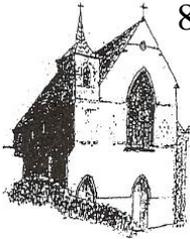


# ST AUSTIN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER



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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 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021



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Sunday Cycle: Year C

Psalter: Week 1

Weekday Cycle: Year 1



### THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

#### FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 pm	Holy Mass †	Ann Vallely
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am *	Holy Mass †	Noel Cooney
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Holy Mass †	Carmel Norman
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> <i>St Andrew</i>	10.00 am	Holy Mass †	Darren Norman
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> <i>St Edmund Campion</i>	12 noon	Holy Mass †	Mary Shackleton
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00 am	Holy Mass †	Mary Dickins
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	11 am – 11.45 am 12 noon	Exposition and Confessions † Holy Mass †	R & M Buckingham



† Masses open to the public.

\* Livestream available via our Facebook

#### SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 am 5.00 pm	Holy Mass † Holy Mass †	Private Intention Rose Greck
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am *	Holy Mass †	Dawn Suffolk



**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.

**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 about the Diocesan Vision, go to [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/vision](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/vision)

**This Sunday we begin the Holy Season of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation and joyful expectation. As we prepare for the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, these weeks provide a wonderful opportunity to slow down and reflect. We look forward to the coming of Christ: celebrating His birth, His renewed coming into our lives this Christmas, especially through the Eucharist, and His second coming at the end of time. The Advent Wreath circular in shape and decorated with evergreens remind us of God's eternal life that has no beginning or end. The lighting of the candles every week is a sign of our willingness and readiness to let the light of God's love and life come into our lives.**

**BELONG & BELIEVE** is a CaFE Film Resource which looks at how our Celtic past and can help us today and provides simple ways of refreshing communities and renewing our mission. The course will take place on three consecutive Wednesday evenings at St Anne's Parish Hall starting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Tea and coffee will be available from 7.00pm.

**'Walk with Me':** Archbishop Bernard invites us to join the Diocesan family in the now familiar programme of prayer and reflection using the 'Walk with Me' Prayer Books.

**On Friday's during Advent** there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 11.00am until 11.45am. The run up to Christmas can be a hectic and busy time for everyone, and it is hoped that this time of Exposition will give people an opportunity for quiet reflection and prayer. The Sacrament of Confession will also be available during this time.

**Rorate Masses:** These are Votive Masses in honour of the Virgin Mary for the season of Advent and will be celebrated at 7.00am on Saturday mornings at the Lady Altar. If you are an early riser, you are welcome to attend these Masses in Advent.

**National Office for Vocations Advent Calendar:** A video Advent Calendar that runs from the 1st Sunday of Advent through to the Feast of The Holy Family. There are 29 different videos one shown each day with peoples' messages on the importance of 'Keeping Christ in Christmas'. This is available at <https://www.ukvocation.org/advent>

**God Who Speaks - Making Room for God:** In the midst of all the preparation and busyness this Christmas, take some time out to create space for the sacred. Try out the God Who Speaks new 'Room for God' resource available at <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/word-at-home/christmas-resources/making-room-for-god-this-christmas/>

**'Give the gift of a better future'** catalogues are available as your leave church. If you are struggling to find the perfect gift for someone this Christmas, why not support CAFOD's World Gifts, and give a different type of present this year.

**Christmas Tree Stars:** As in previous years we intend to decorate the Church Christmas Trees with stars. These will be available at all Masses on 11/12<sup>th</sup> and 18/19<sup>th</sup> December. All donations will be gratefully appreciated towards the work of the Loreto Sealdah Charity in Calcutta.

**Not sending Christmas Cards this year?** Often people don't send cards and instead give the money they would have spent to a charity. If you are considering doing this, why not consider the Loreto Sealdah charity for a donation.

**We pray for the soul of Renee Wright** who died recently. We pray for her and her family her who mourn her loss. We pray also for the family of **Arthur Joseph Buckley** as they prepare for his baptism on Sunday.

**Masses during the week** will no longer be livestreamed, unless they are a Requiem Mass and the family have requested it. We shall continue to livestream the 11.00am Sunday Mass, but this will not be uploaded 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.

**The Piety Stall** will be open for 30 minutes before the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses and has a wide variety of Christmas cards and gifts available.

