



# PARISH BULLETIN

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

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C**  
**(WEEKDAYS: YEAR 1)**

48/2018/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 Jan M. Berny *OSPPE*

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

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

**Safeguarding representatives:** (for Meir & Cresswell) Rachel Davies - mobile: 07815 647060  
(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*,

Rebecca Perkins - *Head of School*

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**St. Filumena’s Catholic Academy** – Blythe Bridge Road, Caverswall, ST11 9EA;

tel. 01782 392367

Claire Tomlinson – *Principal*



**At St Augustine’s**  
**we pray the Rosary**  
**weekdays after the 9:30 Mass.**

## 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** – Sessions at St Augustine's Church on TUESDAYS at 19:30 (in term time). This course is for those who want to know more about the Catholic Church and Faith. It is aimed at Catholics who want to deepen their faith and for those who are not Catholic who are interested in finding out about the Church & Faith.

**PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** – Attendance at two preparatory sessions is required before a Baptism can be arranged. Next sessions 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> December, at St Augustine's at 19:00. Please contact a member of the clergy for details.

**CHILDREN IN NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS** requiring preparation for the Sacraments and **non-Catholic children in Catholic Schools** wishing to become Catholics. Next meeting Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December following Mass at 9:30 at St Augustine's Church, Meir. For more information please contact Gabrielle Halliday.

**PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP** – meets on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 14:30 at St Augustine's.

**ST AUGUSTINE'S 50/50 CLUB DRAW** – November winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Diane Gillen; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Anthony Jewell; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Terry Moreton. 2019 subscriptions £12 per number now due.



**ST FILUMENA'S 50/50 CLUB DRAW** – November winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – V Pitt; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – S Totton; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – M Littler. Congratulations! 2019 subscriptions £12 per number now due, please.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** – Christmas Raffle Tickets are on sale at St Augustine's and at St. Mary's.

**CHRISTMAS CRACKER II** – Only 1 week to go to our last Fund Raising Evening for 2018!!!

Tickets are on sale in the porches to-day. Please do come along to enjoy a pleasant social evening together.

Ashley's Choir will once again be entertaining us from 7:00-7:30, with Carols and 'Christmassy music' to put us all in a festive mood - which will be further enhanced by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies! Cakes, Crafts, Gifts, Raffle etc., will be available. We are looking forward to seeing YOU on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, in the School Hall.

Donations of red wine/mulled wine, mince pies, cakes, gifts/prizes, crafts, etc., will all be gratefully received. Please sign the lists to indicate what you can provide or see one of the tickets sellers.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**, calendars and diaries are available in the Piety stall. Please send 'religious' cards and keep the true meaning of Christmas.

**ST MARY'S**: Carol Service is on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 15:00; and 'Afternoon Tea' is on 10<sup>th</sup> December at 16:00.

**St FILUMENA'S Christmas lunch** (provided by Tesco, thanks) on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December from 13:00.

**PENITENTIAL SERVICE**: with several priests available for confessions at St Augustine's on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 19:00.

### PLEASE PRAY

**For those who are ill, especially:** Pauline Adams, Janice Austin, Marjorie Birks, Mollie Blurton, Joan Brindley, Eamon Dooley, Leon Stefek, Doreen Thomson, Michele Yon, Betty Walton, Beatrice Wright

† † †

**For those who have died recently** – Sue Brady, and those whose anniversary occurs around this time.

### Parish Offertory for last weekend:

		Catholic Youth Service
<u>Meir:</u>	£393.55 of which £ 99.50 was gift aided	£ 72.50
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£301.33 of which £162.60 was gift aided	£249.11
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£137.07 of which £111.70 was gift aided	£ 30.66

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !**

*please gift aid, if possible*

**STOKE-ON-TRENT FOODBANK:** Thanks to Ken Hartley for arranging collections during the year.

**Urgent Christmas Appeal:** we require: Christmas Puddings, Custard Powder, Chicken Stock, Various Tinned Vegetables, including potatoes, Gravy Powder, Stuffing, Trifle Sponges, Various tinned fruit, Chocolates, Mash Potato, Mixed Biscuits, Crackers, Cakes, Sweets. Please note: **NO PERISHABLE ITEMS PLEASE!**

**THE HOMELESS AT CHRISTMAS:** We require Quilts and blankets, new men's socks and underwear, gloves, hats, scarves, and basic toiletries, shower gel, deodorant etc. These will be collected after Sunday Mass.

