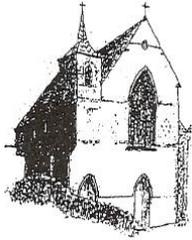


ST AUSTIN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

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

Parish Website: www.saintaustins.org.uk

Diocesan Website: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

Parish Priest: Canon Michael Neylon

Curate: Fr Simon Baker

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Mrs Sue Kelly, 07875549906

The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No 234216

SUNDAY 3RD JULY 2022

Mass Book: Page 105 | Sunday Cycle: Year C | Psalter Week: 2 | Weekday Cycle: Year II

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------|------------------|
| Saturday 2 nd | 5.00 pm | Holy Mass | Alfredo Saldivar |
| Sunday 3 rd | 11.00 am | Holy Mass | La Rosa Family |
| Monday 4 th | 10.00 am | Holy Mass | Ian Gaughan |
| Tuesday 5 th | 10.00 am | Holy Mass | Mark Mullins |
| Wednesday 6 th | 12 noon | Holy Mass | Jack Duxbury |
| Thursday 7 th | 10.00 am | Holy Mass | Pauline Wareham |
| Friday 8 th | 12 noon | Holy Mass | Ron Knowles |

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|--|--------------------|
| Saturday 9 th | 5.00 pm | Holy Mass | Bridie McMorrow |
| Sunday 10 th | 11.00 am | Holy Mass | Hollinshead Family |
| | 4.00 pm | Healing Voices Choir Concert in Church | |

Prayer for the People of Ukraine: O God, merciful and strong, who crush wars and cast down the proud, look with mercy upon the Ukrainian people. Protect them from aggression. Grant them peace and steadfast trust in your love. Give them courage to defend what is good, right, and holy; and provide for all their needs. Through the powerful intercession of the Mother of God, Protectress of Ukraine, and St Michael the Archangel, Patron of Kyiv, banish violence swiftly from their midst and wipe away all tears. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Fr George Grynowski, a retired, but still active priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham who died last week. We pray for him, his family and all parishioners who mourn his loss. May he rest in peace.

Today we welcome several children from our parish schools who will be making their First Holy Communion at the 11.00am Mass. We pray for these children as they receive Jesus in the gift of the Blessed Sacrament for the first time.

Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at Hednesford is taking place this Sunday afternoon, (3rd July). Refreshments available from 1.00pm; Confessions from 2.15 - 3.45 pm; Rosary at 3.00pm concluding with Mass and Anointing at 4.00pm. The celebrant of the Mass will be Bishop David Evans. Those attending are asked to bring their own chairs.

A 'big clean' is taking place on Saturday 9th July from 10.30am onwards. If you can help remove a few cobwebs, sweep a few floors and polish a few surfaces, please do come along. All cleaning materials will be provided, together with copious amounts of tea and coffee.

The Healing Voices Choir Concert is being held next Sunday afternoon, Sunday 10th July at 4.00pm in St Austin's. Under the musical direction of Jo Burrowes and accompanied by Fr Simon, the choir will perform a selection of songs from popular shows and other genres. The choir, who are based in Stafford, aim to inspire and support people affected by cancer and enjoy singing to audiences in the local area. All money raised at this concert will be divided between the Loreto Sealdah Project in Kolkata and the Healing Voices Choir. Please do make a note in your diary of this event and come along for an enjoyable afternoon of music. Light refreshments will be available after the concert.

Next Sunday is Sea Sunday which is a Day of Prayer for all Seafarers and their families. The second collection is the annual one to support the work of the Apostleship of the Sea. Gift Aid envelopes are available at the back of Church.

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Stephen Wright to the 11.00am Mass next Sunday, 10th July. During the Mass he will present the Ubi Caritas, the Diocesan Award to two parishioners and will also celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Blessed Robert Sutton Mass will be held on Saturday 16th July at 11.00am in St Thomas Mill Farm, Baswich Lane, ST18 0YD. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to gather and pray in a place known to the martyr Blessed Robert Sutton and to seek his intercession. Please do consider coming along.

Cemetery Sunday will take place on Sunday 17th July. All are welcome to gather at the Chapel at Tixall Road Crematorium for a short Prayer Service at 3.00 p.m. Afterwards with the help of local clergy we will move to the individual graves and bless them.

The Piety Stall is open before and after the Saturday and Sunday Masses. Together with the usual Mass cards and religious gifts, there is also a wide selection of birthday cards, wedding cards and other occasion cards.

Christian Food Help: Thank you to those who continue to donate to and support the work of our Christian Food Help. Any donations can be left at the back of Church, or at the Presbytery. In June we were able to provide 1554 food parcels.

Spiritual Spa Day for Ladies: This is an opportunity to be refreshed and renewed in God's love; to be inspired, reflect and pray together and to be affirmed in our faith at St Austin's Church, Stafford on Saturday 10th September. Put the date in your diary, more details soon.

