



PARISH BULLETIN

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

1st April 2018

EASTER SUNDAY – Year B

13/2018/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*

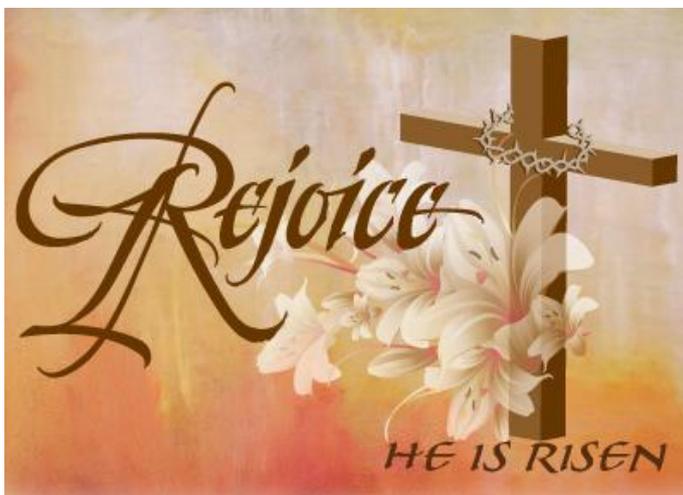
Parish Deacon (Meir/Cresswell): Rev Trevor Borthwick (*retired*)

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



The Lord, almighty Jesus Christ has
resurrected!

May you always be blessed with love,
life and happiness.

May this Easter be the start of your
new, better life.

Have a meaningful and blessed
Easter!

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 12th April at 19:30.

ST AUGUSTINE'S FUND RAISER :

Saturday 14th April - ST. AUGUSTINE'S 'PIG RACE' EVENING. Held at St. Francis' Church Hall, Sandon Rd., Meir Heath. Sty gates open at 19:00, 'They're Off!' at 19:30. Tickets £5 will be on sale for the next couple of weeks. Pigs are also available to buy - £5 per pig per race. Great prizes to be won by the winning owner! Many thanks for the offers of help received. More offers towards food are always welcome. Please do come along for a really good fun filled evening! See Di or Ann or sign the list at the back of the church.

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

ST FILUMENA'S TOTE - winners for February: 1st Prize – Peter McCartney, 2nd Prize – Margaret Cadman, 3rd Prize – Lara Newton. Congratulations!



EASTER MONDAY traditional Men's Mass in thanksgiving for the Blessed Sacrament is at Sacred Heart, Tunstall, at 10.00, the Main Celebrant is Bishop McGough.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY is celebrated on the Sunday after Easter, the Octave Day of Easter. It is originally based on the Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy that Saint Faustina Kowalska described as part of her encounter with Jesus, and is associated with special promises from Jesus and indulgences issued by the Church.

The feast of Divine Mercy, as recorded in the diary of Saint Faustina, receives from Jesus himself the biggest promises of grace related to the Devotion of Divine Mercy. In specific, Jesus said that a person who goes to Sacramental Confession (the Confession may take place some days before) and receives Holy Communion on that day, shall obtain the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment.

Please join us in the Divine Mercy Sunday devotions which will take place at St Augustine's church next Sunday, from 13:30. See details on the poster on the back of the church.

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, Chelsea Burley, Rosalie Summers



For those who have died recently: Grace Britton, Ian Halliday and those whose anniversary occurs around this time.

Parish Offertory for last weekend:

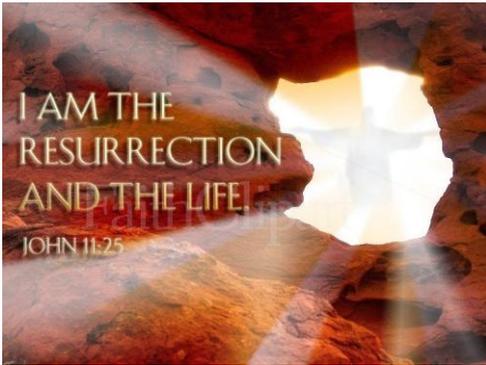
<u>Meir:</u>	£416.25	of which	£124.50 was gift aided
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£502.54	of which	£275.00 was gift aided
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£188.40	of which	£155.50 was gift aided

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !

please gift aid, if possible

Collection during Easter Masses traditionally is for the Parish Clergy

THE MEANING OF JESUS' RESURRECTION



Easter Sunday is special for all Christians because it marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Churches throughout the world will be celebrating this glorious event and believers everywhere will stop and acknowledge the day the world changed forever.

