

**St Anne's Parish, Wappenbury
with
Our Lady of the Angels', Princethorpe**

29 November 2020

**First Sunday of Advent
Fr Teddy O'Brien MSC - Parish Priest**

Year B

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham
(Registered Charity Number: 234216) and is conducted, on behalf of the Archdiocese,
by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

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A Digital Church – Enough in Uncertain Times?

Streamed worship has been a gift to us during these past nine months of uncertainty and confusion. Mass on-line has benefited so many who could not, in any case, 'go to Mass'. Yet, we continue to feel a certain deprivation of that which makes being human so enjoyable. Perhaps, then, if I tell you a little about Koko you might begin to see the bright side of all that is happening because hope is the backbone and bedrock of our life really.

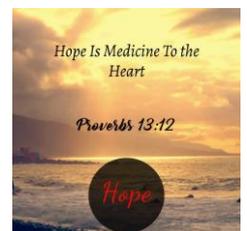
Koko was born over the border into Yorkshire and came, as a kitten, to the parish of St Hubert's in Dunsop Bridge. Life at first was difficult for Koko. Everything was new and anything but 'normal'. Dare I say, it was somewhat scary, especially for one so small. He was, however, fortunate when, very soon, the priest at St Hubert's sort of 'adopted' Koko. You see, the previous Church Cat, Miss Mac, died after long years of service. Koko is now the Parish Cat.

He has become well acquainted with the various, and often quaint, goings on in the church, what with sprinkling babies with holy water and then there is all this 'mumbo jumbo' that he just cannot get his head around. You see, Koko is not a Catholic, neither was he ever a church-going cat. That makes it all the more exciting for him to have been made to feel so at home in Dunsop Bridge.

Koko is a very sociable cat. He chats daily with the archangel in the cemetery and, when he has time and the inclination, with St Hubert who rests in the stained glass window behind the altar. I am compelled here to introduce you to some of Koko's other friends: Hegwig, the hedgehog; then Goldilocks Aster, the Angel who guards St Hubert's; Osmotherley Owl; Rutherford Robin; not forgetting the neighbour's dog, Bertie, the miniature dachshund. Folk you'd never imagine in your wildest dreams would get along with a cat!

It surprised Koko one day when he saw a robin standing near the parish priest as he tended his small herb garden. "I'm puzzled", said Koko. "I thought that birds would always fly away whenever humans come on the scene, but not this robin". "True", said Father (it took Koko quite a while to understand why people called the priest 'father' because, you see, he has no children). "Normally, robins are afraid of humans, but when there is food available (and there was food a plenty as father tended the garden), they quickly overcome their fear - and they'll not run away from you either, Koko, but you'll have to behave yourself and maybe change your habits a little".

You may wonder why I am telling you about Koko. You see, we have all got inside of us a need to belong, to find a place where, like Koko, we feel at home, a place that feels 'familiar'. And with so much uncertainty around at present, life can feel quite scary for us. And, as well, we all need people to chat to, family people and people we know - and that's difficult at this lock down time which is why Koko has much to teach us. We can end up with friends we never thought we could get along with. We can do things in ways different from how we did them before. Even when the very ground under our feet feels shaky and uncertain, what frightens us can be managed when there is a strong enough need to do something - like you and me managing this digital stuff that we never thought we'd need or find a use for it.



Of course Koko continues, as he has always done, to chase the unwary mouse or bird who crosses his path, but he does it now for fun - and they seem to enjoy this as well. They always get away though! Only recently Koko discovered the robin and the badger and the dog, as well as the sheep, asleep together - none of them are Catholics either but they all love St Hubert's because they feel at home. "Even I don't need to watch my back", Koko reflected. "I can sleep whenever and wherever, and with both eyes shut. I sort of know that all will be well". Goldilocks, the angel, told Koko one day recently, that a certain Julian of Norwich coined this insight a long long time ago. Koko liked that.

I suppose you could pretend that Koko's life is somewhat like ours at present. For many, we have found a new home - digital, I might add - very different from the familiarity of 'dressing for church' each Sunday. I understand that many of our younger folk feel at home on Sunday morning as they join for Mass - still dressed for bed, I might add! And we have been in touch with so many people that we never imagined we would have as friends. Of course, we were afraid at the beginning - Koko was afraid, too. But he didn't take long to settle in, as we did not take too long either, to settle down in our new digital home.

