

PARISH FINANCE

Gift Aid	£ 142.00
Loose	135.85
Total	£ 277.85

Standing Order per month £ 720.00

Many thanks for your contributions

Mass Attendance

Sat:57; Sun:81. Your weekly mass attendance is the greatest support to the parish.

Readers

Date	1 st & 2 nd Reading	Bidding Prayers	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat 8 th Jan	J Tan	G George	D Butler
Sun 9 th Jan	J George	P Brown	A Greenfield
Sat 15 th Jan	C Plaza	D Butler	I Ponce
Sun 16 th Jan	P Joseph	G Carter	B Alaimo

Children Liturgy Rota

Sun 9 th Jan	Baptism of the Lord	Maria
Sun 16 th Jan	2 nd Sunday in OT	Michele

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 5:00 - 5:30 pm.

COVID GUIDANCE at our Parish:

- When entering and exiting the Church, it is mandatory to wear face covering, except children under 11 and those with health condition.
- Track and trace is essential but not obligatory. Parishioner can use the QR Code posted at the back of the Church or by signing the name and contact on the track and trace provided.
- Hand sanitising is necessary upon entering and exiting the church.
- The parishioner shall sanitise the benches being used after the Mass. There are sanitising wipes provided on the benches.
- For those vulnerable parishioners, the two side benches are allocated to be used by the vulnerable and adult parishioners.
- Anyone who has been advised to self isolate by the contact tracing service should stay home and must not attend the Mass for the full recommended period of self isolation (regardless with symptoms or not).

THIS WEEK

Red Bag

Blue Bag

NEXT WEEK

Red Bag

Blue Bag



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS & ST. PETER IN CHAINS, STOKE

Registered as a Charity (No. 234216)
 Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7LT, Tel: 01782 844308
 Church email: ourladyandstpeterstoke@yahoo.co.uk
<http://www.ourladyandstpeterstoke.org.uk/>
 Church Twitter: [twitter@OLSP_Stoke](https://twitter.com/OLSP_Stoke)
 Church Facebook: [facebook@OLSPstoke](https://facebook.com/OLSPstoke)
 Church Office 365
 email: oloastpic.stokeontrent@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. Rony Kurian George (George Ettuparayil); fr.rony.kurian.george@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Catechist: Beverly Alaimo; contact: 07708575713.

Hospital Chaplain: Fr Michael Puljic; contact: 01782 676400

Sun 9th January 2022 – **Baptism of the Lord**

Welcome to all new comers. If you are visitors, I hope you have a good time staying in the area. If you are new in the parish, please introduce yourself to the Parish Priest.

Sat	8	Lk 3:15-16, 21-22		5:45pm	Sally Hall
Sun	9	Baptism of the Lord	Feast	10:30am	Thanksgiving Mass for Fronda & Diaz Family
Mon	10	Mk 1:14-20		-	No Mass
Tue	11	Mk 1:21-28		-	No Mass
Wed	12	Mk 1:29-39		-	No Mass
Thu	13	Mk 1:40-45		-	No Mass
Fri	14	Mk 2:1-12		-	No Mass
Sat	15	Jn 2:1-11		5:45pm	People of the Parish
Sun	16	2nd Sunday in OT	Week 2	10:30am	Thanksgiving Mass

Please pray for: Our sick and housebound: Robin Butler, Shiela Bunn, Firdela Aclan, Margaret Roberts, Ann Malanaphy, Jesse Adams, Dave Hilditch, Eliadora Mamaril, Audrey Weller, Virginia Arcebedo, Moses Soro, Esther Kojo, Mama Ching, Lita Vigal Lara, Sr Mary Henry O.P., and Assunta Maria Alaimo.

Those whose anniversaries occur during this time: Anthony Tighe, and Jim Bowyer.

Confessions: Every Saturday from 5:00pm – 5:30pm and by appointment.

PPE Donations: We are still accepting donations of face masks, hand sanitisers and sanitising wipes. Thank you for your generosity.

