



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

10th December 2017

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year B

48/2017/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 Pawel 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

Safeguarding representatives: (for Meir & Cresswell) Barbara Kitson - mobile: 07796 337075

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SUNDAY REFLECTION

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent, the emphasis begins to shift from the Lord's final coming in glory to his coming in human flesh. Every year, on this day, as preparation for Christmas, the Church leads us on pilgrimage to the Jordan River, so that we might enrol in the school of John the Baptist, hear his message, and put it into action in our lives. At first glance, it seems like a strange choice to meet him at the Jordan, 30 years after Christ's birth, millennia before his Second Coming. But the reason why the Church always visits John at the Jordan is because he was the one chosen by God the Father from all eternity to get His people ready to receive His Son, who was already walking toward the Jordan River to inaugurate his public ministry. The Gospel Reading of today from St. Mark presents John the Baptist as our model for Advent preparation; he is the precursor who announced the Lord's coming and who prepared the people by preaching them "*the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*".

The Scripture Readings of today tell us about the concern of God He has for His people and at the same time admonish the people to prepare the way spiritually for the coming of the Lord. In the First Reading from the "Book of the Prophet Isaiah", the Prophet consoles the people of Israel in exile and assures them of the fulfilment of the promise of the Messiah. In this passage normally known as '*the poem of consolation*', God shows how he cares for each person individually. In the Second Reading from his 2nd Letter, St. Peter speaks strongly against those who denied the Second Coming of Christ and says that '*the Day of the Lord*' will come like a thief and the Lord will establish his Kingdom of truth, justice and peace in a new heaven and new earth. The Gospel Reading of today from St. Mark presents John the Baptist as the precursor of the birth of the Messiah. John the Baptist called all to "*prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths*". He proclaimed the Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins and announced the coming of Jesus who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. The preparatory work announced by John is the way we're called to get ourselves ready to receive the Lord who is coming.

"*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths*", is a common usage during the Advent season. It is an invitation to get ready to welcome the Lord. Today we are invited to tread the path of repentance and conversion. So, during this period of Advent when we prepare ourselves for the coming of Our Lord, what should our response be? We have to fill in the valleys that come from a shallow prayer life and a minimalistic way of living our faith. We have to straighten out whatever crooked paths we have been walking. This Advent - which is a gift of the Lord to us, and who knows it may be our last - will succeed or fail on the basis of how well we convert and clear our lives of sin so that the Lord may come to 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 4th January

Children in non-Catholic Schools requiring preparation for the Sacraments and **non-Catholic children in Catholic Schools** wishing to become Catholics. Next session, Saturday 16th 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 10th & 24th 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 December: 1st Prize – K. Oakley; 2nd Prize – D. Gillen; 3rd Prize P. Murray. Well done! Congratulations! Collecting money now for 2018 – only £12 per number for 12 monthly draws – see Albert Griffin.

St Augustine's Christmas Raffle – this weekend is the last chance to buy a ticket and win one of our grate prizes!

St Filumena - Tote winners for November: 1st Prize – June Jarville, 2nd Prize – Louise Eagle, 3rd Prize – Pat Bowen. Congratulations!

CAFOD - There will be a second collection on Sunday, 17th December at our churches for CAFOD gifts. CAFOD supports some of the poorest people in the world. By joining together we could send a gift such as water for a family for £33, a healthy Mum and Baby pack for £30 or immunisations. For children. You can find more information about CAFOD, the work it is undertaking at the moment or order your own individual CAFOD gifts, on their website, www.cafod.org.uk. Thank you for your very generous support for CAFOD throughout the year.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - there is a collecting plate at all churches for donations, please.

St Mary's Carol Service on Sunday 17th December at 17.00 with mince pies and mulled wine.

St. Augustine's Penitential Service with several priests on Monday 18th December at 19:00.

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>	£261.55	of which	£102.50 was gift aided
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£277.53	of which	£137.20 was gift aided
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£ 98.41	of which	£ 82.00 was gift aided

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

please gift aid, if possible

This weekend there is a Second Collection for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE - 2017

	St Augustine's Meir	St Filumena's Caverswall	St Mary's Cresswell
23 rd December Saturday Vigil of the 4 th Sunday of Advent	18:00	-	18:00
24 th December 4th Sunday of Advent	11:00	9:00	-
24 th December Christmas Vigil	18:00	-	18:00
Christmas Midnight Masses	21:00	00:00 (midnight)	-
25 th December Christmas Day	9:30	9:00	-
26 th December St Stephen's Day	9:30	11:00	-
31 st December Holy Family Sunday	11:00	9:00	30 th December: 18:00 - Vigil Mass

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BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN DECEMBER:


Andrew Clark, Angela Hartley, Ernst Häferer, Monica Lumia, Fr Paweł Przybyszewski, Veronica Swinnerton

**Holy Mass for the birthday intentions of those listed above
will be offered at St. Augustine's Church on Sunday,
31st December 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
9th December Saturday			18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – Anthony Price RIP
10th December SUNDAY 2nd Sunday of Advent - Year B	11:00 – Hill & Murray Families RIP	9:00 – People of Parish	
11th December Monday <i>Advent Feria</i>	9:30 – Private Intention	9:15 – Holy Souls	
12th December Tuesday <i>Advent Feria</i>	9:30 – Private Intention <i>Followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour</i>		
13th December Wednesday <i>Memorial of St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</i>	9:30 – Holy Souls	9:15 – Mark Travers RIP	
14th December Thursday <i>Memorial of St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church</i>	9:30 – Kevin Maleedy RIP		
15th December Friday <i>Advent Feria</i>	9:30 – Molly Crowther Ints 18:00 – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction 19:00 – Sean Maloney RIP		
16th December Saturday <i>Advent Feria</i>	9:30 – Deceased members of Kelsall Family		18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – John Jewell RIP
17th December SUNDAY 3rd Sunday of Advent - Year B	11:00 – Gerald Clayton RIP	9:00 – Gemma Foot Ints	

 <p style="color: purple; font-size: 1.2em;">Confessions</p>	<i>Friday:</i> 18:00 – 18:45	<i>Sunday before Mass</i>	<i>Saturday before Mass</i>
	<i>Saturday:</i> 10:00 – 10:30	8:15 – 8:45	17:15 – 17:45
<i>Penitential Service Monday 18th December 19:00 at St. Augustine's and 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)