

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

Alton Staffordshire

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Parish Priest Fr Paul Whieldon

Newsletter for the 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 2020

Saturday 12 th	24 th Sunday of OT	6.00pm	Dennis Eardley RIP
Sunday 13 th (Livestreamed)	24 th Sunday of OT	9.30am	Pro Populo
Monday 14 th	Exaltation of the Cross	12 noon	Team Mass
Tuesday 15 th	Our Lady of Sorrows	12 noon	Team Mass
Wednesday 16 th	SS Cornelius and Cyprian	9.30am	Cecily Kelly RIP
Thursday 17 th	Feria	12 noon	Team Mass
Friday 18 th	Feria		
Saturday 19 th	25 th Sunday of OT	6.00pm	Students and Teachers Ints
Sunday 20 th	25 th Sunday of OT	9.30am	Pro Populo
	25 th Sunday of OT	6.00pm	KYT intentions

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

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, and all those in our nursing and care homes, our hospitals and hospices.

Recently deceased... Bill Allen RIP Funeral 21st 2pm St Giles Please keep Bill and of course Joan his wife and all their family in your prayers at this time.

Offertories for last Sunday 5/6th September £230.30 (Including standing orders) of which £172.30 has been Gift Aided. Thank you for your continued generosity during these times.



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Parish Finances My thanks to those who have set up standing orders for their offering. This is such a help especially during these times. It relieves your fellow parishioners on the counting and banking teams of a significant amount of trouble, time, and effort during these difficult times. Anyone wishing to put their offering on standing order please speak to Fr Paul or Edwin Brindley to collect a form.

Garden and Church Grounds If you are happy to help please speak to Fr Paul, Johnnie Hall, or Denis Cope for more information! We hope to organise a weekend (Saturday or Sunday) clearing up party for the Cemetery and grounds before the winter sets in. Dates to come watch this space!!

The bells the bells..... or more correctly 'the bell, the bell....' How lovely it is to have the bell back in action. My thanks to Johnnie Hall for contacting JCB Estates who were happy to lend us the cherry picker, and a special word of thanks to Denis 'the brave' Cope who went up and whose legs were to be seen sticking out of one end of the bell cote and his head the other! Many hail Mary's were said that day I can assure you! So grateful thanks to Johnnie and Denis and to our neighbours JCB Estates for the generous loan of their machinery.

Return to Mass... Last weekend we pretty much reached capacity for mass. I do want to stress that Capacity for us at St John's is still way and above what the Government stipulate as safe distance. We are still pretty much at 2 metres as opposed to the 1 metre the government say is safe, especially when wearing masks. As this weekend we welcome to our parish the Retreat Team of 2020/2021 I have decided to put on an extra weekend mass. Since I came I have really tried to encourage team to get involved with parish life, however for obvious reasons I couldn't encourage team to come to parish masses which are already filled to capacity. Therefore as of next weekend we shall also have an extra mass, 6.00pm SUNDAY to hopefully ease the strain of the other two masses. As the team will attend this mass and hopefully provide some music (It is now permitted that soloists and small groups can sing! However Congregational singing is still prohibited!) it may well have an appeal to a younger clientele, however **all** are most welcome! Again we continue to proceed with caution.

Across Appeal... Across have been taking their VIP's to Lourdes for 47 years on the Jumbulance. All of 2020's pilgrimages have been cancelled and they are asking for 1000 gifts of £150 to help them survive the Pandemic. Like many they have lost 78% of their income. Perhaps we as a parish could give a £150 Donation? If you wish to help speak to Fr Paul or hand any donation in anonymously if you prefer...?!

Diary Dates:

Cemetery and Grounds tidy up weekend 26/27th Sept 10-12 Sat. 3-5 Sun.

Blessing of Graves after 9.30am Mass on Sunday November 1st.