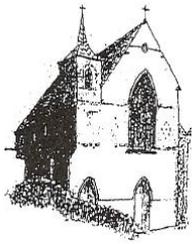


ST AUSTIN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

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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 29TH MAY 2022

Mass Book: Page 281 | Sunday Cycle: Year C | Psalter Week: 3 | Weekday Cycle: Year II

A warm welcome to you all. We pray in a particular way for those of our community who are unable to be here with us and join us via the livestream. Whether here in person or joining in at home, we unite ourselves through the prayers of the Holy Mass.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 28 th	5.00 pm	Holy Mass	Price and Cookson Families
Sunday 29 th	11.00 am *	Holy Mass	Patrick and Eva Devlin
Monday 30 th	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Sebastian Thombaesami
	6.00 pm	Vigil of Reception for Peter Payne	
Tuesday 31 st	12.30 pm	Requiem Mass for Peter Payne	
Wednesday 1 st	12 noon	Holy Mass	Willy O'Donovan
Thursday 2 nd	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Julie Grantham
Friday 3 rd	12.30 pm	Nuptial Mass for Emma Kelly and Jack Brough	

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

Saturday 4 th	10.30 am	Holy Hour with Confessions	
	5.00 pm	Holy Mass	Teresa Fowler
Sunday 5 th	11.00 am *	Holy Mass	Josephine Madden

** Livestream available via our Facebook page*

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 soul of Margaret Buckingham who died recently. We pray for her husband Roy and all her family who mourn her loss. May she rest in peace.

This Sunday is World Communications Sunday when we pray for all those who work in media and communications. We pray that all communications are real means of promoting goodness, generating trust, and opening the way to communion and peace. There will be a Second Collection after all Masses for Catholic Communications.

Last Thursday the Church celebrated Our Lord's Ascension into heaven. The days between the Ascension and Pentecost are often considered the first novena. As Jesus prepared to leave his work and mission in the hands of the Apostles, he instructed them to gather in the Upper Room and devote themselves to prayer as they awaited the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday. Let us, like those first Apostles use these days before Pentecost Sunday to continually pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our world.

This week many pilgrims from the Archdiocese will be on pilgrimage to Lourdes. If you would like to follow the various liturgies of the week, please see the diocesan website.

We pray for Elizabeth, our Queen as she celebrates her Platinum Jubilee this week. May she continue to know the steadfast love of God and serve her people faithfully. All our Masses next weekend will conclude with a special prayer for the Jubilee and the singing of the National Anthem.

June is the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The devotion to the Sacred Heart greatly increased through the visions Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690). She had a vision of Christ's Heart on the feast of Saint John. Jesus permitted her to rest her head upon His Heart, and then disclosed to her the wonders of His love, telling her that He desired to make this known to mankind and to diffuse the treasures of His goodness. Devotion to the Sacred Heart is a wonderful expression of the Church's piety for Christ, her Spouse and Lord: it calls for a fundamental attitude of conversion and reparation, of love and gratitude, apostolic commitment and dedication to Christ and His saving work.

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you all my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all my relatives and friends, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: At present only one Extraordinary Minister is needed at Mass to help with the distribution of Holy Communion. This is in stark contrast to pre-pandemic times, when five were needed to help with the distribution of the Chalice. Currently, there are no guidelines for the reintroduction of receiving from the Chalice. In the meantime, would all ministers please let us know which weekend Mass they would prefer to attend, so that we can form a rota to be included alongside the Readers list.

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.

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. There are currently a variety of items available for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy in Wolverhampton wishes to appoint a Lay Chaplain. More information can be found at <https://www.sfscmac.co.uk/vacancies/lay-chaplain-3/>

Stafford Choral Society are holding their 75th Anniversary Concert on Saturday 11th June at 7.30pm in Lichfield Cathedral. Please see the poster in the church porch for more details.

Livestream Update: Throughout the pandemic and various lockdowns, we have livestreamed Masses from St Austin's. Over the last couple of months, as more people have returned to attending Masses in person, we have reduced the livestream down to just the 11.00am Sunday Mass and Funeral liturgies as and when it has been requested. The quality of our livestream has never been fantastic and has resulted in many parishioners saying how they have 'gone elsewhere virtually' for Mass. Whilst it is not a question of lack of equipment or finances to have a similar system as many other churches have used, our problem lies in the internet connection in general – the Wolverhampton Road, together with the thick walls of St Austin's doesn't lend itself to good internet connection. Mindful that the latest Bishops Conference letter says the "Virtual viewing" of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation', we have taken the decision to stop livestreaming from June. At St Anne's, the Masses will continue to be livestreamed, but are only available to those who have asked to view them, (for example the housebound). If you still feel unable to come to Mass on a Sunday and would benefit from the link to these Masses, please send an email to us.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 18 th June	Walsingham Association Mass at St Patrick's
Sunday 19 th June	Confirmation with Archbishop Bernard Longley
Sunday 3 rd July	First Holy Communion Mass
Sunday 3 rd July	Hednesford Pilgrimage
Sunday 10 th July	Healing Voices Choir Concert in Church

EASTER ANTHEM: REGINA CAELI

**O Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
Has risen, as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.**

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same

COLLECTIONS: Gift Aid: £158.10 Loose Plate: £86.01

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.

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Louis Stephens, Christine Heffernan, Joyce Grundy, Patrick Brady, May Gage, Frederick Whitfield, Terry Grisewood, Dorothy Williams, Anthony Miller, Marion Bloor, Lawrence Adams, James Mullane, Teresa Rafferty, Patrick Flood, Francis Brown, John Keating, Richard Perry, Doris Radford, John Cheshire James Wilkinson, Eunice Saberton, Josephine Lloyd, Barbara Boon, Marjorie Williams, Elizabeth Dale, John Ritchie, Canon John Hughes, Fr Dermot Corcoran, Dcn William Parker, Fr Joseph Lacy, Fr Cornelius Healy, Mgr Wilfrid Doran, Fr Charles Dessian, Fr William O'Brien, Fr John Lane, Fr Benedict Tarbuck, Fr John Crean, Canon Harry Bouchier.

SPRING PLENARY 2022 RESOLUTION

An invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales

This is the bread come down from heaven (John 6:58)

A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity – “The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist.” It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as “the Sunday Obligation.”

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. “Virtual viewing” of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound.

We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic. Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence.

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord’s Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person.

As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives.

Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops’ Conference

Friday 6 May 2022