

St. Anne's, St. Austin's & St. Patrick's Parishes, Stafford
12th / 13th September 2020

Dear Parishioners of our Three Parishes,

Firstly, we want to thank you for the wonderful support you have given us during these most unusual times. We write now to reflect with you on the present weekend Mass times provision for our three Parishes. It is six years since the present schedule was introduced, and we feel now is a good and appropriate time to revisit and reflect on them. We would also like to suggest ways to improve them.

We start with the following observations:

- 1) Awareness of the large number of housing developments in Stafford.
- 2) Recognising that Sunday work is a reality and necessity for many people.
- 3) Acknowledging the very good interaction between the three parishes.
- 4) There is need for priests to support and cover for each other within the Deanery along with their various chaplaincy and pastoral commitments.
- 5) The need to think creatively post Covid-19.
- 6) The need for weekend Mass times to be well spread out to suit people's various work and family commitments at weekends.
- 7) The recent appointment of Fr. Simon Baker to St. Austin's to work in the Deanery.

With these in mind we propose that from the weekend beginning 3rd / 4th October 2020 we have **TWO MASSES** in each Church over the weekend, well spread out over a variety of times. We suggest the following:

Saturday1.00 p.m. at St. Patrick's

Saturday5.00 p.m. at St. Austin's

Saturday6.30 p.m. at St. Anne's

Sunday.....8.00 a.m. at St. Patrick's

Sunday.....9.30 a.m. at St. Anne's

Sunday.....11.00 a.m. at St. Austin's

We understand that any change to Mass times may cause some of you additional problems. However, this schedule gives us greater opportunities to work together. It will mean the priests from St. Austin's helping at St. Anne's & St. Patrick's every weekend, and will also enable us to help in other parishes of the Deanery if and when needed. In extreme situations, one priest will be able to cover all the weekend Masses in Stafford.

This letter is being distributed at all Masses this weekend and is also being published in both Parish Websites. We will review the situation with you at the end of the year.

We thank you in anticipation.

Fr. Bob Devaney

Fr. Michael Neylon