

St John the Baptist Parish Newsletter

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St John's Church is on St John St, Tamworth, B79 7EX



Twenty-third Sunday of the Year 8th September 2024

Readings:	Isaiah 35:4-7	Psalms 145	St James 2:1-5	Mark 7:31-37
Saturday 7 th September	Feria	10.30am (S.J.)	Brian Cox	
Twenty-third Sunday of the Year		6.00pm (S.J.)	Rosie McKenny	
Sunday 8 th September		9.00am (S.H.)	Bella & Pdraig Gillan – Brian Standen	
Twenty-third Sunday of the Year		10.30am (S.J.)	Jim Kavanagh (snr) – Margaret Burke	
		12.00noon (S.H.)	Natalie Page – Bernie Gallagher	
Tues 10 th September	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	James & Theresa Neville-Obeng	
Wednesday 11 th September	Feria	10.00am (S.J.)	Nigel Brindley	
		7.00pm (S.J.)	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Thurs 12 th September	Feria	10.00am (S.H.)	Peace in the Holy Land	
Friday 13 th September	St John Chrysostom	12.00am (S.J.)	Maureen Walker	
Sat 14 th Sept	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	10.30am (S.J.)	Mary Ann and Brian Harvey	
Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year		6.00pm (S.J.)	Fr Karunakar and Fr Charles	
Sunday 15 th September		9.00am (S.H.)	Joan Penman	
Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year		10.30am (S.J.)	People of the Parish	
		12.00noon (S.H.)	Catholic Women Association	

Confession Saturday 11.00- 11.30 am St John's Church 5.15 – 5.45 pm

Please pray for the following who are sick: Mary Collins, Joy Espanta, Maria Alcuaz, Mandy Williamson, Anthony Hayes, Gillian Sage, Jemma Vine, Fay Bishop, Raymond Walker, Julie Tranter, Augusto Mayores, Edwin Catli, Sheila Bonser, Fr Jim McCormack, Mary Coady, Patricia Burton, Joan Barber, Dominic Hespe, George Williams, Ray Newbold, Nicole Thomson, Maurice Murdanaigum, Paul Connell, Bob Walker, Clara Counsell, Marie Purslow, Jo Hawker, Olive Arrowsmith, Stan Merryweather, Olive Stewart, Kathy Warren, Ruth Faulds, Michelle Padmore, Sheila Fullbrook, Brian McCourt, Michael Boulstridge, Alan Hopper, Peter Scott, Jane Harper, John Doherty, Janet Tansey, John McDermottroe, Vincenzo Gizzi, Lisa Smith, Bro Donie Hallissey, Kathleen Donoghue, James Doherty, Paul Heseltine, David Jarrett, Mark Whitehouse, Rachel Scarnell, Joan Hill, Jean Padmore, Mandy Duffy-Godfry, Eugene Reilly, David Smith, Michael McMahon, Patrick Keogh, Brenda Shaw, Joe Kelly, Margaret O'Donovan, Henry Smith, Paul Vincent Argamosa, Judith Cunningham, Geraldine Lee, Matthew Downes, Nelly Jones, Drew Taylor-Hunt, Gillian Satchel, Bert Branagan, Dave Titterton, Joe Gallagher, Beryl Geldard, Pete McNaughton, Eileen Facer, Flor Masters, Ryan O'Doherty, Patricia Devlin, Mary O'Gorman, Phylis Dillon.

Reflection: Many of the incidents recorded about Jesus are of his healing. He had a reputation as a healer of body and well as mind and soul. We know that from time to time the weakness and fragility of our bodies courses us concern and we use our prayer to ask God to heal us. The Holy Spirit lives within us all. It is the use of our bodies, through our words, touch and feeling that we affect the lives of others and spread the love that God has for us all. In prayer let us thank God for the sacredness of our bodies. Let us care well for them in the ways we eat, drink, touch and taste. Let us be aware and believe that Jesus, Son of God, is present and incarnate today in our bodies.



Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Martin Kennedy, Thomas Garrity, Catherine Davis, Beatrice Collins, Elizabeth Tricklebank, Winifred Tomson, Nellie Brown, Patrick Gallagher, Mary Florendine, James Hunt, Mary Hails, Joseph Fogg, Michael Fenelon, Josef Grobleney, Paddy Larvin, Mary Heafield, Sarah Smith, William Tully, Philip Carroll, Mary Plant, Hugh Twomey, Louise Bull, Vera Stevens, Robert Robertson Thompson, Kathryn Pomeroy, Lily Cureton, David Farrell, Anthony Shevlin, David Hepple, Louisa Keane, Nancy Kinsella, Caroline Pully, John Black, Andrew Bennett, Clifford Walters, Margaret Burke, Jean Hopkins, Oliver Meaney, Pdraig Gillan, Daniel Wyatt, David Casada, Marsden Bradford.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Anne Goodeve, who can be contacted at: sq.sjtb.tamworth@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Registered Charity no 234216

Deaths: Please pray for all those who have died recently, especially **Bernard Eason** whose funeral will be at Streetly Methodist church on Wedn 18th at 11am. May they be forgiven their sins and welcomed into paradise. Pray also that their families will be consoled by their faith.

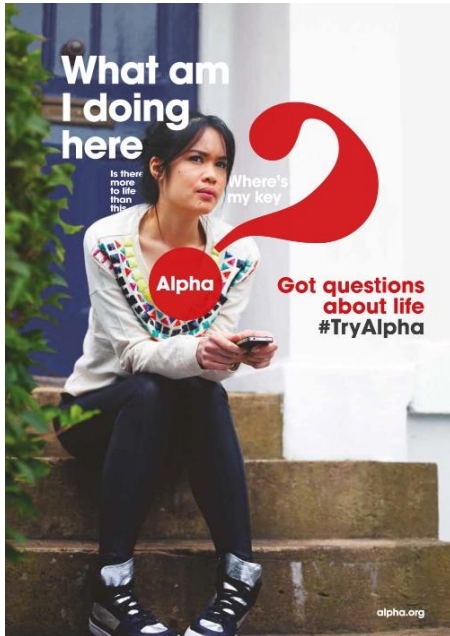
Maranatha Prayer Chain: Please contact - terryvobrien@icloud.com or Sylvia Geldard 01827 65264 with a prayer request which will be passed on to our (prayer) chain of people.

Celebration Choir: The next practice will be on Wednesday 11th September 7.00pm at Sacred Heart. New members always welcome.

First Holy Communion: For Children in Non-Catholic schools in Year 3 or above sessions will start on Monday evenings starting on the 14th October 2024 from 6.00-7.00pm at Sacred Heart. To sign up please contact alex@tamworthrc.church

Youth Ministry Conference: On Saturday 12th October 2024, The Kenelm Youth Trust will be hosting a Youth Ministry Conference at Alton Castle. The day will run from 10am-6pm and will be filled with input from inspirational speakers; practical and engaging workshops; exhibitions and resources; a coffee corner and an opportunity to hear from young people engaged in Youth Ministry.

Our guest speaker, Dr Julia Sadusky, will be speaking on the topic of Trends in Youth Culture & Questions of Faith. This is a session I'm sure you won't want to miss!



Alpha: Dinner or Breakfast? We will be offering dinner or breakfast over two Alpha Courses. A meal followed by a video and discussion for anyone who wishes to explore their faith or take the first steps to explore becoming a Catholic.

Thursday evenings 7.30-9.00pm at Sacred Heart starting on Thurs 26th September or

Saturday morning for breakfast, time to be confirmed, starting on **Saturday 21st September** at Sacred Heart? Contact alex@tamworthrc.church to book. Just try one week and then see.

Mandarin Alpha Film Series: Do you know anyone who would like to watch the Mandarin Film Series of Alpha, but join with us for food and prayer on a Thursday evening? Is there anyone who could lead discussion in Mandarin? We have a guest who would like others to join him. Please do get in touch! alex@tamworthrc.church

Alpha 21-Day Prayer Campaign: Who would you like to bring someone closer to God? The first step is to pray for them. So take a Prayer card and fill in the names of 3 people. Say the Our Father – as taught in Luke 11: 2- and the prayer on the card.

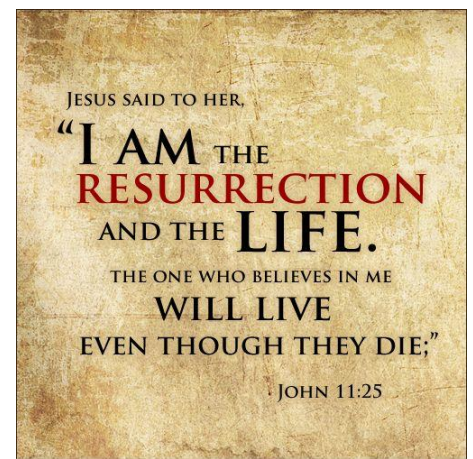
Please Promote Alpha through social media by sharing the video. It's a two-minute video that invites people to think about faith. Share it with friends and ask them to share it too. It could make all the difference.

