

**ST. AUSTIN’S NEWSLETTER**

**Address:** 82 Wolverhampton Road, Stafford, ST17 4AW

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**Email:**staustins\_rc@btinternet.com

**Parish Website:** [www.saintaustins.org.uk](http://www.saintaustins.org.uk)

**Diocesan Website:** www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

**Parish Clergy**

**Parish Priest:** Canon Michael Neylon

**Priest in Residence:** Fr. Joseph Narikuzhi

**Permanent Deacon:** Rev. Louis Livesey

**Parish Safeguarding Representative:** Mrs. Sue Kelly, 07875549906

Rev. David McCarrol



**Quote from Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation, “Amoris Laetitia” (The Joy of Love)**

 ***Chapter 4.* LOVE IN MARRIAGE.** *Love Forgives*

106. When we have been offended or let down, forgiveness is possible and desirable, but no one can say that it is easy. The truth is that “family communion can only be preserved and perfected through a great spirit of sacrifice. It requires, in fact, a ready and generous openness of each and all to understanding, to forbearance, to pardon, to reconciliation. There is no family that does not know how selfishness, discord, tension and conflict violently attack and at times mortally wound its own communion: hence there arise the many and varied forms of division in family life”.

**Weekly Events in the Parish**

**Monday - Convent Prayer Group:**

St Joseph’s Nursing Home in the

Convent Chapel at 1.30 p.m.

**Tuesday - Knit & Natter Group:**

Meets in the Parish Room at 2.00 p.m.

**Thursday - Choir Practice:**

Every Thursdayevening at 7.30 p.m.

**Staffordshire County Hospital:**

11.00 a.m. - 12.00 Noon.

**Rosary:**

A Decade of the Rosary is said after each

weekday Mass in Church.

**Our Parish Schools**

**Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata Primary**

Address: Somerset Road, Stafford, ST 17 9UZ

Telephone: 01785 413276

Website: www.bmtschool.co.uk

**St. Austin’s Primary**

Address: Garden Street, Stafford, ST17 4BT

Telephone: 01785 413277

Website: www.st-austins.org.uk

**Blessed William Howard Catholic High School**

Address: Rowley Avenue, Stafford, ST17 9AB

Telephone: 01785 244236

Website: www.bwh.staffs.sch.uk

**Other Catholic Churches in Stafford**

**St. Anne’s:**

Parish Priest: Fr. Robert Devaney

Address: Lynton Avenue, Stafford, ST17 0EA

Telephone: 01785 661012

Email: stannes.stafford@gmail.com

Website: www.st-annes-st.org.uk

Sat: 5.30 pm. Confessions before 6 pm. Vigil Mass

Sun: 11.15 a.m. Mass

**St. Patrick’s:** *Served from St Anne’s*

Address: 48 Sandon Road, Stafford, ST16 3HF

Sun: 9.00 a.m. Confessions before 9.30 a.m. Mass

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| **Thanks for your Offerings last week**  Gift Aid Envelopes: £341.00 Loose: £227.35Poor Parishes Fund, Gift Aid: £304.94 Loose: £145.46                 |
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**Anniversaries**

Patrick Greaney, Frederick Marsden, Thomas Malone, Daniel McBride, Stafford Oliver, Flora Tassell, Mary Biddulph, Rose Smith, Anne Behan, Bertram Shotton, Bernard Gaughran, Denis Hussey, Ellen Plant, Annie Oakes, Maurice Mahar, Catherine Gonin, Hugh Bott, Minnie Till, Amy Johnson, Paul Flello, Leslie Davies, Mary Farrugia, Dolores Hendry, Elizabeth Lesny, John Stephens, Richard Costello, Brenda Dodd, Brian Hall, Ann Marie Mullane, Stanislaw Pomykala, Mollie Meredith, Cyril Doran, William Savigny,

