachel Gregory
Sunday 4 th June	Trinity Sunday	9.00 am (S.H.) 10.30 am (S.J.) 12.00 noon (S.H.)	Millicent Thumbwood Heart of Tamworth Sylvia & Keving Williams; Orlando & Maria Cortez

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 Aoife Sage, 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 Hesse, George Williams, Ray Newbold, Nicole Thomson, Tolentino Fabian, Maurice Murdanaigum, Paul Connell, Bob Walker, Marie Cole, Clara Counsell, Marie Purslow, Jo Hawker, Olive Arrowsmith, Stan Merryweather, Mark Nelson, Olive Stewart, Kathy Warren, Ruth Faulds, Michelle Padmore, Sheila Fullbrook, Brian McCourt, Michael Boulstridge, Felix Sutton-Whittle, Rosie McKenny, Alan Hopper, Pat MacDonald, Peter Scott, Joe Kelly, Maria Freeman, Jane Harper, John Doherty, Janet Tansey, John McDermottroe, Vincenzo Gizzi, Lisa Smith, Bro Donie Hallissey, Kathleen Donoghue, James Doherty, Paul Heseltine, Joseph Gillen, Kobe Lennox Coverson.

Reflection: Today Jesus speaks from the depths of his heart. He tells us of the Father's love for him and his love for his Father, who is the heart and core of his very being.

For us to know God at this depth can't just be head knowledge, it has to be an intimacy that allows us to experience something of what eternal life will be like. And Eternal life is not just in the future, it is a gift partly given now to us in our faith. We touch into that life in prayer. It is like living water, new sight. We are enlightened by the Light of the World. Saint Augustine wrote: "Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore, do not seek to understand in order to believe, but believe that you may understand". Our human mission is to seek God through every means, and to remain a God-seeker until the day when he reveals himself to me face to face.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Ernest Inskip, Ellen Flanagan, George Florendine, Sarah Coton, Ann Murphy, Fr. Patrick O'Connor, Thomas McGowan, Helen Titterton, Mrs. Hassell, Thomas Routledge, Francis Savin, May Connelly, Gerry Fitzimmons, Dymrna Harrison, Mrs. Morling, Fred Bates, Florence Wale, John O'Donnell, Frederick Price, Evelyn Sperry, Miciej Kowanda, Frances Knight, Jean Morris, Patrick Brennan, Cathleen Rose, Brian Connolly, Patrick McAteer, Helena Elson, Patricia Pendrey, Ethel Lee, Mary Horth, William Abrosiak, Leonard Thomas, Thomas McEntee, Patrick Maguire, George Davies, Pamela Bentley, Vincas Mazulis, Norman Rogers, Margaret Byrne, Anthony Cuffe, Winifred Waples, Hannah Tidswell, George Mander, Michael Colmen, Frances Meehan, Florence Adderley, Andrew Hepple, Michael Murray.



Deaths: please pray for the repose of the soul of **James Dunbar**, whose funeral will be at St John's on Wednesday 7th June at 10.00am; **Joan Dunne**, whose funeral Mass will take place on Thursday, 8th June at Sacred Heart, 10.30am. **Patrick Dunbar**, brother of James, his funeral Mass will take place in St John's on Wednesday 21st June at 10.00am. **Margaret Wainwright** whose funeral will be at St John's on Wednesday June 14th at 12 noon; **John Hawkins** whose funeral will be at Sutton Crematorium at 12.15 on Tues June 20th; and **Reg Davies, Christy Ranahan** and **Greg Counsell** who recently passed away. May they rest in peace. Amen. Please pray for all those who have died.

Celebration Choir: Practices are on Wednesdays at 7.00pm-7.45pm at Sacred Heart Church. Please speak to Alex for more details if you are interested or email alex@tamworthrc.church. New members welcome.

At St John's 10.30am Mass we are very short of singers and readers. If you have a clear voice and would like to help us with either or both of these ministries, please email alex@tamworthrc.church or speak with Fr Michael (readers) or Annie (Singers)

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.

The May Procession will be after the 9.00am Mass this weekend at Sacred Heart. The First Holy Communion Children will help lead this and can wear their special Communion clothes for this occasion too. We also invite any children wishing to become altar servers to come forward so we can arrange training.