Alpha Cooks & Kitchen team: The Alpha course will start on **Thursday 26th September 7.30-9.00pm**. Already we have 25 guests signed up and a team of about 10-12 leaders and helpers. If you think you could help to cook, serve or wash up then please get in touch with Alex. alex@tamworthrc.church to let us know your availability. It is an 11-week course, each Thursday.

Youth Alpha: For all those in non-Catholic schools who wish to receive Confirmation next year, please join us for this, the first part of the course, on Monday evenings 5.45-7.00pm starting on Monday 23rd September at Sacred Heart. If you are interested, please contact Alex. This is also open to any youth in Y6+ wanting to develop their faith, esp those preparing from Confirmation.

Summer Scheme Volunteers Thankyou evening: Thursday 12th September at 7.00pm at Sacred Heart in the Kenelm Room. An evening to celebrate, feedback and thank all those volunteers who helped in this year's Summer Scheme. Please email alex@tamworthrc.church a.s.a.p. if you are planning on coming so we know numbers for catering!

Phoenix Youth Group next meet on **Wednesday 11th Sept** from **6. 00-7.30pm**.



Please note the new time. We look forward to welcoming new members. It is for those young people in Y6 and Y7. New members welcome. A voluntary contribution of £1 per session would be appreciated each session to help towards drinks and biscuits. A chance to catch up with friends, make new ones and enjoy fun activities and games. If you have any questions, please email Becky or Liz phoenix@tamworthrc.church



Fr Charles (left) and Fr Karunakar (a Hindi name meaning 'ocean of compassion') are pictured here and will be on their way soon, we hope. Fr Karunakar was granted a visa but not Fr Charles. It must be so upsetting for them (*plus more big fees £1,000 per application*). The plan is to wait until they both have visas which will be another 3-4 weeks, hopefully. Please keep them, in your prayers.

Fr Ramesh is settling into Aldridge and has had a warm welcome there. He sends his love to everyone. There are envelopes in the porches. We want to give him a parting gift, so, if you wish, please put a donation in the

envelopes and return them this weekend or as soon as possible.

Are you looking for volunteering opportunities? If you are, then please email Fr Michael, Alex or Jen and arrange to discuss it.

Volunteers Needed to help with collection from Asda and Greencore Atherstone – It would be ideal if we had a few people for the weekly Asda collection. Because of Asda's generosity you would need a large car or a Van. The collection is during the daytime on a Wednesday. And can anyone help with a **Sunday collection?** Greencore Collection is Sandwiches to be collected from Atherstone between 9 -11 am on Tuesday. Anyone able to help please contact Kelly kelly@heartoftamworth

Safe Haven is a Crisis Café for people aged 18+ with mental health problems: 5pm to 11pm Wed to Fri and 9am to 5pm on Sat and Sun. For info, email: Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk

Senior Gentlemen's Club: Meet on Tues 10.00 – 12 at St John's. Activities: dominoes, chess, bowling, trips. £2 subs. Contact Bill Field on 07985581794.

Bereavement Help Points: Thurs evening 5.30pm – 7.00pm, in the café. Friday morning Help Point will resume on the 6th September

The Memory Café meets Tues 10.30am 12.30pm email sally.clough@Tamworth.homeinstead.co.uk

East Staffs Diabetes UK Patient Network supports groups for people living with diabetes. Contact John 07590379892 Email: bridgesjohn763@gmail.com

Friendship Friday: Chats, quizzes, games. Fri 1pm – 3pm

Craft club will next meet on Tues 10th Sept. New members welcome.

Hygiene Bank - Thank you to all our supporters. We are now getting our School Packs ready these contain 30 of every essential item. We now need the following items. Shower Gel, period pads, soap bars, nappies, size 4, 5, 6. All donations help local people in need.

Second Collection – next week's second collection will be in aid of Catholic Evangelisation Home Mission, formerly CASE.



the Lord and each other.

