

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

Alton Staffordshire

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Parish Priest Fr Paul Whieldon

Newsletter for the 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time, 2020

Saturday 31 st	All Saints	6.00pm	Pro Populo
Sunday 1 st	All Saints	9.30am	Deceased Loved ones after Mass Blessing of Graves.
	All Saints	6.00pm	Billy Allen RIP
Monday 2 nd	All Souls	9.30am	Holy Souls
Tuesday 3 rd	<i>Feria</i>		
Wednesday 4 th	St Charles Borromeo	9.30am	Peter Gould RIP
Thursday 5 th	<i>Feria</i>		
Friday 6 th	<i>Feria</i>		
Saturday 7 th	32 nd Sunday of OT	6.00pm	Pro Populo
Sunday 8 th	Remembrance Sunday	9.30am	Those fallen in war...
	32 nd Sunday of OT	6.00pm	Holy Souls

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, those with COVID19, and all in our nursing and care homes, our hospitals and hospices.

Offertories for last Sunday 19/20 September £242.20 (Including standing orders) of which £211.40 has been Gift Aided. Thank you for your continued generosity during these times.

"Operation Christmas Child" 2020 is still being carried out nationwide, despite the concerns we all have about the Coronavirus situation.

Faber school are again taking part and will hold their own dedication service, details still to be arranged.



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As in the previous 16 years, anybody can join in and fill their own shoebox. Empty boxes, and explanation leaflets, are available from the local co-ordinator Ken Mainey 01538 702556.

Decorated Boxes, free of cost, are available now from Ken.

Filled boxes must be delivered back to Ken between 9 and 16 Nov. Many thanks in anticipation.

HOLY SOULS LISTS The month of the Holy Souls begins once again I encourage you to compose a list of the names of deceased loved ones. Writing down your 'November list' can be a beautiful act of remembrance in and of itself. Choose a time when you can be quiet and still and write down your list. Compose a list of names of Family and friends who have died, compose your list in an attitude of gratitude, those whose lives have impacted on our own, our parents and grandparents, our teachers, friends, neighbours, fellow parishioners, religious sisters, priests. Hold them before God, and I'm sure they will be praying for you too! As there is no offertory procession currently, these names will lie before our Altar during all masses during November.

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS November is the month of the Holy Souls. During this month we pray especially for our departed friends and loved ones who are making their journey towards the eternal light of God.

As Catholics we believe that although those who have died are separated from us physically, they remain connected to us as members of the Church. Jesus has conquered death, and so those of us who are part of the Body of Christ here on earth remain a living part of that body even after our earthly life comes to a close. We know this to be true because when Jesus is challenged by the Pharisees who say there is no life after death Jesus replies 'Have you not read what was said to you by God, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?" He is God not of the dead, but of the living.' (Matt 22:31-32) Thus he implied that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are not dead, but alive with God.

Scripture teaches that it is 'a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins' (2 Macc 12:46). We also get our first example of Christian prayer for the dead from the bible, St Paul prays for his departed friend Onesiphorus saying 'May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day (the day of judgement).' (2 Tim 1:18)

Following the example of Scripture, and Christian practice through the ages, we pray for all the faithful departed during this month. We will be offering Mass for our departed loved ones during the month of November, and all of us should make a special effort to pray at home for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.