



PARISH BULLETIN

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

16th December 2018

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C
(WEEKDAYS: YEAR 1)

50/2018/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 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*

**When in the church
talk only to God before Mass;
let God talk to you during Mass;
and talk to one another after Mass
but only outside the church!**

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.

CHILDREN IN NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS requiring preparation for the Sacraments and **non-Catholic children in Catholic Schools** wishing to become Catholics. Next meeting *Saturday 5th January* 2019 following Mass at 9:30 at St Augustine's Church, Meir. For more information please contact Gabrielle Halliday.

ST AUGUSTINE'S 50/50 CLUB DRAW – December winners: 1st Prize – Fr Kaz; 2nd Prize – Margaret Stones; 3rd Prize – P. Swift. 2019 subscriptions £12 per number now due.

ST FILUMENA'S 50/50 CLUB DRAW – November winners: 1st Prize – V Pitt; 2nd Prize – S Totton; 3rd 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 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 16th December at 15:00.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE - with several priests available for confessions at St Augustine's on Monday 17th December at 19:00.

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.

CHRISTMAS CRACKER: The recent event at St Augustine's was very enjoyable, although it was not supported by many parishioners. Thanks to those who did support it, those who arranged the evening, donated prizes, baked cakes etc. The sum raised was a magnificent £1060.

PLEASE PRAY

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



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

Parish Offertory for last weekend:

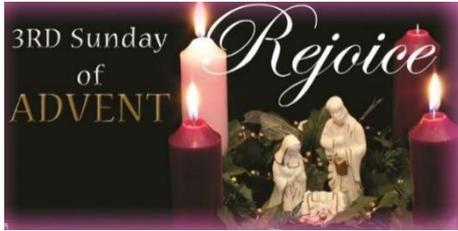
		Poor Parishes Fund
<u>Meir:</u>	£349.65 of which £155.00 was gift aided	£ 76.80
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£318.00 of which £188.40 was gift aided	£158.95
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£141.50 of which £122.00 was gift aided	£ 10.00

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !

please gift aid, if possible

This weekend there is a voluntary Second Collection for the POOR

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The third Sunday of Advent, sometimes called *Gaudete* Sunday, is the first Sunday in this cycle of Advent that really begins our anticipation of the ‘joy’ of Christmas. *Gaudete* means ‘rejoice’ and certainly that is the mood of our First Readings today. In the last few weeks the readings have been centring on the crisis side of life, but with this first reading today, we are told two times not to ‘fear’. God will be with us, he will be in our midst, and we should not let anything discourage us. The final words of the First Reading are joyous and anticipatory: The Saviour who is to come “*will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love*”. This is what we look forward to, then, our renewal in the love of God with the birth of his son, our Saviour. And God is happy about all this as well. God wants us to be redeemed. God’s love for us has not diminished despite what we have done and do to him. In fact, the first reading says that God is singing joyfully because of us. He is pleased to send his Son, He is pleased at our redemption.

Our short second reading again stresses *Gaudete* – Rejoice! St. Paul tells us not to fear, not to have anxiety because “The Lord is near!” And this Lord will bring a peace, God’s peace, which surpasses anything that we have ever known. So don’t be afraid to pray to God and ask him anything, but do it with thanks in your heart for you know He will hear you. Advent, unlike Lent, although at the altar we wear the same purple colour, except for today, is not a sad season, but rather is a season of approaching joy. As we light more Advent candles each week, the light gets brighter and brighter until Jesus comes.

With the Gospel today, three times the question is asked: What are we to do? Such a good question, isn’t it? How many times have we been asking ourselves: What am I going to do? Christmas is two weeks away and I am not ready for it – maybe all my gifts haven’t been purchased or wrapped, maybe my cards still haven’t been sent. What am I to do? Maybe I haven’t had the time to meditate on the Advent themes to prepare myself for Christ’s coming. What am I to do? Maybe I don’t have time for my family because I am working and driving all the time. What am I to do? Maybe I have not been feeling well, or someone close to me is ill. What am I to do? Maybe there are difficulties cropping up in my relationship with my wife, husband or children. What am I to do? Maybe people around us or we ourselves are suffering – from sickness, alcoholism, depression, addictions. What am I to do?

Advent is a time for you and for me to clean up our daily life and acts. It’s all a matter of getting down to the task of doing it first, instead of waiting for everybody else to first change *their* acts. Advent is a time for you and for me – personally. For if I am obsessed by what others are doing, thus diverting the moral spotlight from shining upon my own soul, nothing will change. We must understand that faith and morality are not simply a private matter. We must challenge that nonsense that seduces us with the myth of free market morals. Morality is a public matter that involves us in practicing the faith publicly, clearly spreading our beliefs by our words and actions.

John the Baptist’s voice still heralds the coming of God’s Kingdom amongst us. His call for repentance and conversion remains just as valid today as back then. Everything depends upon what each and every individual does in his or her own personal life. Salvation will not be assured and society will not be changed, unless each individual recognizes the absolute necessity for personal conversion and change.

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

	St Augustine’s	St Filumena’s	St Mary’s
Monday 24 th December Christmas Vigil	18:00	–	18:00
Christmas ‘Midnight’ Masses	21:00	22:00	–
Tuesday 25 th December Christmas Day	9:30	9:00	–
Wednesday 26 th December St Stephen’s Day	9:30	11:00	–
Sunday 30th December Holy Family Sunday	11:00	9:00	29 th December : Vigil Mass at 18:00

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

	St. Augustine's MEIR	St. Filumena's CAVERSWALL	St. Mary's CRESSWELL
15th December Saturday			18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – Neville Mountford RIP
16th December SUNDAY <small>3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year C</small>	11:00 – People of the Parish	9:00 – John Jewell RIP	
17th December Monday <i>Advent Feria</i>	9:30 – Bernard Dockery Int 19:00 – Penitential Service	9:15 – Holy Souls	
18th December Tuesday <i>Advent Feria</i>	9:30 – Janice Austin Int <i>Followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour</i>		
19th December Wednesday <i>Advent Feria</i>	9:30 – Holy Souls	9:15 –	
20th December Thursday <i>Advent Feria</i>	9:30 – Rita Plant RIP		
21st December Friday <i>Advent Feria</i>	9:30 – Forgotten Souls 18:00 – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction 19:00 –		
22nd December Saturday <i>Advent Feria</i>	9:30 –		18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – Alison Harrington RIP
23rd December SUNDAY <small>4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year C</small>	11:00 – John & Jean Jewell RIP	9:00 – People of the Parish	

 <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
and <i>BY REQUEST</i>			



At St Augustine's we pray the Rosary on weekdays after the 9:30 Mass

MASS INTENTIONS – PLEASE HAND IN AN ENVELOPE (WITH SUGGESTED DATE AND CHURCH PREFERENCE) TO A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY

Please send items for the Parish Newsletter by Thursday evening (e-mail: augustineandmary@hotmail.com)