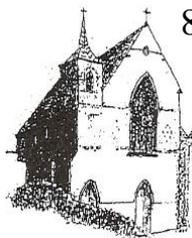


ST. AUSTIN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER



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staustin.stafford@rcaob.org.uk

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 12TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Mass Book: Page 132

Sunday Cycle: Year B

Psalter: Week 4

Weekday Cycle: Year 1



THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH



TWENTY- FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 11 th	5.00 pm	Holy Mass †	Bridie and Charles Sanders
Sunday 12 th	11.00 am	Holy Mass †	K and K O'Donnell
Monday 13 th <i>St John Chrysostom</i>	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Joan Fullerton
Tuesday 14 th <i>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Kathleen Morrison
Wednesday 15 th <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	12 noon	Holy Mass †	Buckingham and Specht Family
Thursday 16 th <i>Ss Cornelius and Cyprian</i>	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Private Intention
Friday 17 th	12 noon	Holy Mass †	John and Joan Morris

TWENTY- FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 18 th	5.00 pm	Holy Mass †	John Riley
Sunday 19 th	11.00 am	Holy Mass †	Pro Populo

† Masses open
to the public.

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 were lifted and there was 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.

We pray for the souls of Maureen Ward, Fr Bengt-Ove Jakobsson and David Simpson who died recently. We pray for them and their families at this time.

We pray for River Edward Robert Nation, Rosalie Mantle and Harry Alexander Maguire-Alcock who were baptised at St Austin's recently. We pray for them and their families.

Today is Education Sunday and we pray for all those involved in Catholic education, including, teachers, school staff, pupils, parents, governors, and volunteers, and all those who contribute in some way. We pray especially for all those involved at our own Parish Schools.

Annual Mass for Blessed Robert Sutton will take place on Saturday 18th September at 11.00am in St Thomas Mill Farm, Baswich Lane, ST18 0XD. All are welcome to attend this Mass. Our thanks to Tony and Marie Living for their kind invitation and for hosting this Mass as we commemorate our local Martyr.

The Stafford Half Marathon is taking place on Sunday 19th September, so there will be disruption on the roads for those who usually attend the 11.00am Sunday Mass.

200 Club: The six and twelve month payments are due by the end of September. Please take an envelope and return via the Presbytery letterbox.

Bible Alive is a Catholic scripture magazine which draws its strength, inspiration and direction from the liturgical cycle of the Church Year. To subscribe and receive this publication please visit <https://www.alivepublishing.co.uk/publications/bible-alive/>

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. 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.



Christian Food Help: The work of CFH continues and we are always happy to receive food donations at the Presbytery. In August we were able to provide 1256 meals for those in need.

Life in the Spirit Seminar: The Charis Diocesan Renewal Group will run 'Life the Spirit' Seminars each Wednesday at 7.30pm from 22nd September until 3rd November, with a Holy Spirit Retreat on Saturday 16th October from 10.30am – 3.30pm. To register a place please visit <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Event/life-in-the-spirit-course-with-the-archdiocese-of-birmingham>

Katherine House Cycling Challenge will be taking place on Sunday 3rd October. 'Team St Austin's' will be taking part once again and in due course will be looking for sponsorship. More details in the coming weeks.

Volunteers needed: The IMB at Drake Hall Women's Prison is currently recruiting volunteers who help ensure that women in the prison are treated fairly and with humanity. If you are interested in helping, please apply through the website www.imb.org.uk using reference 1138/Drake Hall/ 2021. For more information, please phone Tess on 01785 252272.

Live Stream Changes: Please note that Masses on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday (i.e. those open to the public) will no longer be livestreamed. We shall continue to livestream the Monday, Tuesday and Thursday Masses (i.e. those not open to the public) together with the 11.00am Sunday Mass but these will not be uploaded and thus not available for later watching.

Bible Timeline Course: Understand the Bible from start to finish, the Old and New Testament, with this worldwide-famous course delivered online by Mauro Iannicelli. This is an eight-week course beginning on Wednesday 29th September 2021 at 7.00pm. If you have ever felt that the Bible is difficult to understand, or would like to learn more about it, this is an excellent course to sign up for. For more information and to register for the course, please visit www.comeandsee.org

During this month of September, we celebrate the Season of Creation through to the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4th. Pope Francis calls us all to celebrate this opportune moment to “reaffirm [our] personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handywork which He has entrusted to our care, and to implore His help for the protection of creation, as well as His pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live.”

The Diocesan Vision: Unfolding God's Plan: We are encouraged to make the Diocesan Vision prayer part of our daily prayers. For more information about the Diocesan Vision, please visit the Diocesan website at 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.

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 Facebook page 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.

The Annual Diocesan Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage will take place on Saturday 9th October, 12noon at St Chad's Cathedral. If you are celebrating a milestone anniversary during 2021 (from your 1st up to 60th (every 5 years), and every year over 60) please email Lianne Pap (Marriage and Family Life Co-ordinator) marriage.mass@rcaob.org.uk for your names to be listed in the Mass booklet. You can also send in 'then & now' photos to be part of the video compilation. We are looking to find the longest married couple in the diocese, so if you think you, your parents or grandparents could be it then let Lianne know. The Mass is open to all married couples, as well as those preparing to marry in 2021 but you will need to register a place via the above email. Closing date to register for the Mass is 1st October.

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Elizabeth Shields, Martina Moxon, Elizabeth Hodson, Kathleen Owen, Aniela Masternak, Georgina Jackson, John Dagnall, Christopher Salmon, June McConnell, Elizabeth Wilding, Phyllis Coia, Gillian Clark, Marguerite Sandy, Celestine Nwaka, Maurice Neligan, John Quinn, Kieran Kilcollum, Daniel Scullion, Patrick Hirrell, Marie Hall, Arthur Mitchell, Queenie Oxon, Ann Nelson, Ivor Bennett, Harold Rhodes, Bernard Brookes, Bernard Hackett, Colin Blaka, Edith Dawkes, Anthony Farrugia, William McLoughlin, Jim Conkey, Winifred McCaffrey, Winifred Risdale, Paddy O'Leary, Fr Dominic Round, Fr Guy Colman, Fr Richard Dinnis, Fr Patrick Meagher, Canon Robert Nicholson, Archbishop Patrick Dwyer, Fr William Oddie, Canon Peter McKenna, Fr John Lopes, Fr Alan Holtham.

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: £106.25

Gift Aid: £217.50

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.

Following an up-to-date Risk Assessment for the church we have decided to keep much of what we are doing regarding stewarding, Track and Trace and cleaning etc in place for the foreseeable future. The seating capacity at St Austin's is 89. 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.

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.

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.

At Holy Communion, please move forward when 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.