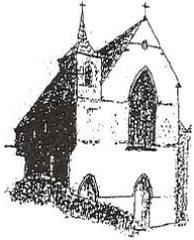


ST AUSTIN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER



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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 19TH JUNE 2022

Mass Book: Page 84 | Sunday Cycle: Year C | Psalter Week: 4 | Weekday Cycle: Year II

SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

Saturday 18 th	5.00 pm	Holy Mass	Bill Barnes
Sunday 19 th	11.00 am	Holy Mass	Elizabeth George
Monday 20 th	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Thomas Knowles
Tuesday 21 st <i>St Aloysius Gonzaga</i>	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Charlotte Hinch
Wednesday 22 nd <i>Ss John Fisher and Thomas More</i>	12 noon	Holy Mass	Trevor Collins
Thursday 23 rd <i>Nativity of St John the Baptist</i>	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Gerard Dickins
Friday 24 th <i>Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>	12 noon	Holy Mass	Michael and Mary O'Donovan

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 25 th	5.00 pm	Holy Mass	Jerry Hinks
Sunday 26 th	11.00 am	Holy Mass	Stafford Catenians

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.

Today is the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Every Mass is a commemoration of Jesus' Last Supper and a proclamation and participation of this mystery. We can sometimes and often get lost in a routine each Sunday. The feast of Corpus Christi helps us focus once again on what we are called to do at Mass. We are called to celebrate what we believe: we express our faith in the risen Christ, who gave his life for us out of love. To live what we believe: we give witness to the risen Christ by our way of life and to become what we receive: we become Christlike, so that others might see in us and in what we do the one who gave his life for us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of your suffering and death. May our worship of this sacrament of your body and blood, help us to experience the salvation won for us and the peace of the kingdom, where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

This weekend, we welcome Archbishop Bernard Longley who will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation during the 11.00am Mass with several children from our parish schools. Let us pray that by receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit, their fruits will help them to become faithful followers of Jesus.

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.

Second Collection after all Masses this weekend for the Day for Life. This day is set aside to celebrate life from conception to natural death. This year the focus is on caring for and valuing the elderly.

June is the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. 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.

Brushstrokes have thanked all those who have sent donations over the last couple of weeks. They are currently looking for donations of toiletries. Any donations can be left at the back of church.

Children's Liturgy: It is our hope that in September, the Children's Liturgy will be up and running once again. If anyone would be interested in helping at the sessions and being part of team of leaders, would you please speak to Canon Michael or Fr Simon.

Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at Hednesford is taking place on Sunday 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.

Healing Voices Choir Concert on Sunday 10th July at 4.00pm. 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. Please make a note of the date in your diary.

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. More details available <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/93929/action/>

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.

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 May we were able to provide 1206 food parcels.

Livestream Update: 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 here at St Austin’s. 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.

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Patrick Lynch, David Haley, Anne Atkins, Freddie Sandy, Diane Attwood, Petronella Danker, Victoria Bott, Ronald Dobbing, James Radcliffe, Annie Eley, Theresa McAllister, Alan Read, Teresa Johnson, Joseph Houlding, Edwin Brookes, Catherine Hackett, Margaret Cronin, Christopher Cotton, Catherine Doran, Edward Merriman, Joseph Concar, Edward Smyth, Lucy Leckie, Gerard Dickins, Frederick Willett, Callum Macleod, Isobel McAnerney, Mary Willett, James Kenna, Peter Dunne, John Willett, Robert Evans, Sarah Robinson, Margaret Flaherty, Gertrude Cliff, Patrick Rudkins, Joseph Woods, Jacqueline McCracken, Bidy Treadwell, Fr Laurence Jones, Fr Hubert Mooney, Fr Michael Doona, Fr George Smit, Fr Arthur Proudman, Fr Geoffrey Tucker, Mgr Peter Stonier, Fr Thomas Browne, Fr John Boyer, Fr James Walsh, Fr Hugh Montgomery, Deacon Ralph Watkins.

COLLECTIONS: Gift Aid: £220.00 Loose Plate: £138.90

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.