Money Matters

Envelopes:	65.50
Standing Orders:	1100.00
Loose:	525.12
Card:	116.00
Total:	£1806.62

Thank-you

If you are a tax payer, would you please donate with gift aid? That way we can reclaim 25% of everything you give from the government every year. Email Fr Michael for info.

World Osteoporosis Day 2024 – Community Outreach Bone Health Education and Exercise Session will be held at Sacred Heart on Saturday 19th October 9.30am – 12pm. The event is open to everyone who is interested in improving their bone health. There will be presentations from expert in the field of osteoporosis and a simple but fun exercise session. There will also be resources from the Royal Osteoporosis Society and an opportunity to speak to the experts.

Our Leaders Retreat at Alton went well. We have produced a simple report and priorities for the coming year. It includes some consultation with you. We are aware that there are many new parishioners so it's a chance to update our census but also consult parishioners 'new and old' about parish life and how we can develop what we do. Please look out for this and reflect on parish life and mission to see how we can better serve

Next year is a Holy Year or a Jubilee Year since it is 2025 and jubilee years are celebrated every 25 years. It's a chance to renew our commitment (like some couples renewing their marriage vows after 25 years) and to reflect on our journey as individuals and parishes. The Church encourages us to do this with the help of pilgrimages too.

Next year we will organise pilgrimages to holy places relatively close by. If we organise one pilgrimage abroad, what would you prefer? The main options would be: Lourdes, Knock, Fatima, Rome, Medugorje (by plane for these), Santiago de Compostela (on foot) and the Holy Land (by tank). There is a list in the porch. If you were to sign up for one of these, which would you prefer? Just put a tick in one of the columns.



St John's Former Presbytery now houses 6 mums and 6 babies. It's a great project and a real help to pregnant girls not knowing which way to turn. It looks like the whole roof of that building now needs replacing. Marie Sharratt-Freeman left £5,000 to the parish recently. She loved St John's so that money will go towards the work which will cost in excess of £15,000.

If you are new to the Parish, then please let us know and get yourself registered as soon as possible. That way, we can arrange to meet you, bless your house if you wish and let you know what is happening here. Email michael@tamworthrc.church as well as introducing yourself before or after Mass.

New Missals have now been ordered and should be with us some time in October. The standard version will cost £20 and presentation one is £30. We have ordered a few extra standard missals in case anyone else wants one. People can pay once they arrive.



Christmas Fayre and Raffle: Firstly, can you, or a friend or your company provide any raffle prizes? Please think about it and get back to Fr Michael this week. That might be cash, or holiday homes, balloon rides, meals, tickets to things etc.

Secondly, does the company you work for match-fund employees fundraising efforts? Many will give up to £500 to match what an employee does. Someone on a stall that raises that amount gets a further £500! 4 people doing that could make a big difference.

Companies that do it include **nearly all the big banks**, *Tesco, Andersen, Argos, Astra Zeneca, Ernst & Young, Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Sky Broadcasting, KPMG, National Grid Transco, Shell, Sigma, Texaco, Vodafone, Centrica* and others. Do you work for any of these or know someone who does? Can you ask your company if they do it? And spare 2 hours at a fayre to boost our fundraising by a massive amount?

Today's Retiring Collection is to support Catholic Education: It is also a chance to pray for our children's education, that they will grow in knowledge and faith. The Church incurs a lot of costs trying to improve Catholic education and this collection helps with that.

In Simple Faith: A new course coming soon on Monday 30th September at 7.30-9.00pm in the HoT café, to be led in the style of Home Group i.e. a drink and biscuit to chat and catch up for 10 minutes or so, then Scripture and catechesis, followed by a time of prayer. It will be led by experienced Catechist from Lichfield Ignatius Evans and Tony Appleby. A dip into Bible study and backed up by extracts from the catechism. This is a great way to develop your faith if you are new to the church or explore and deepen your faith with others if your faith is more established. This will run mainly fortnightly – apart from around the half term. For more information please contact alex@tamworthrc.church.

The Retiring Collection Next Sunday is for Fr Hudson's Care which is the social care agency of the Diocese. It works with people who have disabilities (care homes and independent living), runs a care home, works with asylum seekers, homeless people and so much more. They do depend on our support. If you pay tax, please take an envelope and put your donation in that to boost what they receive. Envelopes can be found in the Church porch and then bring them in next weekend, please.

