

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

26<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**34<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year A**  
**SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

46/2017/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](mailto:augustineandmary@hotmail.com);

website: [www.augustineandmary.org.uk](http://www.augustineandmary.org.uk) or [www.stfilumena.org.uk](http://www.stfilumena.org.uk)

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	<b>Fr Kazimierz Stefek OSPPE</b>	-	tel. (office): <b>01782 313734</b>
<b>Assistant Priest:</b>	<b>Fr Paweł Przybyszewski OSPPE</b>		
<b>Parish Deacon</b> (Meir/Cresswell):	<b>Rev Trevor Borthwick</b> (retired)		tel.: (home) 01782 388416
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<b>Administration and Social Events:</b>	Gabrielle Halliday	-	mobile: 07764 245344
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## SUNDAY REFLECTION

Today is the 34<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time and is the Last Sunday of the Liturgical Year A. Next Sunday we will start a new Liturgical Year B with the First Sunday in Advent. On this Last Sunday the Church solemnly celebrates the feast of “**Christ the King**”. It is one of the so-called ‘*idea feasts*’ that do not celebrate an event in the life of Jesus but rather some aspect of his identity. In it we recognize and honour Christ as ruler and universal shepherd. Also, this feast helps us to look towards our future and our ultimate future is, when Jesus will return in glory for the final judgment and award reward or punishment. Actually, this feast is, as it were, a synthesis and culmination of the entire salvific mystery. The feast brings the Liturgical Year to a close. All during the past year, we have celebrated the mysteries of the life of the Lord. Now, we contemplate Christ in his glorified state as King of all creation and of our souls. So, the Feast of “**Christ the King**” is the occasion for us to give glory to the Lord of Heaven and Earth.

Today's Scripture Readings revolve around the final judgment of Jesus Christ when He comes in glory and power. The First Reading from the “Book of the Prophet Ezekiel” provides an image of God leading His people with the care of a shepherd. In the context of the passage, it is God Himself who vows to take personal responsibility for tending His sheep, because the entrusted shepherds have not been found worthy of their charge. God will come to tend to the sick and ailing sheep but will separate and punish those who have made themselves strong at the expense of the weak. In the Second Reading from his “1<sup>st</sup> Letter to the Corinthians”, St. Paul reminds the Christians at Corinth of the fact of the resurrection from the dead, just as Jesus Christ died and rose to life. Death, inherited from Adam, will itself be destroyed. Those who belong to Christ will form part of his Kingdom. In this Kingdom all will be subject to Christ the King. The Gospel Reading from St. Matthew speaks about the Last Judgment and presents Christ as the King coming in his heavenly glory to judge us. Each person will be distinguished as a sheep or a goat according to a simple standard of practical attention to those who suffer. The standard of judgment is simple enough: “*whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me*”. What may surprise us is Jesus' identification with the most insignificant.

Today's Solemnity is a reminder that the Kingship of Christ is not ‘*up there*’ but is very much tied or moored ‘*down here*’. It is a challenge not about the future but about today. It makes us appreciate the ever-expanding expanse of his Kingship. So, if the Solemnity is to make sense, we ought to submit to the rule of Christ, and then try to understand how his Kingship is exercised. The sole criterion for judging our worthiness to inherit the glorious Kingdom is our exercise of love, especially on behalf of the poor and needy. If we wish to be counted among the sheep, then we must be an actively loving person, irrespective of the response we get to our love. This is the way God loves us. But if Jesus came as Judge right now, would He be able to say to us: “*Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom*”? If not, then we still have a lot of work ahead of us. And this is the Good News of today.

## NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

**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. Next session, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

**Children in non-Catholic Schools** requiring preparation for the Sacraments and **non-Catholic children in Catholic Schools** wishing to become Catholics. Next session, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, after 9:30 Mass in St. Augustine's Presbytery. For more information please contact Gabrielle Halliday on 07764 245344.

**Preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism** will take place at St. Augustine's on January 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> at 19:00. Parents and Godparents are invited. Please inform a member of clergy after Mass on Sunday if you wish to attend.

**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:** winners in November: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – P Malcolm; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – J Holland; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize June Day. Well done! Congratulations! Collecting money now for 2018 – only £12 per number for 12 monthly draws – see Albert Griffin.

**St Filumena - Tote winners** for October: 1<sup>st</sup> prize - Sarah Woods, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - Larah Newton, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize - G. Kieher-Knapper. Congratulations!

**PRAYERS FOR HOLY SOULS** - November is the month in which we are particularly asked to pray for the dead. You are invited to write down the names of any deceased whom you would like to be prayed for, and place them in the purple box provided. During the month, those named will be especially remembered in prayers during daily Masses.

**St Augustine's Pre-Christmas Cracker Evening, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 19:00, in the School Hall.**

Starting at 19:00 with Ashley and his choir. We look forward to seeing you all there.

