

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

Alton Staffordshire

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Parish Priest Fr Paul Whieldon

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Newsletter for the First Sunday of Advent 2020

Saturday 28 th	1 st Sunday of Advent	6.00pm	Pro Populo
Sunday 29 th	1 st Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Deceased of Coates Family
	1 st Sunday of Advent	6.00pm	Holy Souls
Monday 30 th	St Andrew		
Tuesday 1 st	St Edmund Campion		
Wednesday 2 nd	Advent Feria	9.30am	Fr David Duggan RIP
Thursday 3 rd	St Francis Xavier		
Friday 4 th	Feria		
Saturday 5 th	2 nd Sunday of Advent	6.00pm	Odette Chapon RIP
Sunday 6 th	2 nd Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Pro Populo
	2 nd Sunday of Advent	6.00pm	Those discerning their vocation

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, Faber School Community, and all in our nursing and care homes, our hospitals and hospices.

Offertories Total collections (inc Standing Orders) for weekend 21/22 November 2020: £269.00 of which £224.00 was gift aided..

CHRISTMAS MASSES. Masses will be celebrated at 3, 6, and Midnight on Christmas Eve and 10am Christmas Day. If these fill up then I could add another earlier mass on Christmas Morning.



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Seats will be on a first come first served basis. Please write or email to say how many seats you will require and for which mass. Please also include a telephone number so I can be in touch if it's not been possible to accommodate your wishes. All those who have so far requested seats have been allocated the seats they asked for.

3pm is currently the busiest, then 6pm then 10am then Midnight.

BOUNTY CLUB – APPEAL In order for us to recommence the Bounty Club Monthly Draws in January it is essential that we collect the annual subscriptions of £12 per person (cash or cheque payable to St John the Baptist RC Church) covering 2021, as soon as possible. Anyone wanting to join for the first time please contact Edwin (702254) or Stella (702097) or Fr Paul who will pass the message on.

LOVE CHRISTMAS-(LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR CAMPAIGN) Thank you so much for your generosity so far with our food collections, we have already had some wonderful donations of food and gifts. I have decided to join our efforts with the LOVE CHRISTMAS campaign as it fits perfectly with what we are already doing! All the food you have already donated has been delivered to those who need a bit of help right now! St John's and KYT are seeking to provide further assistance in the form of a further 30 parcels of food and gifts for families identified as desperately in need who are connected to 3 of our local Catholic schools. I realise these are tough times and I thank you for your generosity at this time! If you wish to make donations of money, this will be used to buy groceries to then be distributed, money will not be given out.

ADVENT comes from the Latin word meaning "coming." Jesus is coming, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival. While we typically regard Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation, much like Lent. Prayer, penance and fasting are appropriate during this season.

Advent is not as strict as Lent, and there are no rules for fasting, but it is meant to be a period of self-preparation. The purple colour associated with Advent is also the color of penance. The faithful should fast during the first two weeks in particular and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The colour of the Third Sunday of Advent is rose. This colour symbolizes joy and represents the happiness we will experience when Jesus comes again. The Third Sunday is a day of anticipatory celebration. It is formerly called "Gaudete" Sunday; gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. Finally, Sundays during Advent, just as during Lent, should not be given to fasting, but instead to celebration because we celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord every Sunday. It is important to remember, however, there are no particular rules for how the laity should observe Advent.