

The Catholic Parishes of St Augustine of Canterbury, Meir St Filumena, Caverswall & St Mary, Cresswell

8th October 2017

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year A

39/2017/ks

St Augustine's (for Parish Office): 146 Sandon Road, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent. ST3 7DF

St Filumena's: Blythe Bridge Road, Caverswall. ST11 9EA

St Mary's: Cresswell Old Lane, Cresswell. ST11 9RF

Parish email: augustineandmary@hotmail.com;

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Parish Priest: Fr Kazimierz Stefek *OSPPE* - tel. (office): **01782 313734**

Assistant Priest: Fr Paweł Przybyszewski *OSPPE*

Parish Deacon (Meir/Cresswell): **Rev Trevor Borthwick** (retired) tel.: (home) 01782 388416

Parish Deacon (Caverswall): **Rev Peter Bowyer** - tel.: (home) 01782 393892

Administration and Social Events: Gabrielle Halliday - mobile: 07764 245344

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SUNDAY REFLECTION

Today is the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Now, there are striking similarities between the First Reading of today from the “Book of the Prophet Isaiah” and the Gospel Reading from St. Matthew. They both focus on the same subject, viz. ‘the Lord’s Vineyard and the Vine’ in different ways and underline the necessity of bearing ‘good fruit’. Failure to produce good fruits ultimately leads to ‘rejection’. In the First Reading, we hear about ‘the Song of the Vineyard’. In the song Isaiah describes God as the owner of a beautiful vineyard that has been carefully tended. The owner does everything possible to produce a healthy crop of grapes. But he winds up with sour wild grapes. The prophet warns the inhabitants of Jerusalem and Judah that they, the vine, will be abandoned (rejected) by God because of their injustice and non-observance of the Law. In the Gospel Reading we hear about ‘the Parable of the Wicked Tenants’. Here too, the vineyard stands for God’s people but the criticism is directed at the tenants rather than the vineyard itself. It is not difficult to see that the owner of the vineyard is God. The owner first sends his servants, then finally his son to collect the harvest. Instead, the tenants seize, beat, stone and even kill them all. The obvious meaning of the parable is completed by the rejection of the tenants and the giving of the vineyard to those who are prepared to work in the vineyard to produce good fruit. The chief priests and the elders, those to whom the parable is told, fully understand that the parable is attacking them. The Second Reading from St. Paul’s “Letter to the Philippians” is joyful in tone. It seems that the Christians of Philippi have produced fruits that correspond to the Gospel. St. Paul exhorts them to keep striving for all that is good and holy. In this way they need have no anxieties and the God of peace will be with them.

Today, we are God’s chosen people. We are the tenants in the vineyard. Now, God calls us to produce the fruits of the Kingdom of God that will endure. How do we see this call? It is just as easy for us in these times to fail to recognize the voice of God in the messengers (priests) He sends us, just as the Jewish authorities of Jesus’ time failed to recognize the Word of God in him. God is outrageously generous and gracious indeed. But aside from his generosity, another quality of God is revealed in the Gospel parable of today. God values faithful stewardship. Since stewardship is an exercise in responsibility, it follows that God puts premium on our sense of responsibility. We are responsible for our life and for everything else that God has entrusted to us in this life. To be responsible is to be accountable to somebody. The tenants in the Gospel did not want to make accounts with the land owner. They refused to be accountable. They had pretensions at ownership. They wanted to enjoy the bounty of the land without accountability and privileges without obligations. In the face of rejection and sin, God is free to provide other tenants who will produce good fruit. There is surely here an implicit warning for lukewarm and laps Catholics. Today therefore, let us all take a few moments to review our status before God, asking ourselves if we will inherit the Kingdom of God. May the grace of God be with each and every one of us as we assess our spiritual status in the eyes of God. And this is the Good News of today.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition at St Joseph's Thame: Carlo Acutis Exhibition completed shortly before he died at the age of 15 has travelled from Milan. Fr David Hartley invites people to be among the first to see the exhibition in England on 14th October as preparation for the National Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool in September 2018. If there is sufficient interest a coach will leave St. Augustine's at 7:00 and return from Thame at 16:30, costing £18 per person. More information on poster. Please respond quickly by signing the sheet at the back of church.

Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 19:30 in the St Augustine's Presbytery. We spend time looking at the Mass Readings for the following Sunday – why not join us?