First Holy Communions: Congratulations to all the children who received Holy Communion for the first time last weekend. We know it was a special occasion for you all. May this be the beginning of a lifetime of weekly communions when you receive the special Grace of God through receiving Jesus at Mass in the Eucharist. Now you have made your First Holy Communion you would be able to become an Altar Server at Mass. If you would like to do this speak with one of the priests or Deacon Bob, Pat Standen (MC At Sacred Heart) or Pete Geldard (MC At St John's) and training will be offered.



Confirmation for those in non-Catholic schools. The next session is on Mon 19th June at St John's Church at 5.45-7.00pm.

Confirmations are on Tues 27th June at 7.00pm at Sacred Heart for St Gabriel's and on Wed 28th June at 7.00pm at St John's for children at St Elizabeth's and those at Non-Catholic Schools.

Prayer Partners: Please continue to pray for your prayer partners. For those praying for Confirmation children you may like to get post to them before their special day in June. Please hand into the office with your child's name and your own so that we can easily match

them and get them to the children.

Café Home Group are meeting on Mon 5th June at 7.30pm- 9.00pm. If you would like to join us, please do just come along. If you would like to look at the material first contact alex@tamworthrc.church All are welcome. You may like to read up to Chapter 5 of Acts before the session.

On Friday June 23rd at 6.30 pm, we are holding a social evening for anyone new to the parish. It's a chance to meet other parishioners and be welcomed to our parish. So, if you have just become a Catholic or recently moved into Tamworth or maybe moved in a while back but have just started coming to Church, give us the privilege of getting to know you. Invitation cards are in the porch; we need to know numbers so please take a card and RSVP asap.

Sunday July 9th is Fr Michael's 40th Anniversary: after 12 noon Mass there will be lunch at Sacred Heart. That 12 noon Mass will be said by Fr Michael. If you would like to join us for lunch (after attending any of the Masses) as a guest, please sign the list in the porch so we can organise catering. Lunch will be at approximately 1pm. If you have any allergies or dietary requirements, then let us know. The list is now available.



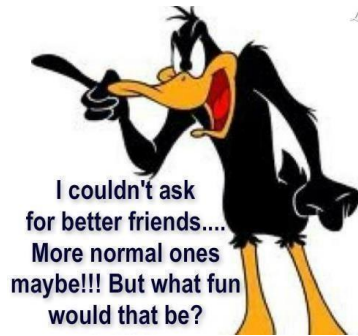
Working With Young people in their teens every Friday at 6.00 pm at Sacred Heart. It will be led by Rhiannon and her team. We are inviting young people aged 14-16 to come along and find out what it's about and also say what they want. This is their chance to make sure it is exciting and delivers the sort of activities that suit them.

The Phoenix Youth group 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.

Summer Scheme and Teen Scheme: Booking forms will be available soon. The schemes are being planned for the two weeks from Monday 24th July until Friday 4th August. It relies on the tremendous work of dozens of volunteers over the two weeks. If you think you could give a day (or more) please contact alex@tamworthrc.church so that we can get the necessary checks underway. Minibus drivers needed too - please contact Fr Michael.



I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MANY TIMES YOU HAVE MISSED CHURCH ... YOU WOULD NEVER SEE MY FAMILY SKIPPING



I couldn't ask for better friends... More normal ones maybe!!! But what fun would that be?

LoveThisPic.com

Sacred Heart Provide Great opportunities to meet new people in a friendly environment and enjoy free snacks and drinks on Thursdays at the Games Club, 1-3pm, and at the Friendship Friday group, 1-3pm, both at Sacred Heart.

Tamworth Hygiene Bank: Thankyou everyone for your support.

Senior Gentlemen's Club: Meet on Tues morning 10.00 - 12noon at St John's Community rooms (at the side of St John's). Other activities: put the world to rights, dominoes, chess, crown green bowling, trips. £2 per week for the trips and events. Contact Bill Field on 07985581794

Database: We have a new database now and are updating it. Information has been transferred, but there are gaps in info for some people. Rebecca and some volunteers may be phoning you in the coming months to ask for some information or to clarify your family groups. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

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

Bereavement 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.

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 - tgbdeltic@hotmail.co.uk

Welcome To the East Staffordshire and Surrounds Diabetes UK Patient Network A local support group for people living with diabetes, their families. If you require any further info, contact: John Bridges: 07590379892 Email: bridgesjohn763@gmail.com

Safe Haven is a Crisis Café at Sacred Heart, for people aged 18+ with mental health problems: 5pm to 11pm Wed to Fri and 9am to 5pm on Sat and Sun, and bank holidays 1.30pm to 9pm. SafeHaven provides a safe environment helping people recover through promotion of self-empowerment and independence. Interested in volunteering? For more info, please email: Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk.