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## SEASON OF ADVENT

This Sunday we begin the season of Advent. The word 'Advent' comes from a Latin word that means 'coming'. It's the season that lasts about four weeks, beginning four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. The Church's Christmas season begins on Christmas Eve and lasts for twelve days. So, Advent is a season of anticipation that leads up to Christmas. The Christian Advent tradition celebrates the coming of Jesus to earth through His birth in Bethlehem.

During this time, we observe a season of prayer, and reflection - followed by anticipation, hope and joy. Each Sunday during Advent we light a candle on the Advent wreath. All of the candles are purple except the third (which is rose). The symbolic meanings of the candles can vary but they are often: 1. **Hope** - *expectation of what is to come and sometimes prophecy*; 2. **Love** - *sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle*; 3. **Joy** - *this rose candle is often called Mary's Candle*; 4. **Peace** - *it can often be called the Angel's Candle*.

The colour of Advent is purple. You can see purple used quite often in banners around the church or in the vestments of the clergy. Purple is used at Advent, as it is at Lent, to represent the penitential nature of the season. In fact, Advent used to be known as "little Lent". The colour is a symbolic reminder for us to be preparing ourselves for the coming of our Lord. The third Sunday during Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday". The word 'Gaudete' means "rejoice". On that Sunday your priest may wear rose vestments. This colour is meant to remind us that Christmas is drawing near.

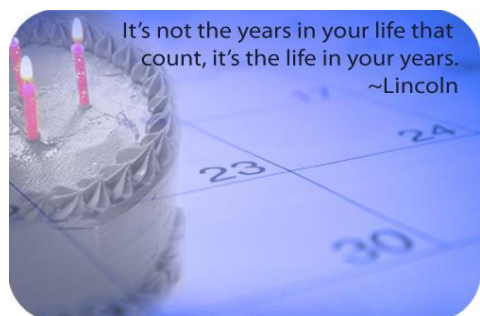
Advent symbolizes the present situation of the Church in these "last days" (Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2), as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The Church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God's past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis, they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the Church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when He returns for his people. In this light, the Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" perfectly represents the Church's cry during the Advent season:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appears.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

\* \* \*

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN DECEMBER:


**Julia Berry, Oscar Bowyer, Andrew Clark, Gemma Foot, Angela Hartley, Ernst Häfefer, Monica Lumia, John Parton, Sylvia Wright**



**Holy Mass for the birthday intentions of those listed above will be offered at St. Augustine's Church on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>1<sup>st</sup> December Saturday</b>			18:00 ( <i>Sunday Vigil</i> ) – Ted Shaw RIP
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> December SUNDAY</b> <small>1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year C</small>	11:00 – David Burgess RIP	9:00 – People of the Parish	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> December Monday</b> <small>Memorial of St Francis Xavier, Priest</small>	9:30 – Susan Brady RIP 12:00 – Requiem Mass for Susan Brady	8:00 –	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> December Tuesday</b> <small>Advent Feria</small>	9:30 – Sylvia Harrison RIP <i>Followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour</i>		
<b>5<sup>th</sup> December Wednesday</b> <small>Feast of St Birinus, Bishop</small>	9:30 –	9:15 –	
<b>6<sup>th</sup> December Thursday</b> <small>Advent Feria</small>	9:30 – Margaret Griffin RIP		
<b>7<sup>th</sup> December Friday</b> <small>Memorial of St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church <b>FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH</b></small>	9:30 – 18:00 – <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Benediction</b> 19:00 –		
<b>8<sup>th</sup> December Saturday</b> <small>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</small>	9:30 –		18:00 ( <i>Sunday Vigil</i> ) – Decease Members of Dovey & Stubss Families
<b>9<sup>th</sup> December SUNDAY</b> <small>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year C</small>	11:00 –	9:00 – People of the Parish	
 <span style="font-size: 1.2em; color: purple; font-weight: bold;">Confessions</span>	<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))