Journey in Faith – This course is for those who are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith. Sessions are on Thursdays in term time at 19:30 in St. Augustine's Sacristy. The next session will be on Thursday 19th October. For more information please contact Gabrielle Halliday on 07764 245344.

Children in non-Catholic Schools requiring preparation for the Sacraments and **non-Catholic children in Catholic Schools** wishing to become Catholics. Next session will take place on Saturday 21st October, after 9:30 Mass in St. Augustine's Presbytery. For more information please contact Gabrielle Halliday on 07764 245344.

Padre Pio Prayer Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 14:30 in the St Augustine's sacristy.

50/50 Club Draw Results – winners in September: 1st Prize – Ron Machin, 2nd Prize – Anthony Jewell, 3rd Prize – Ron Minor. Well done! Congratulations! There are several numbers still unsold – only £12 for 12 months – see Albert Griffin.

St. Filumena's Tote - winners in September are: 1st – Adam Williamson, 2nd – Gregory Thorley, and 3rd – John Arrowsmith. Well done! Congratulations! Remember you can make more than one entry, (which increases your chances of winning).

St Filumena's Autumn Fayre - An Autumn Fayre will be held at be held at St Filumena's School on the 8th October between 10:00 and 13:00. There will be a wide range of stalls Including Bottles, Crafts, Teddys, 'Gin and Tonic', Books; Gits and Crockery; Tombola, Raffles, Face Painting; Children's Fancy Dress; Games; Lucky Dip; Bingo as well as refreshments and an Oatcakes. All are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there!

There will be also **Care Boot Sale** on 28th October. Details and location to be confirmed.

PLEASE PRAY

For those who are ill, especially: Hollie Tomkinson, Susan Brady, Ursula Grocott, Kathleen Smith, Sarah Stevenson, Dorothy Swift, Josie Coates, Arthur Rushton, Mrs. Burton, Cekeera Grocott, Olivia Killeen, Frederick Blaize, Jean Dawson, Michele Yon, Dorothy Vasey, Molly Blurton, Margaret Smith, Betty Walton, Margaret Stones, Marjorie Birks, Vincent Coleman, Dorothy Tantrum, Val Emery, Rosa Coronato, Edigio Coronato, Doris Kelly, Dorothy Sawyer, Christopher and Elizabeth Browne, Jane Preston, Molly Crowther, Chris Kelsall, Joyce Brown, Lynn Kent, Christopher & Clifford Browne, Deacon Trevor, Janice Austin, Fr Joseph Tynan, Albert Dawson and Joan Brindley.

For those who have died recently, Mrs Vera Margaret Bradbury and those whose anniversary occurs around this time.

Parish Offertory for last weekend:

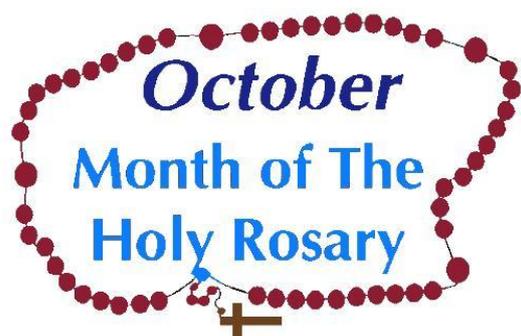
<u>Meir:</u>	£235.25	of which	£ 85.00 was gift aided
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£278.52	of which	£152.20 was gift aided
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£114.61	of which	£ 93.50 was gift aided

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

please gift aid, if possible

Next weekend there will be voluntary Second Collection for CAFOD

MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY



The month of October is a good time to re-evaluate the place the Rosary has in our lives. Many great popes, saints, and Christian leaders have exhorted us to pray the rosary. It is a powerful prayer, they say, one that can change your life, strengthen the family, bring peace to the world, convert entire nations, and win the salvation of souls.

The Rosary is a beautiful prayer, but due to one reason or another many people never get to discover this beauty. It can feel like we are supposed to be doing so many things simultaneously – saying each *Our Father* and *Hail Mary* with due reverence, praying for our particular intentions, all the while

trying to create vivid mental images of Christ and Our Lady in our mind's eye. If we fail in this endeavour, it is tempting to feel dejected and as though we have been through some pointless mechanical exercise. We might tell ourselves it is better not to pray the Rosary at all rather than to pray it badly.

