

# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

Alton Staffordshire

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Parish Priest Fr Paul Whieldon

Parish Safeguarding Representatives Josie Shepherd (07745 545196) and Jacqueline Shaw (01889 562422)

## Newsletter for the Third Sunday of Advent 2020

Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Gaudete Sunday	6.00pm	Pro Populo
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Gaudete Sunday	9.30am	Bill Allen
	Gaudete Sunday	6.00pm	Thanksgiving
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	St John of the Cross		
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Feria		
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Feria	9.30am	Winifred Edgerton 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Feria		
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Feria		
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	6.00pm	Pro Populo
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Dec'd Alton Sisters of Mercy
	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	6.00pm	Bernard Edgerton 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*

**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 and gifts... ) for weekend 5/6 December £263.70 of which £238 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.

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

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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 APPEAL** Many thanks for the generous donations of groceries which have been made by the parishioners of St John's and KYT. Last week these were taken to Cheadle and Leek. Within an hour of unloading them they had been shared out and allocated to families who we know are in need of support at this time. That same afternoon they were distributed or collected from the schools. I cannot tell you how gratefully they were received by the families.

It is terribly sad that the need for such help exists today, and on our doorsteps. I was deeply moved to hear from the Principal at St Mary's in Leek who told me that even with the donated food, in at least one of the single parent families they support, Mum wouldn't eat. She would worry about just how long the food would need to last for her children and go without herself. The school support and help in every way they can, stepping in to enable their families to have the essentials which so many of us take for granted.

I know the 'Love Christmas' boxes will make the world of difference for the families receiving them. When life is already difficult and a struggle, Christmas can become a time which is feared by some parents. Thank you for the love, the reassurance of care and support, and the promise of hope for a brighter future which your 'Love Christmas' donations will bring. A. Howard

