

**ST. AUSTIN’S NEWSLETTER**

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

**Telephone:** 01785 223553

**Email:**[staustins\_rc@btinternet.com](mailto: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

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**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: £596.40  Loose: £356.60 |
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**Quote from Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation, “Amoris Laetitia” (The Joy of Love)**

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

107. Today we recognize that being able to forgive others implies the liberating experience of understanding and forgiving ourselves. Often our mistakes, or criticism we have received from loved ones, can lead to a loss of self-esteem. We become distant from others, avoiding affection and fearful in our interpersonal relationships. Blaming others becomes falsely reassuring. We need to learn to pray over our past history, to accept ourselves, to learn how to live with our limitations, and even to forgive ourselves, in order to have this same attitude towards others.

**Anniversaries**

Timothy Ryder, Brone Puodziukiene, Patricia Reed, Mary Ann Mullane, Benjamin Croft, Priscilla Nield, Joseph Harrison, Denis Nolan, Maria Campbell, Fred Clowes, John McMahon, Patrick Muldoon, Lily Muldoon, Florence Brookes, Edward Patton, Effie Cliff, Harry Barker, Alfred Price, William Vickerstaff, Richard Carless, James Collier, Elizabeth Stubbs, Anna Moreen, Gary Glover, James Lee, Agnes Brady, Arthur Dale, John McCarthy, Isabella McKay, Winifred Hitchen, Christine Ziroevic, Mary Reeves, Ken Ryder, John Gilmartin John McCarthy, Kathleen Guilfoyle, Stanislaw Smialoski,

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| **24th December 2017** | | | |  |  |
| **Fourth Sunday of Advent** | | | |  |
| Mass Book: Page 90 | | Sunday Cycle: Year B | |  |
| Psalter: Week 4 | | Weekday Cycle: Year 2 | |  |
| **Mass Times & Intentions** | | | |  |
| **Saturday** | Confessions | 3.45 p.m. – 4.15 p.m. | |  |
|  | Vigil Mass | 4.30 p.m. | L. & M.E. Muldoon |  | - |
| **Sunday** | Mass  Mass  Mass | 10.30 a.m.  **5.00 p.m.**  **12 Midnight** | People of the Parish  The Morris Family  People of the Parish |  |
| **Monday**  ***Christmas Day*** | Mass | **10.30 a.m**. | Christina Smith |  |
| **Tuesday**  ***St. Stephen*** | Mass | **10.00 a.m.** | David McCarroll |  |
| **Wednesday**  ***St. John*** | Mass | 7.00 p.m. | Carmel Norman |  |
| **Thursday**  ***Holy Innocents*** | Mass | **10.00 a.m**. | Luke Marsden |  |
| **Friday**  ***St. Thomas Beckett*** | Mass | 12.00 Noon**.** | Ken Rider |  |
| **Saturday**  ***Christmas Octave*** | Mass | 10.00 a.m**.** | Mary Collins |  |
| **Exposition & Confessions 10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.** | | |  |
| **Feast of the Holy Family** | | | |  |
| **Saturday** | **Confessions** | **10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m**. | |  |
| Vigil Mass | 4.30 p.m. | Josephine Marks |  |
| **Sunday** | Mass. | 10.30 a.m.  6.00 p.m. | Mary Grogan  The Ling Family |  |
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| ***School Masses:*** (STA) = St. Austin’s, (BMT) = Blessed Mother Teresa’s | | | |  |

**Counters:** Group 3 this week. Group 4 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 the Christmas edition of the Diocesan Paper “Catholic Today” is available at 50 pence.

**Christmas Eve / Day Mass Arrangements:**

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.

**Loreto Sealdah:** Thanks to everyone who supported the Soup Lunches on the Fridays of Advent and Christmas Tree Star sale. Both projects along with some donations raised a total of £707.78. It will go to support the education and welfare work of Loreto Sealdah in Calcutta.

**Crib Offerings:** The Crib helps us to focus on the deeper meaning of Christmas: the love of God embracing our frail humanity, our call to love God and our neighbour as ourselves.

It is customary to place an offering in the Crib. This year the Crib offerings will be shared with two special charities.

**“Origins”** is part of Father Hudson’s Care. As an adoption agency it support people separated from their birth families through adoption or having lived in care.

**Friends of the Holy Land** helps the poorest Christians in the Holy Land, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

**Guild of St. Stephen Mass:** All Altar Servers are welcome to come and serve at the Annual Guild Mass at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday the Feast of St. Stephen.

**Knit & Natter:** The Knit & Natter Group would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year. They thank everyone for the donations of wool support and in the past year. They are having a break for Christmas until Tuesday 9th January.

**St. Austin’s Senior Citizens:** The next meeting of the Senior Citizen’s Group is on Wednesday January 10th in the Parish Room. John Morris will give a Talk and Presentation on the Indian Railways.

There will also be a birthday celebration on that day.

**Lunch Meeting in February**: Thirty places have been booked at the Riverside Restaurant in Stafford College for Lunch on Wednesday 7th February. Please contact Brian on (01785) 601802 to book your place on a first come first served basis.

**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.

**A Message from Brushstrokes:**

Thanks to everyone for your generous response to our appeal for children’s Christmas gifts and for all your numerous contribution throughout the past year.

The appeal for food will resume next 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.

***Christian Food Help wish everybody a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.***

**Recently Dead:** Please remember in your prayers Wilfred Dench who died recently. His Reception and Funeral Mass is on Thursday 4th January at 12.15 p.m.

May God grant him eternal peace and rest.

**Endnote:** We wish you all a very happy Christmas and thank you for all your prayers and support in the past Year. ***Fr. Michael, Fr. Joseph & Deacon Louis.***