

**ST. AUSTIN’S NEWSLETTER**

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

**Telephone:** 01785 223553

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

**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: £495.20**  **Loose: £328.87**      ***Many thanks for your offerings last week*** |
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| 22nd December 2019  Mass Times & Intentions | | | |
| Mass Book: Page 91 | Sunday Cycle: Year A  Psalter: Week 4 | Weekday Cycle: Year 2 | | | |
| ***Fourth Sunday of Advent*** | | | |
| Saturday | Confessions | 3.45pm – 4.15pm | |
|  | Vigil Mass | 4.30 pm | Quinns & Gibbons RIP |
| Sunday | Mass | 10.30 am | C. & J. Howard |
|  | Mass | 6.00 pm | People of the Parish |
| Monday  ***Advent Feria*** | Mass | 10.00 am | Seamus Gunn |
| Tuesday  ***Christmas Eve*** | Mass | **4.30 pm**  **12 Midnight** | Gaffney Family R.I.P.  People of the Parish |
| Wednesday | Mass | **10.30 am** | Celia Kotara |
| ***Christmas Day*** |  |  |  |
| Thursday  ***St. Stephen*** | Mass | **11.00 am** | Francis Toner |
| Friday  ***St. John*** | Mass | 12.00 Noon | Ann Harvey |
| Saturday | Mass | 10.00 am | Michael Cronnelly |
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| ***Holy Innocents*** | Confessions & Exposition | 10.30 am – 11.30 am | |
| **Feast of the Holy Family** | | | |
| Saturday | Confessions | 3.45 pm – 4.15 pm | |
| ***Feria*** | Vigil Mass | 4.30 pm | Kathleen Thompson |
| Sunday | Mass | 10.30 am | The Mullane Family |
|  | Mass | 6.00 pm | People of the Parish |
| Primary School Masses: St Austin’s (STA) & Blessed Mother Teresa’s (BMT) | | | |

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**Anniversaries**

Dolores Hendry, Elizabeth Lesny, John Stephens, Richard Costello, Brenda Dodd, Brian Hall, Ann Marie Mullane, Stanislaw Pomykala, Mollie Meredith, Cyril Doran, William Savigny, 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, Lilian Warrilow,

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

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

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Advent – a new beginning for us?

Taking courage from love

The Gospel relates how Joseph overcame his serious doubts about Mary ‒ and married her! She too had faced her own fears about the future ‒ and said “Yes!” We too can have doubts and lack confidence in the future, but like Mary and Joseph we can take courage from our love for each other and God’s love for us too.

**Counters:** Group 3 this week. Group 4 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.

**Recently Deceased**: Please remember in prayer the following people who died recently:

**Agata Herus:** Her Reception with Mass is on Wednesday 8th January at 6.45 p.m. Her Funeral Mass is on Thursday 9th January at 11.00 a.m.

**Fr. John Ellis:** His Reception with Mass is on Thursday 8th January at St. Dominic’s Church in Stone at 7.00 p.m. His Funeral Mass is on Friday 10th January at 12.00 Noon in St. Dominic’s.

**Brenda Green:** Her Reception and Funeral Mass is at 12.00 Noon on Monday 13th January.

May they rest forever in God’s peace.

**Church Decorating and Cleaning:** All help will be appreciated after the 6.00 p.m. Mass this Sunday to erect the Crib, Christmas Tree and decorate the Church for the Christmas celebrations.

**Advent Penitential Service:** Thanks to all who came to the Advent Penitential Service at St. Anne’s last Tuesday. For those who found it an inconvenient time we will be available for individual confessions from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 Noon on Tuesday (Christmas Eve).

**Grateful Thanks:** There is a letter on the board in the porch from the Missionary Society of St. Columban thanking us for the **£758.40** raised from the Mission Appeal earlier this year

**Message to the Brave.** Thanks to all who have responded to CAFOD’s Advent Project to send Christmas Cards with a message of solidarity to brave People fighting for Justice. There is a box in the porch to collect the cards this weekend..

**Advent Soup Lunches**: Grateful thanks to all who supported the Advent Soup Lunches during the Fridays of Advent. £493.00 was raised over the three Fridays. A big thank you to all who made the soups, prepared the Hall & tidied up afterwards

**Christmas Trees Stars:** Stars for the Christmas Tree to show our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Kolkata are available after all Masses this weekend and next weekend. All donations will be gratefully appreciated.

**Guild of St. Stephen Mass:** All Altar Servers are welcome to the Annual Guild of St. Stephen Mass on Thursday at 11.00 a.m. One new server, Jacob, will be enrolled in the Guild and the others will be invited to renew their promises during the Mass

**Brushstrokes** would like to thank everyone for their magnificent response to the appeal for Christmas gifts and toys. Food, baby clothes and 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

**Christian Food Help:** All atChristian Food Help wish to thank you for your continuous generous support that enabled **934** meals to be delivered during the month of **November.**

**Safeguarding Advisor Vacancy:** There are details on the notice board in the porch of a vacancy for a Safeguarding Advisor at Cathedral House in Birmingham. The closing dates for receipt of applications is Noon on Monday 6th January 2020.

**Christmas Mass Times Arrangements:**

***The following Christmas Mass times have been arranged to facilitate the three Stafford Parishes.***

**Tuesday 24th December, Christmas Eve:**

4.00 p.m. St. Patrick’s First Mass of Christmas

**4.30 p.m.** St. Austin’s First Mass of Christmas

6.00 p.m. St. Anne’s First Mass of Christmas

10.30 p.m. St. Anne’s Carols

11.00 p.m. St. Anne’s Mass of Midnight

**11.30 p.m**. St. Austin’s Carols

**12.00 Midnight**. Mass of Midnight

**Wednesday 25th December, Christmas Day:**

9.30 a.m. St. Patrick’s Mass of Christmas Day

**10.30 a.m**. St. Austin’s Mass of Christmas Day

11.15 a.m. St. Anne’s Mass of Christmas Day