But all the while at St Hubert's, Koko missed one thing – he missed all the other cats in his family. He had long since been away from his parents and siblings and all the other kittens, like himself, who feel scared until they feel sure that they are loved and belong. He always spoke to Archangel Goldilocks about that - how he missed just rubbing against other cats (like us wanting to hug each other) and sharing his food with them, even chasing mice and birds and enjoying life together. St Hubert's was a wonderful home - for now. But Koko wanted something more and he knew that one day he would feel the need to return to the familiar home of his childhood. But he settled in St Hubert's for now, still uncertain but no longer afraid.

What about you?

(With kind permission of Redemptorist Publications to use the story of "Koko the Parish Cat")

Mass streamed live from St Anne's using fb.me/stanneswappenbury

Please see diary below for this week's timings of Mass and Prayer Services

I hope that celebrating with me for this short service gives you a feeling of community which still remains for all of us. **Have you thought of inviting someone to join with you at one of the streamed Masses thought the week?**

Sunday 29 November	9.30am	Wappenbury <i>(live stream)</i>	First Sunday of Advent
Monday 30 November	9.30am	Wappenbury <i>(live stream)</i>	St Andrew, Apostle, patron of Scotland
Tuesday 1 December	9.30am	Wappenbury <i>(live stream)</i>	
Wednesday 2 December	9.30am	Wappenbury <i>(live stream)</i>	
Thursday 3 December	9.30am	Wappenbury <i>(live stream)</i>	St Francis Xavier, priest
Friday 4 December	9.30am	Wappenbury <i>(live stream)</i>	St John Damascene, priest, Doctor of the Church
Saturday 5 December	9.30am	Wappenbury <i>(live stream)</i>	
Sunday 6 December	9.30am	Wappenbury <i>(live stream)</i>	Second Sunday of Advent
PLEASE NOTE: I WILL CONTACT YOU BY EMAIL WITH ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY MASS IN CHURCH			

Forward Dates For Your Diary

Monday 14 December	7.00pm	Princethorpe College (Virtually)	Carol Service – Readings and Carols See information below
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Join In A Virtual Carol Service From Princethorpe College – Monday 14 December At 7.00pm

As we are unable to come together with St John's and Fr Hugh at either of our churches it would be wonderful, if you would spend an hour listening to and enjoying the music and Christmas Readings from Princethorpe College.

This year, for the first time, we have the opportunity to join with pupils of the College in a virtual Carol Service. The College have kindly given us the link to register your interest in this event

Feel free to register at <https://connect.princethorpe.co.uk/event/virtual-carol-service> and the video will be shared with you on Monday 14 December.

St Anne's Church

During Advent, I will continue to stream morning Mass from Wappenbury. As soon as government regulations permit, I will make provision for a limited number of parishioners to attend daily Mass here with me. I will keep you informed. During the Advent and Christmas period, please let me know if you would like Holy Communion brought to you at your home.

Have you thought of inviting someone to join with you at one of the Masses that are streamed every day at 9.30am?

Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day – Remember To Express Your Interest As Soon As Possible

It would greatly help my thoughts about attendance numbers at Mass on Christmas Eve at either 5.00pm (Family Mass) or 9.00pm at Princethorpe Chapel if you would contact Loretta at lkpcurtis@hotmail.com or 07951 256796 expressing an interest in attending one of the Masses.

You need to be aware that any celebration will be subject to the prevailing government guidelines and parish protocol as sent to you prior to the re-opening of churches in early August.

Please indicate your intention before **Monday 7 December**. Please do not be put off for fear of too many people applying to attend. I will manage the numbers to keep all safe and I will accommodate as many as distancing will allow on a first come, first served basis and with all the health and safety measures currently in place

Re-Opening Of Our Churches – Currently No Parish Mass Available At St Anne’s Or Princethorpe College Live Stream From St Anne’s Via Facebook – See Diary For Weekly Information

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.

Parish Finances

Those of you who donate by Standing Order should have received a letter in the last few days. The letter will outline the current and on-going situation regarding the levies. There is a short and easy Options Form to complete and return to Fr Teddy via a stamped addressed envelope by Friday 4 December 2020. Please take a moment to fill it in; it will help to ensure that we have a record of your wishes regarding your donations.

If you would like to discuss how you can help in any way with the parish finances please talk to one of the Finance Committee or by emailing Fr Teddy directly at fr.teddy.obrien@rcaob.org.uk

Thank you to everyone who is managing to continue with financial support to the parish. It is hugely appreciated.

Apologies

There was an error in the letter that some of you received from me last week. I corrected this error in a further email last night. If you have any queries please ring me at your earliest convenience.

Holy Communion For Those Who Cannot Attend Mass and for Those Sharing Streamed Mass Daily

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to take communion to our house bound parishioners. I will explain the details to all those interested so that everyone is safe. If anyone else would like to come forward please let me know. Let me know if you would like to have communion at home during lock down.