We all know that the life and death of Jesus is significant to the Christian faith, but what about the resurrection? Does it really matter whether Jesus rose from the dead? Even without the resurrection, we would still have all the wonderful teachings of Jesus and He still would have died for our sins. So does the resurrection even matter?

In a word - **yes**. Jesus' resurrection is key to the Christian faith and proves that Jesus was exactly who He said He was. At the basic level, the resurrection shows that Jesus is the Son of God (Romans 1:4), that Jesus has the power to forgive sins (1 Corinthians 15:17), and that Jesus has power over death (Romans 6:9).

But the resurrection of Jesus has other important factors, too. In 1 Corinthians 15:14-19, the apostle Paul lists six history-changing facts that would have happened without the resurrection of Christ.

First, all preaching would be pointless and a waste of time. Jesus himself said that He would suffer and die and rise again on the third day; if that failed to happen, then Jesus would be a liar and preaching the Gospel would be pointless.

Second, the Christian faith would be useless and empty. The apostles preached that to be saved, you must confess Jesus as Lord and believe God raised him from the dead. If there was no resurrection, then having faith in it would be useless and the Christian faith would be empty.

Third, the apostles would have been the world's greatest liars - and scripture would be their lie. If the apostles claimed to have seen the risen Christ but really had not, then they would be false witnesses. And because the New Testament is mostly written by those same apostles, Scripture would repeat those lies and could not be trusted to be the word of God.

Fourth, all sin would be unforgivable with no atonement. Sin would remain unforgiven and we would still be found guilty in the eyes of God. It is only through the death and resurrection of Christ that the penalty of sin is paid and eternal life bestowed to us.

Fifth, death would triumph and all who die would be gone forever. Death would prove to have the ultimate power over all humanity, and all people would eventually be gone forever, including Jesus.

And finally, human life would be pitied and life would be miserable. If there was nothing more to this life, believers could only be pitied. Why? Because we would be guilty of putting all our hope in Jesus, thinking that we've secured some sort of eternal future that is non-existent. In other words, we would have spent our lives being fools, and the teachings of Christianity would be pointless.

Paul continues: "*But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead*" (1 Cor 15:20). That changes everything. It makes our faith true; it makes the condemnation of sin a thing of the past; it makes a mockery of death and removes its sting; and it gives life new meaning.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ ranks as history's most significant event and has shaped the course of history for all mankind. Remember: "*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him*" (John 3:16-17). That message has been the good news for centuries and offers hope, peace, comfort, and love to all mankind.

So as you celebrate Easter Sunday, remember that the life, death, and **resurrection** of Jesus has everlasting meaning for believers and the entire world.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

	St. Augustine's MEIR	St. Filumena's CAVERSWALL	St. Mary's CRESSWELL
31st March HOLY SATURDAY	20:00 – EASTER VIGIL – People received into the Church this Easter		
1st April EASTER SUNDAY Year B	11:00 – People of the Parish	9:00 – Mrs E Barber Ints	11:00 - Patrick McVey RIP
2nd April Easter Monday	9:30 – Anthony Dennison RIP	9:15 – Holy Souls	
3rd April Easter Tuesday	9:30 – Margaret Griffin RIP <i>Followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour</i>		
4th April Easter Wednesday	9:30 – Grace Britton RIP	9:15 – Holy Souls	
5th April Easter Thursday	9:30 – Sisters of Mercy Gravesend Int		
6th April Easter Friday	9:30 – 18:00 – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction 19:00 – Ian Halliday RIP		
7th April Easter Saturday	9:30 -		18:00 – Private Intention
8th April SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - Year B	11:00 – People of the Parish	9:00 –	
 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)