Contemplation is a fundamental part of the Rosary. The French priest and Dominican tertiary St Louis De Montfort said: *The Rosary without meditation on the sacred mysteries of our salvation would almost be like a body without a soul; excellent matter, but without form which sets it apart from other devotions.*

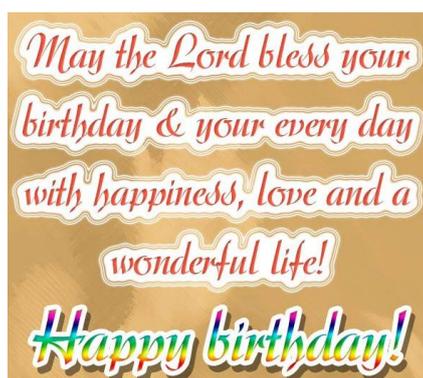
The Rosary is not an optional extra. It has the potential to transform our lives if we are willing. Despite feeling you do not pray the Rosary particularly well, please pray it on a daily basis, and try to realize and remember several things. Whilst we can pray the Rosary to varying degrees of perfection, it is not really possible to pray the Rosary badly. Although we should always hope that we might learn to pray the Rosary better, we are never worse off for praying it. We might have various bad attitudes that we become aware of when we pray the Rosary, but this is surely a good thing. It makes us realize how much we need God's mercy.

If we pray the Rosary regularly our attitude to Our Lady will change. You might think you don't feel you have any strong Marian devotion, you might feel you hardly know Our Lady. It is only through praying the Rosary that you can really start to appreciate who Mary is. She is our Mother, she loves us, she constantly prays for us, gently guiding us towards her Son. So we should feel entirely comfortable and at ease in her company. As a nun, St Bernadette used to encourage the sisters to pray the Rosary whilst going to sleep and would say: "you will be like a little child who falls asleep saying: 'Mama, Mama!'"

Saint John Paul II said that as a young man, praying the Rosary helped him realize that not only does Our Mother Mary direct us towards Christ, but Christ also directs us towards His mother. Christ is saying 'look what marvels I have worked for my mother'. Devotion to the saints and especially to Our Lady, is so important because it marks out why our faith is so special. God's grace is not something superficial, but penetrates the core of our being. God has promised to make us like Himself. Our Lady is the first in whom this promise has been fulfilled, and so she is worthy of the highest of praise.

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BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN OCTOBER:



Sheila Killeen, Hannah Palser (21), Doreen Peacock, Paul Richards, James Richards, Dorothy Tantrum (100!),

Holy Mass for the birthday intentions of those listed above will be offered at St. Augustine's Church on Sunday, 29th October at 11:00.

**On your birthday, we pray that God continue to pour out his blessings into your life and to the people you love.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY !**

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

	St. Augustine's MEIR	St. Filumena's CAVERSWALL	St. Mary's CRESSWELL
7th October Saturday			18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – Patrick McVey RIP
8th October SUNDAY 27 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A	11:00 – Dorothy Tantrum Intentions	9:00 – Jennifer Kelly RIP	
9nd October Monday <i>Memorial of the Blessed John Henry Newman, Priest</i>	9:30 – Conor & Marianna Int (on their Marriage)	9:15 – Dorothy Tantrum Int	
10th October Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9:30 – People of the Parish <i>Followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour</i>		
11th October Wednesday <i>Feria</i>	9:30 – In Thanksgiving (AH)	9:15 – Dorothy Tantrum Int	
12th October Thursday <i>Feria</i>	9:30 –		
13th October Friday <i>Feria</i>	9:30 – 18:00 – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction 19:00 – Homeless People S-o-T Intentions		
14th October Saturday <i>Feria or Optional Memorial of Our Lady</i>	9:30 –		18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – Private Int (MC)
15th October SUNDAY 28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A	11:00 – People of Parish	9:00 – Damian Bowyer Int	

 Confessions	<i>Friday:</i> 18:00 – 18:45 <i>Saturday:</i> 10:00 – 10:30	<i>Sunday before Mass</i> 8:15 – 8:45	<i>Saturday before Mass</i> 17:15 – 17:45
	and <i>BY REQUEST</i>		

MASS INTENTIONS – PLEASE HAND IN ENVELOPE TO A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY

**When in the church
talk only to God before the service;
let God talk to you during the service;
and talk to one another after the service but only outside the church!**

Please send items for the Parish Newsletter by Thursday evening (e-mail: augustineandmary@hotmail.com)