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| **17th December 2017** |  |  |
| **Third Sunday of Advent** |  |
| Mass Book: Page 87 |  Sunday Cycle: Year B |  |
|  Psalter: Week 3 | Weekday Cycle: Year 2 |  |
| **Mass Times & Intentions**  |  |
| **Saturday** | Confessions |  3.45 p.m. – 4.15 p.m. |  |
|  | Vigil Mass |    4.30 p.m. | Peter Dunne |  | - |
| **Sunday** | MassMass  |    10.30 a.m. 6.00 p.m. | Lucy CharlampowiczPeople of the Parish |  |
| **Monday** ***Advent Feria*** | Mass  |   9.15 a.m. | Janet Murphy  |  |
| **Tuesday*****Advent Feria*** | Mass  |  **10.00 a.m.** | Fatima Allen & Family |  |
| **Wednesday*****Advent Feria*** | **Mass (St. Joseph’s)**Mass  |  **10.30 a.m.**7.00 p.m. | Jimmy HowardGaffney Family & Friends |  |
| **Thursday*****Advent Feria*** | Mass **(BMT)** | **10.00 a.m**. | Lily Muldoon |  |
| **Friday*****Advent Feria*** |  **Funeral Mass** | **1.00 p.m.** | **Jean Bradley** |  |
| **Saturday*****Advent Feria*** | Mass | 10.00 a.m**.** | Margaret Fuller |  |
|  **Exposition & Confessions 10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.** |  |
| **Fourth Sunday of Advent** |  |
| **Saturday** | **Confessions** |  **10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m**. |  |
| Vigil Mass  |  4.30 p.m. | L. & M.E. Muldoon |  |
| **Sunday** | Mass. |  10.30 a.m. | People of the Parish |  |
|  | **First Mass of Christmas****Midnight Mass**  |  **5.00 p.m**.**12.00** | The Morris FamilyPeople of the Parish |  |
| ***School Masses:*** (STA) = St. Austin’s, (BMT) = Blessed Mother Teresa’s |  |

**Counters:** Group 2 this week. Group 3 is next week.

**Refreshments:** Refreshments are served in the Parish Hall after the 10.30 a.m. Mass every Sunday**.** All are welcome.

**Piety Room:** Thanks for your continuous support of the Piety Room. As well as weekly catholic papers, a variety of cards, rosaries and statues are available on sale.

**Pastoral Letter:** There is a Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard being read at all Masses this weekend. Copies are available in the porch and it can also be viewed on the diocesan website.

**Church Decorating / Cleaning:** All help will be appreciated with the erection of the Christmas Tree and Crib after the 6.00 p.m. Mass this Sunday and with the Church cleaning after the 9.15 a.m. Mass on Monday. Contributions of greenery will be welcome to decorate the church windows later in the week.

**Recently Dead:** Please remember in your prayers **Jean Mary Bradley** whose Reception and Funeral Mass is on **Friday** next at **1.00 p.m.**

May God grant her eternal peace and rest.

**Penitential Service:** All are welcome to our Advent Penitential Service at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 19th December. We will have the assistance of other priests to help with individual confessions.

**Monthly Mass:** The monthly Mass at St. Joseph’s Convent Nursing Home is on Wednesday next, 20th December at 10.30 a.m. All are welcome.

**Advent Soup Lunches / Christmas Tree Stars:** Thanks to allwho have supported the Friday Advent Soup Lunches in aid of our Loreto Sealdah Project in Kolkata. This coming Friday will be the last one this Advent and it will be from 1.45 p.m. onwards **after** Jean Bradley’s Funeral Mass.

The Stars for the Christmas Tree are on sale after all Masses this weekend.

**Welcome the Stranger:** Due to the bad weather conditions last Wednesday the talk by Teresa Clement was postponed. We hope to rearrange it early in the new year. Apologies if this may have caused any inconvenience.

**CAFOD World Gifts:** Copies of CAFOD’s 2017-2018 World Gift Catalogue are available in the porch with ideas for the true spirit of Christmas giving.

**Diocesan Year Book:** Copies of the 2018 Diocesan Year Book are available in the Piety Room. It costs £2.75. An interesting feature in this year’s edition is an Obituary on Fr. Brian Whatmore.

**Message from the Bishops of England & Wales:**

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them?

Then we need to make our voice heard.

*The government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it. Now we need to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics.*

*Visit* [*http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap*](http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap) *or search for “catholic Education” in your search engine to write to the government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.*

**A Message from Brushstrokes:**

Thank to everyone for your generous response to our appeal for children’s Christmas gifts. The appeal for other donations ends this Sunday, 17th December.

The appeal for food will resume on the weekend 30th/ 31st December.

**Christian Food Help:** Thanks for your continuous and support of Christian Food Help that enabled 1040 food parcels to be delivered during November.

**Christmas Eve / Day Mass Arrangements:** Christmas Day is on a Monday this year. We have made the following arrangements for Masses in the three Stafford Parishes.

 Saturday evening 23rd December / Sunday Morning 24th December Masses are of the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

The First Masses of Christmas are as follows:

**Sunday 24th December**

4.00 p.m. St. Patrick’s. **5.00 p.m**. St. Austin’s.

6.00 p.m. St. Anne’s.

Masses of Midnight are as follows:

**Sunday 24th December**

11.00 p.m. St Anne’s. **12.00 Midnight** St Austin’s

Daytime Masses are as follows:

**Monday 25th December**

9.30 a.m**.** St. Patrick’s. **10.30 a.m**. St. Austin’s

11.15 a.m. St. Anne’s.