**'The Sower'** our Diocesan Magazine is now available. Please take a copy as you leave Mass today. It is also available online at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/diocesan-magazine>

**Katharine House Cycle Ride:** Sponsorships this year raised a total of £3064.00, of which £2099.00 was Gift Aided. The total amount, including the Gift Aid claim for 2021, will be £3588.75. Our grateful thanks to all those who supported this event.

**Newsletter via email:** If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please send your email request to [staustin.stafford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:staustin.stafford@rcaob.org.uk). Of course, if you receive one by email, you don't need to pick one up after Mass. Our newsletter is also available each week on the parish website.

**BWH PTFA** will be holding a Christmas Shopping Event on Friday 3rd December 6pm - 9pm. All are welcome. Entrance is 50p per adult and children are free. If you would like to have a stall at this event, please contact the PTFA at [ptfa@bwh.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@bwh.staffs.sch.uk) for further details

**Brushstrokes:** Thank you for all the donations that you have so generously given to Brushstrokes. Could items be washed, bagged, and marked with the size and sex. Many thanks again for your generosity. **Any items can be dropped off and left at the Presbytery.**

**The new Nationality and Borders Bill** is due to come forward for its final reading in the House of Commons at the end of this month. All involved with and who support Stafford Welcomes Refugees will have grave concerns about this Bill, and we encourage everyone to write to their local MP's (Theo Clarke in Stafford and Bill Cash in Gnosall) asking them to vote against this Bill. Further details of the Bill, together with the UNHCR's response can be found at <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023>

**Beware of spam emails** which often include 'parishpastor' and the name of parish priests, but they are not being sent from priests' email accounts. Proactive action has been taken by the Diocesan IT team to block such emails, but they can still be generated elsewhere and infiltrate email accounts. Diocesan clergy and staff should now be using email accounts that end in [@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:@rcaob.org.uk). If you are in any doubt about an email, please contact us.

**We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Betty Plant, Michael Begley, Thomas Denham, Edith Cottrill, Shereen Slingsby, Margaret Moore, Edward Smith, Nellie Ferguson, John Lynch, Joan Lea, Joan Williams, Phil Terry, Thomas Read, James Nield, Joseph Gray, Margaret Fuller, Joseph O'Shea, Mabel Salmon, Ellen Buckingham, Leslie Parry, Mona Chalmers, Elizabeth Jones, Maureen Payne, Florence Derry, Margaret Sullivan, Clifford Gear, Florence Hill, James Bolger, Lucy Walters, Theresa Worsfold, Mary Dickins, Noreen Gilliatt, Matthew Hyland, John Mullane, Mary Draper, Rosaleen Blackborough, Sydney Martin, William Brown, Ivy Brock, Alice McLoughin, David Allan, Cyril Buckingham, May Lynch, Andrew Russell, Monica Keenan, Patrick McMahon, Josephine Cheshire, Canon Augustine Emery, Fr Edward Neary, Fr Joseph Browne CO, Archbishop Joseph Masterson, Fr Reginal Anywl, Fr Norman Millard, Fr Peter Rogers, Archbishop Edward Ilsley, Fr Liam Macfarlane.

**COLLECTIONS** Loose Plate: £95.37 Gift Aid: £156.00 Catholic Youth Service: £204.50

**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:** To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul

**Hymn for Communion at 11.00am Mass:**

Bright and clear, as a trumpet blast, a herald shout goes out:  
drive a path through the wilderness, a highway for our God;  
hills and mountains to be laid low, the valleys lifted high,  
ev'ry nation and land shall see the glory of our God.

*Come, Lord, to a world of longing listen to creation's cry;*

*Answer nature's deepest yearning; manifest God's reign.*

*Come, Lord, shining star of morning, rise up, scatter death's dark shade.*

*Come, Lord, mighty King Eternal! Jesus Emmanuel!*

Take your stand on a lofty place,  
Messenger of God.

Shout, O shout with a voice of joy,  
cast all fear aside.

Say to all in Jerusalem,  
the city of the Lord:

'Look around you, the hour has come:  
see, here is your God.

See, he comes in pow'r and might,  
Master of all things.

See, the Lord of Victories,  
he is the King of Kings.

Shepherd-like he will feed his flock  
and take them to his arms,

leading them to a place of rest,  
Saviour, King and God.

**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.

**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.

**Prayer of St Gertrude for the Holy Souls:** Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

**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.