Prayer List – Would You Like Any Amendments Or Additions?

If you have any amendments to the Prayer List you would like me to make please do get in touch either with myself, by using the contact details at the top of the newsletter, or with Loretta at lkpcurtis@hotmail.com. It is important in these difficult times that we think and pray for those dear to us and allow our community to pray for them too. Please let me know of any wedding anniversaries, anniversaries of death and any significant birthdays – we would love to share our prayers with you on that day.

Teaching At Princethorpe And Vacancy

Graduate Sports Coach – We have an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic Sports Science Graduate to join the thriving Sports Department at Princethorpe College. Please see <https://www.princethorpe.co.uk/?title=Join+Us&pid=1185&vacancyid=1753> for more details or call 01926 634200 for more details. Closing date Friday 4 December - note closing date has been extended.

Teaching at Princethorpe College - If you are interested in teaching opportunities at Princethorpe College why not take a look at our new Teaching at Princethorpe College brochure, please click [here](#).

Our next Taste of Teaching at Princethorpe event will take place on **Wednesday 20 January 2021**. Further details will follow shortly.

Spreading Our News

Do you know anyone who would like to receive our newsletter by email? Please ask them to contact me and I would be delighted to add their details to my records.

Are you willing to deliver a copy of the newsletter to those who do not have internet? Please let me know.

The Parish Is On Facebook! Yes Really! Come On Check It Out! Please- Thank you Sebastien Buhour

Sebastien has kindly taken time to profile the parish in a more public domain. Please take time to ‘like’ and ‘share’ or indeed ‘comment’ the page so that as many of the wider community can enjoy the delights of our wonderful St Anne’s and Princethorpe College. The link to use is <http://www.facebook.com/stanneswappenbury>

Headline news – We have reached 100 ‘followers’!

Walk With Me – Advent Edition

I have copies of the Advent Edition of Walk With Me. Please let me know if you would like one and I will send it to you.

IICSA November 2020

This report, published recently, is a stark reminder to us, if one was needed, that very many people, during their formative years, have suffered terribly at the hands of abusers within this Archdiocese and elsewhere throughout the UK. Many, still living, carry this suffering with them every day of their lives. It is a pain that time rarely heals.

Full copies of all elements of the Report are available on the parish website using the tab 'Independent Review of Safeguarding'

Pray with me that those so suffering will attain that peace in their hearts that they so long for.

Handcrafted Charity Christmas Decorations

Would you like to support a small charity, struggling to find new ways to sell their products during the pandemic? They sell beautiful and unique decorations gifts handmade by a group of women in the shanty towns around Lima, Peru. All monies raised will go directly to feed their families this Christmas.

Do take a look @handmadeperuvianhandicrafts on Facebook to order
Or email peruviancrafts90@gmail.com to request a leaflet of products.

By buying these handmade goods you are directly supporting the poor. With your purchase children will be fed and medicines bought for those who rely on our help. Thank you (Aid for Chad and Peru Reg. Charity 328051)

Please Remember Especially In Your Prayers This Week – Let Us Not Tire Of Praying

Bill who is experiencing ongoing pain-filled difficulties. Hold Bill and Yvonne in your prayers

Alice, Jim Murray's sister, who is back in hospital and quite ill.

Angela RIP, who died recently. Angela was a close friend of Mary Rogers.

Geraldine RIP, friend of Jane and Tony Phayer, whose mother has died.

Chris Peake RIP (71), former caretaker of Our Lady's School, Princethorpe, who died recently. Please pray for Chris's family.

Stuart Cartwright (76), brother of Sandra Waddoups who is very ill. Hold Stuart and wife and Sandra in your prayers.

Paula whose mother died recently in Dublin. Paula is secretary to our MSC Provincial, Fr Carl.

Joseph 14, who has a long standing illness and is now receiving treatment in hospital in Staffordshire.

Sue. Hold Sue and family in your prayers. Sue is receiving ongoing treatment.

Jo who is waiting for treatment

Marlene who is awaiting the results of recent tests and waiting for a course of treatment.

Di, whose most recent results have brought good news.

Anne, Denis and Karen as they cope with health difficulties.

Tom who thanks you for your prayers. His treatment is ended at this time.

Ron, father to a friend of Yvonne, who died from Covid recently.

Kate Tennant, friend of Loretta, who is seriously ill in Myton Hospice. Please pray for Kate and her family.

Alice, whose Lupus has returned.

Linda, who is receiving further attention after her cancer treatment.

