



## ST. AUSTIN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

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**Parish Website:** www.saintaustins.org.uk

**Diocesan Website:** www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

**Parish Priest:** Canon Michael Neylon

**Assistant Priest:** Fr. Simon Baker

**Parish Safeguarding Representative:** Mrs. Sue Kelly, 07875549906



## SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021

Mass Book: Page 112      Sunday Cycle: Year B

Psalter: Week 3      Weekday Cycle: Year 2

### FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> <i>Vigil Mass</i>	5.00 pm	Holy Mass	H and J Kowolewski
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Holy Mass	Vinnie Holliday (Ints)
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> <i>Feria</i>	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Sr Sabina Staff
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> <i>Feria</i>	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Tunney Family
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> <i>Feria</i>	7.00 pm	Holy Mass	Margaret Ward In Thanksgiving
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> <i>Feria</i>	10.00 am	Holy Mass	McCaffrey Family Payne Family
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> <i>Feria</i>	12 noon	Holy Mass	Murray Family Garrett Family

### SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> <i>Vigil Mass</i>	5.00 pm	Holy Mass	Paul May
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Holy Mass	Pro Populo

The Baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of His public ministry. John, the Baptist was preparing the way for Jesus by preaching repentance and baptizing people in the Jordan as they acknowledged their sins. John also proclaimed that one greater than he would come and "baptize you with the Holy Spirit" (Mark 1:8). With these things in mind, it is not surprising that John resisted when Jesus asked to be baptized by him. Why did Jesus need to be baptized? Why would he submit to John in this way? There are a number of reasons worthy of exploration. First, Jesus certainly was not baptized for forgiveness of sins, since He was sinless. There was no need for Him to repent. Still, in this act, He showed His solidarity with sinful humanity and gave indication of His role as Saviour. Second, as indicated in the second reading, this event expresses Christ's anointing as the Messiah. It also reveals His identity as the Son of God through the voice coming from Heaven and brings to light the Trinity through the action of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit seen at the baptism. Finally, Jesus' baptism prefigures the Sacrament of Baptism that He would institute, in which we receive the Holy Spirit and are adopted as children of God, while also being cleansed of our sins.

<https://stjoemarion.org/news/readings-reflections-for-the-baptism-of-the-lord>

A warm welcome to you all as we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. 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 in here in person or joining in at home, we unite ourselves through the prayers of the Holy Mass.

### OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

#### Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata Primary

Somerset Road, Stafford, ST 17 9UZ

01785 413276

[www.blessedmotherteresas.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.blessedmotherteresas.staffs.sch.uk)

#### St. Austin's Primary

Garden Street, Stafford, ST17 4BT

01785 413277

[www.st-austins.org.uk](http://www.st-austins.org.uk)

#### Blessed William Howard Catholic High School

Rowley Avenue, Stafford, ST17 9AB

01785 244236

[www.bwh.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.bwh.staffs.sch.uk)

### OTHER CATHOLIC CHURCHES

**St. Anne's:** Parish Priest: Fr. Robert Devaney

Address: Lynton Avenue, Stafford, ST17 0EA

Telephone: 01785 661012

Email: [stannestpatrick.stafford.org.uk](mailto:stannestpatrick.stafford.org.uk)

Website: [www.st-annes-st.org.uk](http://www.st-annes-st.org.uk)

Saturday: Vigil Mass at 6.30 pm

Sunday: Mass at 9.30 am

**St. Patrick's:** Served from St Anne's

Address: 48 Sandon Road, Stafford, ST16 3HF

Saturday: Vigil Mass at 1.00 pm

Sunday: Mass at 8.00 am

### COLLECTIONS Thank you for your generosity

Gift Aid: £ 206.00

Loose Plate: £ 47.50



**On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January**, the Prime Minister outlined the new restrictions for a third national lockdown. It was good to hear that Places of Worship are able to remain open, but we were reminded of the need and importance for us all to be extra careful and diligent with social distancing and hygiene.

Since the church re-opened back in July, we have been grateful for the help and dedication of our stewards. The stewards have, and continue, to ensure that all guidelines are followed and that the church is thoroughly cleaned after each service, **but it is important that we all play our part and are mindful of the safety of those around us**, particularly with this new variant of Covid-19. May we remind anyone coming to Mass to wear a face covering whilst in church; enter and exit by separate doors; sanitize hands on entry and exit; observe social distancing at all times; only sit on seats marked with green spots and only come forward for Holy Communion when directed by the stewards.

