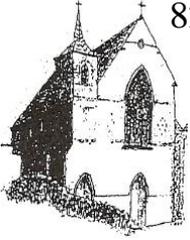


# ST. AUSTIN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER



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**Facebook:** St. Austin's, Stafford **Twitter:** @SaintAustins

**Parish Website:** [www.saintaustins.org.uk](http://www.saintaustins.org.uk)

**Diocesan Website:** [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://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 18<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021

Mass Book: Page 109

Sunday Cycle: Year B

Psalter: Week 4

Weekday Cycle: Year 1



### THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 pm	Holy Mass †	Pro Populo
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Holy Mass †	Jimmy Howard
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Painsley Staff
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	4.30 pm	Holy Mass	Private Intention
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	12 noon	Holy Mass †	Gerry Hinks
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> <i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Paul McGrath
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> <i>St Bridget</i>	12 noon	Holy Mass †	Robert Stewart

† Masses open  
to the public.

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 pm	Holy Mass †	E and S Brophy
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Holy Mass †	Brenda O'Leary

**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.

**Lifting of restrictions:** As you know on July 19th many of the restrictions will be lifted and there will be an emphasis on personal responsibility as we go forward. The vaccinations have continued to be given but we cannot ignore that fact that the virus, in various variants, is still at large in local areas. We have received guidelines from the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales together with recommendations from our own Archdiocese. Both notifications emphasize that *'where opportunity permits, there is some degree of relaxation but there remains a cautious approach that encourages the continuation of social distancing, mask wearing and daily cleaning where these help to minimise risk and provide comfort and confidence to our people.'*

Over the last couple of weeks, it has been good to see more parishioners returning to Mass, but we are aware that many others are still anxious about returning. With this in mind, we want to continue to create an environment in church where everyone feels welcome and most importantly safe. As ever we are extremely grateful to the stewards for their hard work and dedication which has enabled us to be open for the celebration of Holy Mass.

Once we have been able to meet with our own Health and Safety Representatives and our stewards, we will be able to give more details on how we hope to approach our Masses in a manner which is both safe and welcoming.

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr (Anthony) John Burns.** Fr John was ordained on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1953 and his first appointment was at Sacred Heart in Tunstall from 1953 to 1965. He was at Our Lady Immaculate in Warwick from 1965 to 1985; Our Lady and All Saints in Stourbridge from 1985 to 1990; St Mary's in Leek from 1990 to 1996 and at Holy Trinity in Hethe from 1996 until his retirement in 2014. We pray for him and his family at this time.

**Our Parish Schools:** It has certainly been a very strange and at times challenging academic year for both the staff, pupils and all those who work in our schools. We keep them in our prayers as the year comes to an end and we thank them all for all their hard work and dedication. We pray that they all enjoy a well-earned, restful and peaceful Summer holiday.

**The Diocesan Vision: Unfolding God's Plan:** If you didn't take one last week these are available to take away after Masses today. Please pick up a copy for yourself, and take copies for those who are unable to come to Mass. You may recall the Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard Longley a few weeks ago which outlined the vision for the Archdiocese as we move forward. We are encouraged to make the Diocesan Vision prayer part of our daily prayers. For more information, please visit the Diocesan website at [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/vision](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/vision)

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.

**Weekly 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, this means 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.



**Christian Food Help:** The work of CFH continues and we are always happy to receive food donations at the Presbytery. In June we were able to provide 1040 meals for those in need. Since we began in 2021, thanks to your continued support and generosity, we have been able to provide in excess of 94,000 meals.

**A gentle reminder from the Health and Safety advisors** to please keep the pew kneelers always in the 'downward position'. This is to comply with the requirements of the Diocesan insurers.

**Car Park:** In order to facilitate full use of the car park, could we please ask that the side spaces are filled first before those in the middle.

**Family Prayer Resources for Summer:** CAFOD will be offering a prayer focus for each week of the summer holidays with some simple ideas, designed to help parents explore faith with their children. This is available from at <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources>

**Gift Aid Envelopes:** If you haven't already collected your new envelopes, they are still available from the back of church. Many thanks for your continued generosity and support.

**World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly:** Pope Francis has called for the universal church to celebrate the occasion on Sunday 25 July - the closest Sunday to the memorial of Jesus' grandparents, Ss Joachim and Ann. Lianne Pap, Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Coordinator, is encouraging all parishes to take part in the celebration. Please send photographs of grandchildren giving their grandparents a hug, or a virtual hug if they are not able to meet in person. Also, any 'words of wisdom' that you remember grandparents or elderly friends passing onto you. These can be emailed to [lianne.pap@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:lianne.pap@rcaob.org.uk)

**Women in Scripture Podcast:** A new podcast celebrates the lives and influence of women in scripture, some of the greatest women of all time. The podcasts can be found on the Archdiocese website at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/News/new-podcast-launches-women-in-scripture>

**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 speak with Canon Michael or Fr Simon.

**We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Rita Gornall, Stella Scahill, Veronica Leech, John Cottrill, Alan Dale, Jeannie Gallagher, Patricia Trainor, William Jones, Beryl Marsden, Lawrence McDonagh, James Howard, Edward Kelly, Michael Gillen, Margaret Crook, Dorothy Shotton, Alan Read, Helena Dulieu, Jack McDonnell, Marion O'Sullivan, Alfred Couchman, Bernard Smith, Patrick Daly, Jean Harries, Suzanne Lockley, Mary Scahill, John Neenan, Daniel Guilfoyle, Leonard Beatty, Paul McGrath, Elizabeth Cronin, Winifred Cronin, Edward Dacey, William Bailey, Ken Wright, Patrick Henegan, Edgar Griffiths, Daniel Woods, Ursula Ryan, Edith Inger, John McMahan, Ron Marsden, Mary Lee, Henry Taylor, Louis Garbalch, Maureen Spinetto, Fr. Arthur Warburton, Fr. Philip Cleary, Fr Liam O'Connor, Fr Tom Rock, Canon Laurence Kelly, Fr Albert Kelly, Mgr Peter Ryall, Fr Anthony Owen.

**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. 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

## COLLECTIONS

**Loose Plate:** £88.67      **Gift Aid:** £310.50      **Apostleship of the Sea:** £105.00

**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.

**Following an up-to-date Risk Assessment for the church** we have been able to increase the seating capacity from 79 to 89. We have decided to keep much of what we are doing with stewarding, cleaning and track and trace etc in place for the foreseeable future.

The Reception of Holy Communion will continue to be after the blessing and dismissal. As you approach for Holy Communion the priest will now say to you individually, 'The body of Christ' to which you are able to reply, 'Amen.'

Visits to the sick and housebound are now possible if parishioners feel comfortable for them to happen. If you know of anyone who might like to receive the Sacraments at home, please do speak to either Canon Michael or Fr Simon.

Numbers allowed to attend 'life events' has also changed. For funerals the number of people who can attend (including family mourners) is the capacity of the church, which at St Austin's is 89 people. For baptisms and weddings, 30 people can attend.

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.

May we remind anyone coming to Mass to observe the following: 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.

At Holy Communion, we ask you not to move forward until the stewards direct you to. This will avoid a queue forming in the aisles. We also ask that you consume the Blessed Sacrament before you move away from the priest.

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.