**\*\* Last few tickets available! \*\***

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to make mince pies and mulled wine.

Further offers will be gratefully received!

### 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, Joan Brindley, and Pat Shufflebotham.

**For those who have died recently** and those whose anniversary occurs around this time.

### Parish Offertory for last weekend:

<u>Meir:</u>	£247.05 of which £ 90.00 was gift aided
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£270.36 of which £153.00 was gift aided
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£104.95 of which £ 75.50 was gift aided

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

*please gift aid, if possible*

This weekend there is a Second Collection for Catholic Youth Service

# OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

**St. Augustine's Catholic Academy** – Sandon Road, Meir, ST3 7DF; tel. 01782 319504

**Margaret Yates** - Executive Principal, **Victoria Brickley** - Head of School

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**St. Filumena's Catholic Academy** – Blythe Bridge Road, Caverswall, ST11 9EA; tel. 01782 392367

**Claire Tomlinson** – Principal

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## HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY



The Catholic Church dedicates the entire month of November to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. During this entire month we pray for the souls of the faithful departed, especially those whom we have known and loved.

The souls in purgatory died in the mercy of God, this is why they are called holy; however, because they still had attachment to sin at the time of their death, they must undergo a spiritual purification of their souls before they are able to fully love God with their whole heart, mind, and soul for all eternity.

The holy souls are “saved souls” – they will enjoy the reward of heaven – but during their lives they were not the perfect souls that Christ commanded them to be (Mat. 5:48), and for which he provided every grace and means

for them to become (2 Pet. 1:3). We are meant to die after living as saints. Those who die in the love God but fall short of holiness due to habitual sinful clings must be pure before being admitted to the beatific vision, that is, the vision of God that the saints in heaven enjoy for all eternity.

Those in purgatory cannot pray for themselves, this is why they are also called “poor” souls. They can no longer merit anything for themselves (their opportunity for increasing in merit was during their earthly lives) and they must rely entirely on others to pray and make sacrifices on their behalf. As they are nevertheless part of the Communion of Saints, they depend upon us to help ease their suffering and quickly advance them through their purification so that they can join the saints in heaven. Praying for the souls of those who have died is an ancient practice of the Church, one that is based on the Catholic teaching regarding Purgatory.

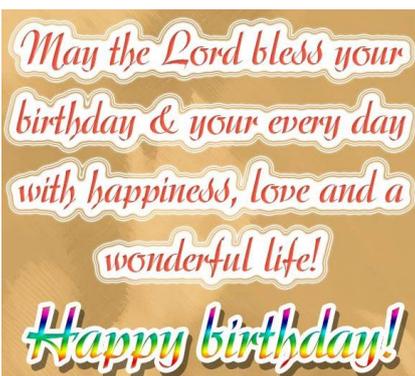
Prayers for the faithful departed pleases God, who makes use of our prayers to help purify these souls that He loves. It is an act of charity that we can give for those we have known and loved, for our ancestors who gave us life, for those who were our benefactors, for those whose memory is lost, and for those who have no one else to pray for them.

It is a custom in the Church to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for a particular soul, whether they are a deceased relative or friend. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the highest act of worship, the highest form of prayer. The Mass is the most efficacious means to help the souls in purgatory.

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## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN NOVEMBER:

Marjorie Birks, Roy Cripps, Harriet Perry, Teresa Walley, Amelia Williamson,



**Holy Mass for the birthday intentions of those listed above will be offered at St. Augustine's Church on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 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
<b>25<sup>th</sup> November Saturday</b>			18:00 ( <i>Sunday Vigil</i> ) – People of Parish
<b>26<sup>th</sup> November SUNDAY SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING - Year A</b>	11:00 – Birthday Intentions	9:00 – Deceased Members of Robinson & Hammond Families	
<b>27<sup>th</sup> November Monday <i>Feria</i></b>	9:30 – Jean Doudican RIP	9:15 – Elizabeth Halcrow Int	
<b>28<sup>th</sup> November Tuesday <i>Feria</i></b>	9:30 – Arlene Williams RIP  <i>Followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour</i>		
<b>29<sup>th</sup> November Wednesday <i>Feria</i></b>	9:30 – Holy Souls	9:15 – Jean Doudican	
<b>30<sup>th</sup> November Thursday <i>Feast of St Andrew, Apostle</i></b>	9:30 – Holy Souls		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> December Friday <i>Feast of St Edmund Campion, Priest, Martyr</i> <b>FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH</b></b>	9:30 – 18:00 – <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Benediction</b> 19:00 – Ted Shaw RIP		
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> December Saturday <i>Feria or Memorial of Our Lady on Saturday</i></b>	9:30 –		18:00 ( <i>Sunday Vigil</i> ) – Ted Shaw RIP
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> December SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent - Year B</b>	11:00 – David Burgess RIP	9:00 – People of Parish	

 <b>Confessions</b>	<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](mailto:augustineandmary@hotmail.com))