**Please DO NOT attend church if you, or someone in your household, has: a high temperature or new, continuous cough or loss, or change, to your sense of taste or smell. You must stay at home and arrange a Covid test. Similarly, if anyone is awaiting a test result please do not attend.**

**Please remember that the obligation to attend Holy Mass is still suspended.** All our Masses from St Austin's will continue to be live streamed through our YouTube and Facebook pages, details of which can be found on our website.

**Live Streaming of Masses:** We use live streaming to enable housebound parishioners and those unable to attend Mass at this time to join in the various liturgies held at St Austin's. From time to time, at the request of the families, the livestream is also used for funerals and weddings. The new position of the camera means that only those with a need to be on the Sanctuary (e.g. the Clergy, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers) are seen, however when it comes to Holy Communion, people are briefly seen (mainly the back of heads) as they approach the priest. Images are made available live over the internet through our YouTube and Facebook pages, and can be accessed by anyone who wishes to do so. If anyone would like to clarify live streaming, please do see Canon Michael or Fr Simon.

**Prayer to St Joseph:** 'Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

**Canon Michael and Fr Simon** would like to thank everyone for the many good wishes, presents and Christmas cards they have received and a special thanks for your very generous Christmas Offerings. We wish you all a very blessed year in 2021.

**Christmas Tree Stars and Crib Donations:** Thank you to everyone who has given donations towards the work of the Loreto Sealdah Charity in Calcutta. We have been able to raise £446 in total. As has been our tradition each year, the Crib offerings, which total £256.47 will be shared between Father Hudson's Society and the Friends of the Holy Land. Please leave any offerings in the basket by the crib.

**Although the Christmas trees** will soon disappear, the crib in church will remain as a focus of prayer a devotion until the Feast of Candlemass on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, which was the traditional end of Christmas in ancient times.

**A Prayer before the Crib:** Heavenly Father may this crib remind us of the coming of your Son. Grant that all who pray here may be inspired by the example of love and humility that Christ gave to us. To all who are troubled, grant peace of mind. To all in doubt and uncertainty, grant guidance and inspiration. To all who are oppressed by sin or guilt, grant pardon and absolution. To all who are suffering in mind and body, grant comfort and healing. Above all grant to everyone who prays here in faith, the joy of spirit that the angels proclaimed at Christ's birth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**We extend our prayerful congratulations** and best wishes to Canon Michael as he celebrates the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary since his Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January.

**Christian Food Help:** We are incredibly grateful to all those who made contributions last year. Despite the tough year, we have managed to keep going, and were able to deliver over 10,000 meals. Whether you have helped us with bag packing, food deliveries, organising incoming stock, donations or prayers and support, we are being wholly sincere when we say that you made a huge difference, and we couldn't have managed this year without you. Last month we were able to deliver 986 food parcels. The work of CFH continues and we are always happy to receive food donations at the Presbytery.

**Monday morning Mass** at 10.00am will be open to the public and also available on the livestream.

**We continue to ask the intercession of St Roch:** O most merciful God, who through an angel, promised St Roch that all who invoked his name will be preserved from pestilent and contagious diseases. Grant that through his intercession we may be preserved from all dangers both of soul and body. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**We pray for the souls of Doreen Simpson and Doreen Smith** who died recently. Doreen will be received into Church on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 4.00pm and her Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 11.00am. We pray for them and for their families at this time.

**Pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Michael Green, Patrick Fox, William Loughran, Bridget Sharkey, Nellie Howard, Ivy Evans, Edward Behan, Sinead Scott Mullen, Eliza Brookes, Gordon Henry, Edith Smith, Jadwiga Kasinska, Sylvia Lant, Terrence Kehoe, Mary Hawkins, Jean O'Gorman, Alton Beazer, Ronald Eley, Ernest Woodcock, Craig Clark, Patrick Neary, Agnes Briggs, Carol Evans, Ada Haycock, Margaret Banks, Thomas Durkin, Alfred Thompson, Aldo Monticorri, Margaret Smith, David Hawkins, Robert Watts, Kathleen Rogers, Juleta Chudynicka, Elizabeth Stubbs, Shaun Payne, Gillian Wright, Margaret Finney Rebecca McCleod, Margaret Smith, Eva Wrench, Stanislaw Smialowski, Fr Philip Wyles, Deacon William Murphy, Fr Patrick Farrelly, Fr James Bromley, Fr Patrick McSwiney, Fr Peter Tuite, Deacon Brian Dockerty, Mgr John Cregg, Fr Robert Kirby, Fr Benedict O'Gorman, Deacon Thomas Carter, Fr Gerard Peuleve, Fr Cyril Bennett, Canon Matthias Corrigan.