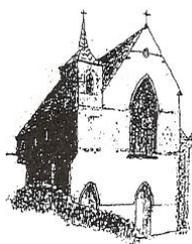


ST AUSTIN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER



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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 9TH JANUARY 2022

Mass Book: Page 118 Sunday Cycle: Year C

Psalter: Week 1 Weekday Cycle: Year II

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday 8 th	5.00 pm	Holy Mass †	Chris Vaz Intentions
Sunday 9 th	11.00 am *	Holy Mass †	Maura and Vincent Roughan
Monday 10 th	10.00 am	Holy Mass †	Sarah May Marshall
Tuesday 11 th	10.00 am	Holy Mass †	Miss Wright
Wednesday 12 th	12 noon	Holy Mass †	Archie Cleaver
Thursday 13 th	12 noon	Holy Mass †	Mr and Mrs Homer
Friday 14 th	12 noon	Holy Mass †	Nicola Bentley

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 15 th	5.00 pm	Holy Mass †	Claire Prescott
Sunday 16 th	11.00 am *	Holy Mass †	H and J Kowalewski

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.

† Masses open to the public

* Livestream available via our Facebook

The Diocesan Vision Prayer: Spirit of God, descend on me this day. Grant me the Spirit of joy, to lift me, the Spirit of hope to inspire me, the Spirit of love to surround me and the Spirit of truth to enlighten my path. Holy Spirit, I pray for a new outpouring of your grace, so that I may grow in worship of your name in love of you in my prayer and in my actions towards others. Come Holy Spirit into my life to guide me. Strengthen and defend me, so that I may be drawn ever closer to you. Help me this day and always to be a channel of grace in all I say and do and invite others into relationship with you. Amen.

For more information regarding the Diocesan Vision, please go to the website at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/vision

We pray for the souls of Eleanor Oxley (Requiem Mass on 18th January), **Eileen O'Dempsey** (Requiem Mass on 27th January) and **Mary Lockett** who died recently. We pray for them and their families who mourn their loss at this time. May they rest in peace.

Crib Donations: As has been our tradition each year, the Crib offerings 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. So far, just over £490 has been raised.

Although the Christmas trees will disappear after Sunday Mass, the crib in church will remain as a focus of prayer a devotion until the Feast of Candlemass on February 2nd, 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.

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have asked us to emphasise the importance of receiving the booster vaccine where this is possible. There is overwhelming evidence showing the effectiveness of vaccination in preventing serious illness, the further spread of the virus and ultimately death. The vaccination programme, therefore, serves the common good by protecting the population, especially the most vulnerable. Pope Francis has spoken of the '*moral obligation to be vaccinated*' and referred to vaccination as an '*act of love.*' Given that, at the present time, the numbers of people being infected is rising quickly, a collective effort is needed to combat this virus.

We extend our prayerful congratulations and best wishes to Canon Michael as he celebrates the 49th anniversary since his Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood on Thursday 13th January. Mass will be at 12noon that day.

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.

Holy Hour with Rosary and Confessions: Starting in February, we will be introducing a Holy Hour on the First Saturday of every month at 11.00am. The Holy Hour will begin with the Rosary after which the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. All will conclude at 11.50am with Benediction.

'Cursillo' began in Spain in the 1940's, a name simply means 'a short course.' It has become a world-wide method of adult faith development and it is a way of making our discipleship effective and furthering the mission of the Church. The movement has papal approval and the support of our Archbishop. You are invited to discover Cursillo at two exciting events taking place in the next few weeks and months in our Archdiocese. If you would like to be involved in either or both of these events, and for further information, please contact: Canon Michael Leadbeater at canon.michael.leadbeater@rcaob.org.uk

Encounter Day on Saturday 22nd January at St. Mary's the Mount Pastoral Centre, Glebe Street, Walsall. From 10.30am to 2.30pm. This event is free (though donations are gratefully received) and lunch is provided.

3-Day Cursillo Weekend from Thursday 24th March (evening) to Sunday 27th March (afternoon). This will be held at Shallowford House, near Stafford. Experience community, formation and prayer with a warm and friendly welcome!

Livestreaming of Masses: We continue to livestream the 11.00am Sunday Mass, and Requiem Masses at the request of families via our Facebook page. These are not uploaded afterwards and thus not available for later watching. For more information regarding the livestream at St Austin's, please see the sign on our notice boards or speak to Canon Michael or Fr Simon.

Prayer to 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. Amen.

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Roger Thow, Grace Fenton, Mable Payne, Peter Ryan, Ena Ellis, Peter Dynka, John Bayliffe, Joseph Haynes, Michael Loftus, Avis Badger, Barrie Hollinshead, John Edwards, 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 Charles Becker, Fr Philip Wyles, Deacon Michael Murphy, Fr Patrick Farrelly, Fr James Bromley, Fr Patrick McSwiney, Fr Patrick Joyce, Fr Peter Tuite, Deacon Brian Dockerty, Mgr John Cregg, Fr Robert Kirby, Fr Benedict O'Gorman, Deacon Thomas Mark Carter, Fr Gerald Peuleve, Fr Cyril Bennett, Canon Matthias Corrigan.

COLLECTIONS

Loose Plate: £133.97

Gift Aid: £219.00

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.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Hymn for Communion at 11.00am Mass:

When Jesus comes to be baptized,
he leaves the hidden years behind,
the years of safety and of peace,
to bear the sins of all mankind.

He will not quench the dying flame,
and what is bruised he will not break,
but heal the wound injustice dealt,
and out of death his triumph make.

The Spirit of the Lord comes down,
anoints the Christ to suffering,
to preach the word, to free the bound,
and to the mourner, comfort bring.

Our everlasting Father, praise,
with Christ, his well-beloved Son,
who with the Spirit reigns serene,
untroubled Trinity in One.

May we remind anyone coming to Mass to observe the following: wear a face covering whilst in church (unless exempt for medical reasons); 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.

Please DO NOT attend church if you have: 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.

The seating capacity at St Austin's is 102. Whilst Places of Worship remain open, we are all reminded of the need and importance for us all to be extra careful and diligent with social distancing and hygiene.

Please remember that the obligation to attend Holy Mass is still suspended.