

PARISH BULLETIN

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

18th February 2018

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – Year B

7/2018/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;

website: www.augustineandmary.org.uk or www.stfilumena.org.uk

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

(*for Caverswall*) Fiona Richardson - mobile: 07580 551894

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*

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 22nd February.

THE PARISH WEEKEND VISIT – As you already know NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE DEANERY VISITATION started on 3rd October, 2017, is still ongoing. The Visitation in our three Parishes will take place over the weekend 24th – 25th February, 2018, and we will be visited by Bishop David McGough. The Bishop will say Masses in each Parish and he would like to meet with the faithful.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S HEATING - A 'Premises Working Group' has recently been formed to deal with the issues concerning the church's Heating System. Surveys and quotations are being obtained, and we should very soon be in a position to let you all know the situation. We realise that some parishioners may think everything is taking a long time but rest assured that a lot is going on 'behind the scenes'. Your patience is appreciated – especially when the church has not been very warm. Grateful thanks are extended to all of you who have arranged and supported fund-raising efforts over the past few months.

ST AUGUSTINE'S FUND RAISERS - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday 11th March - CAKE STALL. Donations gratefully received.

Saturday 14th April - A RACE NIGHT LIKE YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE!!!!!!

Look out for details coming shortly! Donations towards prizes/raffles are very welcome.

MANY THANKS FOR ALL THE HELP AND SUPPORT GIVEN FOR RECENT EVENTS.

ST FILUMENA'S COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP - There will be Social Afternoons, at the Presbytery, with various activities, including tea and biscuits, on Monday afternoons from 13:30 to 15:30 commencing February 5th. During Lent, on Wednesdays, there will be served a Soup Lunch beginning from Ash Wednesday at 13:00-14:15, followed by Stations of the Cross in the church at 14:30.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS' Deanery Course at Holy Trinity, Newcastle, on Tuesdays 27th February and 6th March, 19:30 – SEE POSTER

CAFOD Family Fast Day: Friday 23 February - this Lent is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters who don't have enough to eat. On Friday can you give up a meal, or eat a simple meal, in solidarity? With malnutrition still killing almost three million children a year, your fasting, prayers and donations will ensure more of God's children have enough good food to eat. And this Lent, your donation will make double the difference. For every pound you donate to CAFOD, the UK Government will also donate a pound, up to a total of £5 million, meaning twice the number of lives can be transformed. Twice the number of children can have the opportunity to grow up healthy and strong. Please collect your Fast Day envelope from church this week and give generously.

MARRIAGE CARE in North Staffordshire is looking for volunteers to train as marriage preparation facilitators locally. They are holding an information evening at St Gregory's Meeting Room, Longton, on April 11th at 19.00 if you would like to know more about the role and what it involves. Otherwise please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk for details.

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, Michele Yon, Dorothy Vasey, Molly Blurton, Margaret Smith, Betty Walton, Margaret Stones, Marjorie Birks, Vincent Coleman, Dorothy Tantrum, Val Emery, Edigio Coronato, Doris Kelly, Dorothy Sawyer, Christopher and Elizabeth Browne, Jane Preston, Molly Crowther, Chris Kelsall, Joyce Brown, Lynn Kent, Christopher and Clifford Browne, Deacon Trevor, Janice Austin, Fr Joseph Tynan, Albert Dawson, Joan Brindley, Teresa Key, Ian Halliday

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For those who have died recently Margaret Mary Leneghan, Gladys Mary Lumley and those whose anniversary occurs around this time.

Parish Offertory for last weekend:

<u>Meir:</u>	£336.40	of which	£ 97.50	was gift aided
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£342.46	of which	£197.00	was gift aided
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£ 86.77	of which	£ 68.00	was gift aided

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !

please gift aid, if possible

Next weekend there may be a voluntary Second Collection for CAFOD

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LENT

"God invites all of us to smash our miserable little concordats with sin and its alibis"

We, Catholics, are choosing spiritual exercises for Lent. It is very important that we start with re-forming our consciences according to Church teaching. Lax consciences are of little value in spiritually directing a person. As the archbishop of Philadelphia, Abp. Charles Chaput, wrote on February 13, 2018: "For every forbidden, hurtful, dishonest thing we like to do, we're experts at self-deceit, at training our consciences to perform like pets... well-manicured poodles that offer us alibis on demand like:

- "I didn't have a choice"
- "Hey, there were extenuating circumstances"
- "The Church is out of touch"
- "There's a new paradigm for thinking about this particular unpleasantness"
- "I know it's not ideal, but this is the best I could do"
- "There's been a revolution in Church thinking on all sorts of complex issues - like mine"
- "OK this is wrong, but it's not *that* bad".

In an age of spiritual permissiveness when many prelates are telling Catholics to follow their poorly formed consciences, Abp. Chaput is urging Catholics to make good use of Lent by re-shaping, where necessary, their erroneously formed consciences.

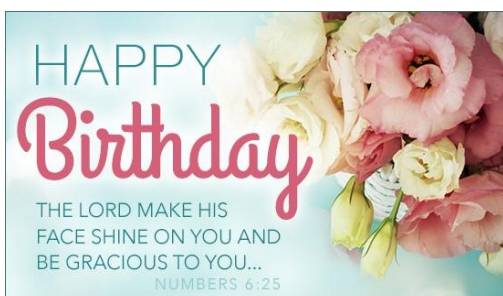
On Wednesday, February 14, Ash Wednesday, we began Lent. Ash Wednesday was the day on which a loving God invited all of us to smash our miserable little concordats with sin and its alibis to bits. The teaching of the Church – rooted in the Word of God, confirmed by experience, consistent in its expression, sometimes difficult but always liberating – is the standard of holiness and the guide to our Father's expectations.

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BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN FEBRUARY:

Deacon Trevor, Kaiyan Kahn, Molly Ball (100!), Les Bennett, Wilf Bentley, Mya Brzoska, Josie Burgess, Albert Dawson, Molly Goodwin, Tim Halliday, Peter McCartney, William Perry, Pat Porter, George Redfern, Joe Richards, Mark Saxby, Nora Shepard, Pat Swift, Joseph Swinnerton, Mark Swinnerton, Doreen Thomson, Mary Torjussen, Adam Williamson, Andrew Williamson, Anthony Williamson

Holy Mass for the birthday intentions of those listed above will be offered at St. Augustine's Church on Sunday, 25th February 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 !**

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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

	St. Augustine's MEIR	St. Filumena's CAVERSWALL	St. Mary's CRESSWELL
17th February Saturday			18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – People of the Parish
18th February SUNDAY 1 st SUNDAY OF LENT - Year B	11:00 – Vera Steele Ints	9:00 – Barbara Wilcox RIP	
19th February Monday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9:30 – Mary Chetwin RIP 11:00 Funeral Service for Mary Margaret Leneghan	9:15 –	
20th February Tuesday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9:30 – The Halliday Family Int <i>Followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour</i>		
21st February Wednesday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9:30 – Denis & Barbara Wilcox	9:15 – 14:30 – Stations of the Cross	
22nd February Thursday <i>Feast of the Chair of St Peter, Apostle</i>	9:30 – Holy Souls		
23rd February Friday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9:30 – Kathleen Keates RIP 18:00 – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction 18:30 – Stations of the Cross 19:00 –		
24th February Saturday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9:30 –		18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – John Critchlow RIP
25th February SUNDAY 2 nd Sunday of Lent - Year B	11:00 – Birthday Intentions	9:00 – People of the Parish	

 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 AN ENVELOPE (WITH SUGGESTED DATE AND CHURCH PREFERENCE) 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)