Volunteer drivers Do you have a few hours to spare on a Wednesday? We offer a lunch club helping to support people in the local community who are feeling lonely and isolated. We need volunteers to help with and dropping off our lunch club members. Even if you are only able to commit to one or two Wednesdays a month, please contact Kelly for more information. kelly@heartoftamworth.org

Please Share what we do through Facebook: Firstly, just follow us please and then tell others <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnTamworth/>

Cashless Society? While most of us still use cash there are some who do not. That is becoming more common. They pay with a card or their mobile phone. You will have noticed we now have card readers for each Church. Just choose an amount on screen and press it, then hold your contactless giving card over the top like we do in shops. Giving can still be Gift Aided too. It just needs donors to enter details once.

You can use them or just continue to give in your normal way.

Money Matters

Envelopes	81.29
Standing Orders	1040.00
Loose:	855.65
Card:	88.00

Total: £2,024.94

Thank-you

See below if you want to give via card machines.



The HoT Firewalk is on Saturday June 24th. There are now over 65 taking part. Can you promote it at work or among family and friends? There are information packs if you want to show anyone what it is about. It is to help families and individuals in our town in real need so it's the sort of charity event that many would be happy to support.

Food Collections: HoT needs a Tuesday daytime collector and an Evening collector Thursday 9.30 from beginning of May please. These have been a real blessing recently.

Day out in Llandudno: Patricia Hartree is organising a day out in Llandudno on the 19th July. Cost £15. For more details or to

book a place see Cynthia Kelly after 12noon Mass or ring Patricia on 0755 5783547.

St John's Railings: Another great week of volunteering last week with 17 volunteers turning up on Wednesday alone. So far volunteers have done over 140 hours' worth of work, saving the parish thousands of pounds. Our thanks to them. We are going to try to do one more session on Tuesday from 4pm till 8pm – come along at any time for as long as you can but please sign up, so we know we have brushes etc.

Matt Kelly will start painting soffit and rendered walls at St John's this week. It's costly due to access and volume of walls, length of soffit etc. Our thanks to one generous donor last year who gave £5,000 towards this. Our budget this year is not looking good with massive utility costs, so we need to be prudent. Donations are, of course, welcome.



St Thomas More's in Nuneaton are keen to get a committed Catholic as an RE teacher and someone in a chaplaincy role too. Their head teacher (Leeana Thomas) worships here and would like to encourage anyone interested to get in touch with the school asap. Training is available for the chaplain.



Summer Fayre: Our Summer Fayre will take place on Sunday 2nd July 10.00-2.00pm at Sacred Heart Church. We are gathering a great team together with some fantastic new ideas. If you would like to help with planning or can offer help in other ways like contacting businesses for prizes, please get in touch with alex@tamworthrc.church.

If you work in a business that offers match-funding for fundraising like Banks and Building Societies, please get in touch with Fr Michael too. Our fayres are always a huge success made so by the tremendous numbers of volunteers that come forward. If you are available and willing to help, please contact alex@tamworthrc.church.

We will need plenty of Bottles of alcohol please. (We are aiming for 300, if possible, for two popular stalls), gifts, toys and chocolate plus handbags that are in good condition nearly new or hardly used. Also, please bring in gift bags and bottle bags for two special stalls. *We don't want you to bring things in just yet for storage reasons*, but please do start gathering things together and please keep that Sunday free so that you can join us or even better help.



Raffle tickets are available this weekend. Please take a book or two.

Next Weekend we welcome the Spiritan Fathers who are doing an appeal in support of their missionary work throughout the world. It may seem strange but some of that missionary work is taking place in our own Diocese. Our visiting priest is Fr Brendan Ona C.S.Sp who is based in Thornton Heath.

To find out more visit <https://spiritans.co.uk/>

There will be a second collection taken for their mission next weekend. Please be generous in support of this ministry.

The work at Sacred Heart will start on Monday June 5th. Our thanks go to **Lambe Construction** who will be doing all the groundworks (maybe the most expensive part of the project) as a donation towards our work here in Tamworth. Our thanks go to all the Lambe family who have shown a personal interest in what we are doing.