

**ST. AUSTIN’S NEWSLETTER**

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**Facebook:** St. Austin’s, Stafford **Twitter:** @SaintAustins

**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

**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 Thursday evening at 7.30 p.m.  **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  Saturday: Confessions 5.30pm  Vigil Mass 6.00pm  Sunday: Mass 11.15am  **St. Patrick’s:** *Served from St Anne’s*  Address: 48 Sandon Road, Stafford, ST16 3HF  Sunday: Confessions 9.00am  Mass 9.30am |
| **Offertory Collection**  **Gift Aid Envelopes: £525.35**  **Loose: £300.13**        ***Many thanks for your offerings last week*** |
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| 8th December 2019  Mass Times & Intentions | | | |
| Mass Book: Page 85 | Sunday Cycle: Year A  Psalter: Week 2 | Weekday Cycle: Year 2 | | | |
| ***Second Sunday of Advent*** | | | |
| Saturday | Confessions | 3.45pm – 4.15pm | |
|  | Vigil Mass | 4.30 pm | People of the Parish |
| Sunday | Mass | 10.30 am | Francyk Kotara | 6.00 pm | Thomas Denham |
|  | Mass | 6.00 pm | Thomas Denham |
| Monday  ***Immaculate Conception*** | Mass | 10.00 am | Molly & Leo Fielding |
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| Tuesday  ***Advent Feria*** | Mass **(In Church)** | 9.15 am | Sr. Mary Delacy |
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| Wednesday | Mass | **6.45 pm** | Thomas O’Donovan |
| ***Advent Feria*** |  |  |  |
| Thursday  ***Advent Feria*** | Mass **(In Church)** | **10.00 am** | Patrick Treadwell |
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| Friday  ***St. Lucy*** | Mass | 12.00 Noon | Walsh Family RIP |
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| Saturday | Mass | 10.00 am | Rose Mockler |
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| ***St. John of the Cross*** | Confessions & Exposition | 10.30 am – 11.30 am | |
| **Third Sunday of Advent** | | | |
| Saturday | Confessions | 3.45 pm – 4.15 pm | |
| ***Feria*** | Vigil Mass | 4.30 pm | People of the Parish |
| Sunday | Mass | 10.30 am | Marian Alcock |
|  | Mass | 6.00 pm | Sheils, Bowens & Trainors |
| Primary School Masses: St Austin’s (STA) & Blessed Mother Teresa’s (BMT) | | | |

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**The God Who Speaks – The Year of the Word**

**MARRIAGE MATTERS** ([www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk))

**Second Sunday of Advent**

Advent – a new beginning for us?

Today, Isaiah talks about trust and Matthew focuses on forgiveness. Advent is the opportunity to discover new ways to help our partner to trust us and to share themselves. Our prayer can be that we drop our defences, become more vulnerable and have the courage to open ourselves to be able to really listen, to share and to change.

**Anniversaries**

Ernest Ilsley, Hanonia Moran, Felix McGrath, John Lynch, Frank James, Veronica Flello, Kathleen Baird, Jozef Laszcz, Robert Merredith, Mary Houlding, Patrick Burns, Peter Whiston, Elizabeth Whitfield, Mary Bowen, Matilda Scarlett, Ellen Duggan, Mary Doherty, Michael Molloy, Jean Harrison, John Shortall, Wladyslaw Gratowski, Jean Bradley, Cyril Campbell, Valentine O’Toole, Louis Good, Rose Beardmore, Helen Sefton, John Livesey, John Moore, Gladys Honeyford, Ted Gough, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Carmel Norman, Mary Brookes, Florence Betteridge, William McGraney, Frederick Key, George Brasiwsskas, Doris Sillito, William Dench

**Counters:** Group 1 this week. Group 2 next week

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

**Piety Room:** Thanks for your continuous support of the Piety Room. As well as the Catholic papers a variety of cards, rosaries and other items are available.

**Baptism:** Congratulations to the Smith family whose daughter Amelie Dolores will be baptised and welcomed into the Church this weekend.

**Poor Mission Parishes**: The second collection this weekend is the annual one to support the Poor Mission Parishes of the Archdiocese

**Message to the Brave.** CAFOD asks us to send Christmas greetings to brave individuals fighting for justice   Some people around the world risk everything to defend our sisters and brothers and our common home. Send a Christmas message of solidarity. Pick up a leaflet from the back of church which explains what to include with your card. Please bring your card back to church next week and we will forward them to CAFOD. Thank you.

**Church Cleaning:** All help will be appreciated with the Church cleaning after the morning Mass on Monday.

**Patronal Feast:** This year Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Patronal Feast of the Archdiocese) is transferred from Sunday 8th to Monday 9th December.

It is also the tenth anniversary of Archbishop Bernard’s Installation. All are welcome to attend his Mass of Thanksgiving on the day at 12.00 Noon at St. Chad’s Cathedral in Birmingham.

**Advent Soup Lunches**: We continue to support our friends in Loreto Sealda in Kolkata with the Soup Lunches in the Parish Hall after the Midday Mass on the Fridays of Advent. All welcome.

**Other Advent Activities:** The “Meeting Jesus in the Gospels” series continues at St. Anne’s Church from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm on Wednesday.

**Padre Pio Prayer Group**: The Prayer Group will meet in the Parish on Friday 13th at 10.30 a.m.

**Advent Penance Service:** This year our Advent Penance Service with opportunities for individual confession will be held at St. Anne’s Church on **Tuesday 17th December at 7.00 p.m**.

**Brushstrokes** would like to thank everyone for their magnificent response to the appeal for Christmas gifts. Please note that this weekend is the last date for donations of toys.  Food, baby clothes, toiletries, will continue to be collected except for the weekend of 21st /22nd December as we won't be able to travel to Smethwick during Christmas week

**A Message from Christian Food Help:**

Christian Food Help are now in their 7th year of supplying food parcels to the needy in Stafford and would once again like to thank all those who have generously donated their Harvest Festival items to our Food Bank. Each year the local schools and churches hold their Harvest Festival and the true wonder of food donations takes place.

As an inter denominational organisation Christian Food Help specialise in providing individual and family food parcels to the professional and voluntary organisation in Stafford, who in turn are in direct contact with those individuals and families in need. In this way we help to ensure the local professional services are able to provide extra support for the people of Stafford.

Our work as a ‘food bank’ could not be undertaken without the sustained and generous support of our Stafford donors and volunteers at St Austin's Catholic Church who week after week, throughout the year donate and deliver food items donated by the people of Stafford for the people of Stafford. Thank you.

Christian Food Help delivered **934** meals during **November.**

**Carol Service:** We are very grateful to the staff and students of Blessed William Howard School for leading us in the carol Service on Monday last. The retiring collection raised £200.55 for Mary’s Meals.

**Grateful Thanks:** The Police have asked us to say thank you for the use of the car park along with the facilities of the Parish Hall and Parish Room last weekend as they carried out their difficult task next door and apologise for the inconvenience caused.