Mary and Brian Gould's niece, Elaine, whose lung cancer has reached stage four and has spread to her bones.

Stephen, friend of Milena's, who has had some setbacks in his preparation for treatment.

John and Veronica as they cope with John's health. We pray for their 50th wedding anniversary last Friday. Thank you to Jules who made a cake and organised a card, on behalf of all the parishioners, and delivered it – John and Veronica were delighted.

John Deery (RIP) John was a faithful member of the parish community who regularly attended St Anne's.

Augustine RIP (19 years old) who has died following a 10m fall from a tree in Northern France. Sebastien, Carolina and family ask for your prayers for Augustine's family.

Marie, long standing friend of Mary Gould who has died.

Jim and Anne whose young baby is undergoing tests in hospital in Ireland. Hold their wider family in your prayers.

David, a young father struggling at the moment.

Anne who is very anxious at present.

Tom, Fr Teddy's brother-in-law, whose sister died recently in Ireland

Norman, very dear friend of Paul and Fen Whittle. Keep Paul and Norman's family in your prayers.

Members of the medical profession as they manage the current 'spike' in Covid-19 cases, and those who have died.

Denis and Kate McDaid as they come to terms with the death of Bridie Gallagher, Denis's aunt in Ireland. One of eleven children – Bridie was the last member of the maternal side of the family.

Peter Power and family.

School and College leadership for all the hard work in keeping their students safe.

David Ratcliffe whose father in law, Tony, died recently

Fr David Bazen, Kenilworth, who is improving at home after an accident.

Melanie, a young girl who struggles with identity. Pray for her family and friends as they present support.
Young people as they struggle with hopeful return home for Christmas.
Margaret Patrick, former headteacher at Our Lady's School, whose husband died suddenly recently
Parishioners who have been diagnosed with coronavirus.
Yvonne and Jade. Jade is quite unwell at present. Yvonne has recently retired from Our Lady's School.
Claire as she settles in her new home up north.
Patrick Horgan (76) RIP who died unexpectedly and peacefully recently. Hold his family in your prayers. Pray for Jo, his very close friend.
Remember also, and especially, those who have been shielding now for a long time
All those people who put the lives of others and their own lifestyles before their own in whatever branch of community life they work.
Sean who is unwell at present.
Anastasia as she is cared for at home.
Eileen who is being cared for in a rest home in Leamington.
Wolfgang, Chrissie's father, who died recently and her mother who has recovered well from her operation and is now at home.
Liz's mum who is unwell.

Continue praying for

Parishioners with underlying medical problems of varying kinds and for whom this present viral situation induces increased anxiety. Pray for patience for all as times moves on.
Our medical staff – some members of this parish are actively engaged on the front line in our hospitals.
John whose family has asked for prayers.
Domonkos Kordas (14) who has lost sight in one eye. Pray for him and family and friends. His parents work on the front line.
Elizabeth and Neville Compton, sister and brother-in-law of Margaret Simmons.
John (75) diagnosed with bladder cancer.
All elderly parents of parishioners.
Elizabeth who has been diagnosed with a long term illness and is improving. She has had some good news recently.
Paul, a paramedic friend of Kathy Bond, Stretton on Dunsmore, seriously ill in University Hospital, Coventry.
Marc, who is seriously ill.
Keren and her husband John, Keren is a member of Princethorpe College staff.
Karen, waiting results of an exploratory investigation.
Linda, Stretton on Dunsmore, who is recovering at home. Thank you for your continued prayers.
Carolyn whose daughter is experiencing on-going mental health difficulties.
Roisin and Niamh, as they cope with difficult health problems. Their health problems are on-going.
Louise, suffering from various cancers.
Lucy (29), who is suffering from bacterial meningitis and is unable to digest food.
Eileen, friend of Mary Hewitt who is suffering from cancer.
Harry (23)
Seamus, who suffers from prostate cancer. Hold Seamus' family and friends in your prayers.
Michele, who has some serious health issues.
Kathy, who is recuperating after her successful operation.
Lola (29), who has been ill for most of her life and is again very ill.

Rose, who has severe mental health problems.
Frank
Carolyn, who is ill with breast cancer.
Mildred (87) RIP (Ryton on Dunsmore)
Betty Lucas RIP
Kay RIP, aunt to Yvonne.
Antonio (80) RIP
Thomas Duffy RIP
Pauline RIP.
Chris Smart (77) RIP
Con McCorriston (88) RIP
Darren RIP
Joan (91) RIP
Myrtle Forster (64) RIP
Joan and Sister RIP
Bob RIP
Maria Ramsay (76) RIP
Mont RIP
John RIP