The Safeguarding Team: For those who have any safeguarding concerns. Please speak with your area Safeguarding Representative to guide you on the proper procedure. Alternatively, you can contact the safeguarding office on 0121 230 6240.

1st Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 – Here is my servant in whom my soul delights.

2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-38 – God anointed him with the Holy Spirit.

Gospel: Luke 3:15-18, 21-22 – While Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened.

Gospel Commentary : Fr. Donagh O'Shea OP

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Jesus is there anonymously in the crowd, coming forward with the rest to meet the famous John the Baptist. It is impossible for us to see him as an anonymous person; to us he stands out from every crowd and from the whole human race: above them, beyond them; we can't imagine him not yet majestic. But there he is, the village man, Jesus, known only to his family and neighbours. He is not yet famous.

There is only one famous man there: John the Baptist. When you see a famous person among the crowds you notice that there is nearly always something false about it: he or she is looking for something, votes or applause or some other sort of ego-stroking. But John the Baptist wasn't looking for anything; he was delivering! He was delivering a verbal lashing of extraordinary severity, calling the crowd 'a brood of vipers.' Jesus is there, watching, listening, anonymous. He is indistinguishable from the brood of vipers. He is one of us. This is nothing new for him; this is how he has been all the thirty years of his life.

But this meeting with John the Baptist is a turning point. Something happened. He experienced the Spirit, and it is described in the kind of language that mystics have used throughout the ages to describe their union with God: 'You are my son, the beloved.' Have you ever known that experience, in your very bones: God speaking to you (in some sense), 'You are my son, my daughter, the beloved?' If you experience God at all how could it be otherwise? God is love. Even the thundering 19th-century preacher, Spurgeon, became quiet in front of today's gospel passage. He wrote: "The wings of the dove are as soft as they are swift. Quietness seems essential to many spiritual operations; the Lord is in the still small voice, and like the dew, His grace is distilled in silence." The unshakeable intimacy with his Father that Jesus demonstrated throughout the rest of his life bears witness to his experience of God's Spirit.

Was he now somehow 'above' the crowd? Would he no longer queue up with them? On the contrary. He was now more than ever one of them. He spent the rest of his life seeking out "the weak, the sick, the wounded, the strayed, the lost" (see Ezekiel 34). He was for the lost sheep, the outcast, the sinner. This has ever since been the mark of true greatness. Among us human beings (and not only in the farmyard) there is usually a well-enforced pecking order: people who climb up a step are sure to make it visible in some way, and sometimes they will even move into a different circle of friends and abandon the old circle. But Jesus never abandons the abandoned. Again the mighty Spurgeon: "Gentleness is a sure result of the Spirit's transforming power: hearts touched by Him are meek and lowly henceforth and for ever."

Can language convey this? I know a man who conveys it better than words ever could. When he is talking with you (or, much more often, listening) and someone interrupts, he totally ignores the interruption. His attention is unwavering. Nothing else exists for him at that moment, and you know that he would stop at nothing to help you, and there is not the slightest hint of ego in it - he has no agenda of his own. This is a rare quality. People know instinctively that he is a man of God. In case you've never met one, that's what meeting a saint is like.

If meeting a saint is like that, what must it be like to meet Jesus himself?

Notices

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2022: from Sunday 29 May - Friday 3 June. For more information visit <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>.

Synodal Journey: Beverly Alaimo, our Parish Catechist has been appointed by Fr George to lead the Synodal process.

Save the Date:

Guild of Saint Stephen Annual Mass of Thanksgiving: to be celebrated on Saturday, 12th March 2022 by Bishop David Evans at St Chad's Cathedral.

Dowry Tour of Our Lady of Walsingham to the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Most Precious Blood - Westminster Cathedral: England's Journey with Mary, the Mother of God is set to continue with the Dowry Tour of Our Lady of Walsingham visitation to Westminster Cathedral. **Thursday March 31st to Sunday April 3rd 2022.** Full programme details will be available once celebrants and speakers are confirmed. These will be posted on our website and social media. antonia@walsingham.org.uk.

Confirmation Mas: Sunday, 12th June 2022.

First Holy Communion Mass: Sunday 26th June 2022.