

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

Alton Staffordshire

St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Castle Hill Rd, Alton, Staffordshire -
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Parish Priest Fr Paul Whieldon

Newsletter for the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time 2020

Saturday 25 th	17 th Sunday of OT	6.00pm	Philip Hargreaves RIP
Sunday 26 th	17 th Sunday of OT	9.30am	Pro Populo
Monday 27 th			
Tuesday 28 th			
Wednesday 29 th	St Martha	9.30am	Tom Byatt RIP
Thursday 30 th			
Friday 31 st			
Saturday 1 st	18 th Sunday of OT	6.00pm	Tony Smith RIP
Sunday 2 nd	18 th Sunday of OT	9.30am	Eileen and Charlie Finch RIP

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen

There are many Masses livestreamed on Facebook and on the internet. See the Diocesan Website for the list of websites including St Chad's Cathedral. Sunday Mass from St John's will be livestreamed on the Parish Facebook page [Catholic Parish of St John the Baptist, Alton](#). Posts from the Facebook page can also be seen on the website.

www.stjohnsalton.co.uk/our-facebook

Sick List

Let us please keep in our prayers those who are not well at this time and those who have care of them...

Margaret and Michael Stapleton, Clare Ash, Patricia Heritage, and all those in our nursing and care homes, our hospitals and hospices.

As this sick list is new please email me if you would like your name to be added. You cannot ask for people's names to be added without their **EXPRESSED** permission.



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Getting used to a new 'normal'

I continue to stress that currently there is still NO SUNDAY OBLIGATION to partake in the celebration Mass, and I shall continue to livestream the Sunday Mass. Church will remain locked outside of Mass times currently to minimise the need for cleaning and the necessary Stewards and Cleaners.

The normal Parish Mass on Wednesday Mornings will take place at **9.30am** and Weekend Masses will be celebrated on Saturday evening at **6pm**, and Sunday Morning at **9.30am**.

Face coverings should be worn inside church, at least when moving about as distancing may well be compromised at these times, although I have minimised most of this as I will bring communion to you in your pews.

This is still of course all subject to change if our situation or indeed the rules change. There are other options, we could have mass in the Discovery Centre, but it would be nice to see for now if numbers permit, for us to return to our parish church for as long as we feel able. Volunteers for Stewards and Cleaners always welcome. There are now no restrictions over age providing you are happy to do so.

Parish Finances

As you can imagine the parish has had little or no income since March. Envelopes are available if you prefer to have these for your giving and if you are a UK tax payer please gift aid your offering as it really does make a difference. Anyone wishing to put their offering on standing order please speak to Fr Paul or Edwin Brindley. Standing orders are especially helpful at this time so please consider giving in this way.

Garden and Church Grounds

There are always maintenance type jobs to be done in the garden and Cemetery. If you are happy to help please speak to Fr Paul, Johnnie Hall, or Denis Cope for more information! You know what they say about many hands! Maintenance is essential if the grounds and its historic buildings are to be kept in good repair. The more jobs we can do ourselves the less we need to pay to get them done! In the immediate future, drains need unblocking, ivy needs removing and there are some small trees to be felled. There is also work needed on the coping stones of the chancel arch were it seems water is getting in. It would be a shame to have the good work done with the decorating undone by water ingress.