It is wonderful to see that attendance at Mass on Saturday and Sunday is very much on the increase, and we are seeing many familiar faces once more. There have been a couple of occasions where church appeared to be fuller than it was, which meant that several people were left standing at the back. Could we politely ask that when you 'take a pew' at Mass, you consider moving up as far as possible, so that from the back of church, available spaces can be easily seen. From the back of church, if people sit at either end of a pew, it can look as if the pew is full. If you are a newcomer or a visitor to one of our Masses, please do make yourself known at the end of Mass.

As part of our Live Simply Campaign we want to live in solidarity with those in poverty and now is the time to tackle corporate abuse of human and environmental rights. We're calling on the UK government to introduce a new Business, Human Rights and Environment Act to hold business to account when it fails to prevent human rights abuses and environmental harm. If we are to tackle the climate crisis and global poverty around the world, we must address the destruction linked to UK companies. You can add your voice to this campaign by emailing your MP. There are more details available by visiting <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/93929/action/>

Going into Hospital: If you are admitted as a patient to either the Royal Stoke University Hospital or County Hospital in Stafford, even if they know you are a Catholic, the chaplaincy will not be automatically informed, and neither will anyone ask you if you want a visit. To be visited, you must contact the chaplaincy office – 01782 676400 for Stoke and 01785 887659 for County. Sacraments can still be administered at the bedside, even if someone has Covid, but the office needs to be informed beforehand.

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Eileen Clowes, William McLaughlin, Jacqueline George, Isabella Adamson, William Howard, Frank Cunnion, Tad Cymbaluk, Margarie Maguire, Margaret Hogan, Ann Johnson, Ruth Abrahams, Winifred Cullum, Thomas Connor, Mary Bricknell, Thomas McNeish, Eva Hughes, Roy Banks, Helen Wardle, Elizabeth Mitchell, Mary Barr, Nellie Quinn, J. Webb, Thomas Davies, Jean Delahunt, Vincent Maguire, Wendy Imeson, Bridie McMorro, John Fitzpatrick, Bernard Olverson, Agnes Norman, Kathleen Birks, Hector D'Cumba, Claire Flatters, Edward Masternak, Ronald Oldacre, Agnes Perere, Isobelle Keegans, Agnes Nield, Fr William O'Malley, Mgr Patrick Corrigan, Canon Francis Dudley, Fr Michael Cullinan, Fr Henry Hayward, Fr Leo Joppe, Fr William Rooney, Fr Leo Armishaw, Mgr Louis McRaye, Fr Joseph Pires, Fr Michael Gaffney, Deacon Anthony Bateman, Fr Bernard Maddox, Fr Brendan Donlon.

COLLECTIONS: Gift Aid: £355.50 Loose Plate: £189.90 Peter's Pence £288.32

Thank you for your generosity. Standing Order remains the most cost-effective way to donate to St Austin's at this time. If you would like to consider using a Standing Order, please contact Phil Hood on 01785 211701 for more information.

STAFFORD PARISHES LIVE SIMPLY

The Stafford Parishes Live Simply Group met recently and devised an action plan to enable our parish communities to live simply, live sustainably with creation and live in solidarity with the poor to work towards becoming a 'Live Simply Community' CAFOD asks to 'Pray, Act, Give' and we hope to do this to be able to earn our Live Simply award. We looked at what we are already doing and what we plan to do.

LIVE SIMPLY

-  Challenge ourselves to have an **unplugged day** by turning off our phones, TV's and radios for all or part of a day.
-  Have a **meat free day** once a week – other than a Friday. Why not try meat free Monday? More information can be found at <https://meatfreemondays.com/>
-  Think about **re-cycling** or **upcycling** clothes and furniture. Remember the 'three R's' of: reduce, reuse and recycle.
-  Try to **walk or cycle** everywhere which can benefit your mind, body and soul?
-  Make time to **pray** for and **enjoy** the beauty of God's creation.

LIVE SUSTAINABLY

-  We are hoping to be involved in the Stafford District Friends in Faith tree planting project.
-  We are looking at ways we can support bio-diversity by planting a wildflower garden in St Anne's garden and looking at what we can do in the other two parishes.
-  We are hoping to install bird and bat boxes in the grounds of the three parishes and would encourage all to do the same in their own gardens at home.
-  We are looking at ways of reducing plastic in our parishes.
-  The parishes will undertake an energy audit to see how we can reduce our carbon footprint and thus save money.

LIVE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE POOR

-  The three parishes will continue to support Stafford Christian Food Help, House of Bread and Brushstrokes.
-  St Austin's will continue to support Loretta Sealdah in Kolkota with soup lunches during Lent and Advent.
-  We hope to extend the Fairtrade programme at St Anne's by having regular events at the three parishes.

 The three parishes have committed to join CAFOD's campaign to fix the food system. We will be holding an event in the near future, but in the meantime, you can help by emailing the Foreign Secretary and urge her to fix the food system. For more information on how to do this, please visit <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/102736/action/>

The Live Simply Group will share regular updates with our three parishes in our weekly newsletters but if you have any suggestions, please do let us know.