

# PARISH BULLETIN

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

15<sup>th</sup> April 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year B

15/2018/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](mailto:augustineandmary@hotmail.com);

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

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

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Paweł Przybyszewski *OSPPE*

**Parish Deacon** (Meir/Cresswell): Rev Trevor Borthwick (*retired*)

**Parish Deacon** (Caverswall): Rev Peter Bowyer

**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** resumes Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 19:30.

**CHILDREN IN NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS** requiring preparation for the Sacraments and **non-Catholic children in Catholic Schools** wishing to become Catholics. Next session, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April, after 9:30 Mass, in St. Augustine's Presbytery. For more information please contact Gabrielle Halliday on 07764 245344.

**THE STAFFORDSHIRE CHILDREN'S CHOIR** will present "ONCE UPON A TIME" - nursery rhymes and fairy tales like you have never heard them before - at St Augustine's, Sandon Road, on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 15:00. Details on the poster at the back of the church.

**ST. AUGUSTINE'S 50/50 CLUB DRAW** - winners in March: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Sandra Oakley; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Philip Häferer; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Angie Hartley. Congratulations!



**ST FILUMENA'S TOTE** - winners in March: 1<sup>st</sup> prize - Anthony Williamson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - Gemma Keiher-Knapper; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - Andrew Williamson; Congratulations!

"**THE INN RINGERS**" are coming to **St. Filumena's** on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April. An afternoon with the campanologists beginning at 15:00, admission Adults £5, Children £3, including refreshments.

**PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** - will take place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May, at 19:00, (both sessions must be attended), in St. Augustine of Canterbury Church, Sandon Road, Meir. Please inform us of your intention to attend.

**TRAINING AND AWARENESS FOR READERS AT MASS** – First Session: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 20:00 to 21:00, led by Canon John Gilbert; the Second Session: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 20:00 to 21:00, led by Father Rob Taylerson. Both sessions at St. Teresa, Trent Vale. All Readers are asked to attend at least one of the sessions. Details on the poster at the back of the church.

**YOUNG AT HEART** - next meeting Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 14:00-16:00. Legacy talk from Fr. Hudson's followed by quiz.

### 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, Marion Dovey,



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

### Parish Offertory for last weekend:

<u>Meir:</u>	£345.75	of which	£142.50 was gift aided
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£400.68	of which	£242.85 was gift aided
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£126.00	of which	£104.50 was gift aided

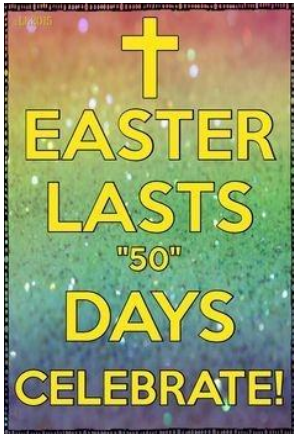
**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !**

*please gift aid, if possible*

Next weekend there will be a Second Collection for the Clergy Training Fund

# THE 50 DAYS OF EASTER

## THE LONGEST LITURGICAL SEASON IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH



**Easter** is the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead.

Most people think of Easter as a single day. It's never had the commercial appeal of Christmas, and because it always falls on Sunday, most people don't get an additional day off from work. But for Catholics, Easter isn't just a day, it's a whole season. Lent, which sometimes feels like it's stretching on forever, is actually forty days long. The Easter season continues on for fifty days, through the Ascension of Our Lord to Pentecost Sunday, seven full weeks after Easter Sunday!

Easter, on the other hand, is all of fifty days long. About these fifty days theologian Nathan Mitchell writes:

"The great fifty days of Pentecost are not an unwelcome, unrealistic obligation to 'party on', even if we don't feel like it, but an invitation to explore more deeply 'the weather of the heart', to awaken our memory of God's presence and power in our lives, to look more closely at all the rich and varied textures of creation."

One way the Church pursues this goal of seeing God present in the world is through the reading of the "Acts of the Apostles". At Masses all through the Easter season, our usual practice of reading from the Old Testament is replaced by reading from the "Acts of the Apostles". These readings tell the story of the Church's earliest days, and the beginnings of our faith's spreading throughout the ancient world. These stories of heroism, controversies, persecutions and miracles all testify to the continued presence of the Risen Christ in the world, through the lives of his disciples, and the actions of the Holy Spirit.

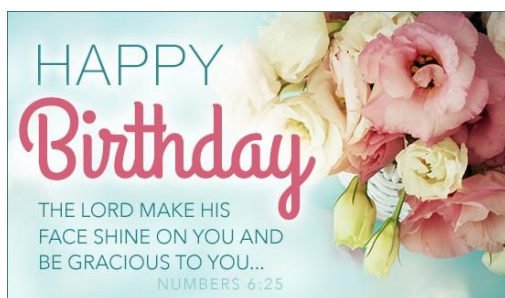
All of this should be an encouragement and a sign of hope for us today. Despite war, violence, personal struggles, and an under-performing economy, God has not abandoned us, nor left us to our own devices. The risen Saviour is still with us. These 50 days of Easter ask us to reflect on his presence, and - even in the face of danger or fear - to live with joy.

For the purpose of fulfilling our Easter Duty (the requirement to receive Holy Communion at least once a year, during the Easter season), the Easter season extends a bit further – until Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost. That final week isn't counted in the regular Easter season, though.

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## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN APRIL:

Henry Gibson, Albert Griffin, Ann Hewetson, Alyssa Oakley, Karyn Oakley, Harry Ridge, Catherine Swinnerton, Peter Swinnerton,




**Holy Mass for the birthday intentions of those listed above will be offered at St. Augustine's Church on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 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
<b>14<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Saturday</b>			18:00 ( <i>Sunday Vigil</i> ) –
<b>15<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>SUNDAY</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER - Year B	11:00 – Betty Walton's Int	9:00 – People of the Parish	
<b>16<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Monday</b> <i>Easter Feria</i>	9:30 – Fr Paul's Dad's Anniversary	9:15 – NO Mass Holy Communion Service	
<b>17<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Tuesday</b> <i>Easter Feria</i>	9:30 – Sean Maloney RIP  <i>Followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour</i>		
<b>18<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <i>Easter Feria</i>	9:30 – Holy Souls	9:15 – NO Mass Holy Communion Service	
<b>19<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Thursday</b> <i>Easter Feria</i>	9:30 –		
<b>20<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Friday</b> <i>Easter Feria</i>	9:30 –  18:00 – <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Benediction</b>  19:00 –		
<b>21<sup>st</sup> April</b> <b>Saturday</b> <i>Easter Feria</i>	9:30 –		18:00 ( <i>Sunday Vigil</i> ) – People of the Parish
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> April</b> <b>SUNDAY</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - Year B	11:00 – Fred and Sue Bridgwood RIP	9:00 – John Gibbons RIP	

 <b style="color: purple;">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 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](mailto:augustineandmary@hotmail.com))