

# PARISH BULLETIN

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

27<sup>th</sup> January 2019

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

4/2019/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*

**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 are 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 2<sup>nd</sup> February 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** – January winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – M. Faulkner; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – P. Heath; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – A. Minor. Congratulations! subscriptions £12 per number for the twelve months in 2019 are now overdue, please.

**ST FILUMENA'S 50/50 CLUB DRAW** – December winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – W. Bentley; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – A. Collinge; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – D. Hope. Congratulations! 2019 subscriptions £12 per number now due, please.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PARTICIPATE REGULARLY IN THE MASS?

One of the most persuasive argument, comes from Saint Ephrem, a songwriter of 4<sup>th</sup> century Syria, who penned a little tune about the Eucharist:

*“He called the bread his living body  
and he filled it with himself and his Spirit.  
He who eats it with faith,  
eats Fire and Spirit.”*

As we share in the Mass regularly, we become ‘fire-eaters’ by Ephrem’s standards. When Jesus said: “*do this in memory of me*”, He didn’t ask to be remembered in a sentimental way. The Eucharist isn’t a locket to wear around our necks. We become what we eat. We participate in the life of Christ, Body and Blood, Spirit and Fire! In a cold, cruel world, why not to visit the fire and then, when you become the fire, bring its warmth and light to everyone you meet?

But we don’t become ‘fire-eaters’ simply by showing up. The Second Vatican Council, in its document the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, states the matter with all due urgency: “Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that *fully conscious and active participation* in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy. Such participation by the Christian people as ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people’ is their right and duty by reason of their baptism” (no.14). Full, conscious, and active participation involves more than singing, praying responses, and receiving Holy Communion. It requires an ever-deepening understanding of the mystery we’re entering. Like any relationship, you don’t get that on the first date or by fading on and off the scene. Our celebration fosters genuine relationship since “it is Christ who speaks” in the scripture proclaimed at Mass., Pope John Paul reminds us in his apostolic letter *Dies Domini* (no. 39). In his encyclical letter *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* he also writes: “The Church was born of the Paschal Mystery. For this very reason the Eucharist... stands at the centre of the Church’s life” (no. 3). It also has a cosmic dimension: “Because even when it is celebrated on the humble altar of a country church, the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated on the altar of the world” (no. 8). **Don’t miss it!**

## 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, Fiona Borthwick, Beatrice Wright



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

## Parish Offertory for last weekend:

<u>Meir:</u>	£348.75	of which	£242.50 was gift aided
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£301.81	of which	£238.80 was gift aided
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£132.00	of which	£ 89.50 was gift aided

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !**

*please gift aid, if possible*

## FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE



There is one more sacred day that should not be lost in avalanche of the “winter holidays”. February 2 – the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord – deserves more attention than just being the absolute final day for the Christmas decorations.

At the end of the fourth century, a woman named Etheria made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Her journal, discovered in 1887, gives an unprecedented glimpse of liturgical life there. Among the celebrations she describes is the Epiphany (January 6), the observance of Christ’s birth, and the gala procession in honour of his Presentation in the Temple 40 days later - February 15. This feast emphasizes Jesus’ first appearance in the Temple more than Mary’s purification.

The observance spread throughout the Western Church in the fifth and sixth centuries. Because the Church in the West celebrated Jesus’ birth on December 25, the Presentation was moved to February 2, 40 days after Christmas.

At the beginning of the eighth century, Pope Sergius inaugurated a candlelight procession; at the end of the same century the blessing and distribution of candles which continues to this day became part of the celebration, giving the feast its popular name: Candlemas.

Joseph and Mary’s presentation of the baby was no *pro forma* event. The words of the prophet Malachi are fulfilled in the poor parents presenting their firstborn son along with their humble sacrifice of two turtledoves. (*Now I am sending my messenger - he will prepare the way before me; And the lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple; The messenger of the covenant whom you desire - see, he is coming! says the LORD of hosts - Malachi 3:1*) The Mother of God - the Theotokos, in no need of ritual purification – and her husband did not set themselves above the Law.

In their conformation to the Law is God’s entrance into his Temple. Simeon and Anna, pious and elderly, having spent their lives in prayer and waiting in the Temple for the Messiah, have their ‘moment’. There is the glorious *Nunc Dimittis* of Simeon.

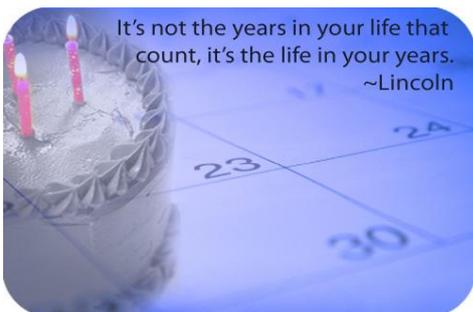
With Candlemas we celebrate the coming of the Light of the World. But a shadow also passes; a shadow foretelling the suffering that will precede the victory of the Light over darkness. Simeon not only proclaimed that he had seen his salvation, but also told the Mother of our Lord that her share would include a sorrow pierced heart. In “Redemptoris Mater”, Pope John Paul II wrote that Mary heard in Simeon’s words something akin to a second Annunciation, “*for they tell her of the actual historical situation in which the Son is to accomplish his mission, namely, in misunderstanding and sorrow. While this announcement on the one hand confirms her faith in the accomplishment of the divine promises of salvation, on the other hand it also reveals to her that she will have to live her obedience of faith in suffering, at the side of the suffering Saviour, and that her motherhood will be mysterious and sorrowful*”.

This is where it starts to get ‘real’, i.e. moving past the holly, tinsel, and jolly carols. The tiny child snuggled in the crèche a few weeks ago is now revealed to be a sign of contradiction. His gentle obedient mother faces a future of sorrow. Simeon asked to depart in peace. What shall we ask of the Lord as we celebrate his Presentation?

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## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN JANUARY:

Elaine Borthwick, Vincent Coleman, Julia McVey, Shelagh Tomkinson, Cathy Wheawell



**Holy Mass for the birthday intentions of those listed above will be offered at St. Augustine’s Church on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 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>26<sup>th</sup> January Saturday</b>			18:00 ( <i>Sunday Vigil</i> ) – David John Wheawell RIP
<b>27<sup>th</sup> January SUNDAY</b> <small>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year C</small>	11:00 – (1) Birthday Intentions (2) Trevor & Elaine Int	9:00 – People of the Parish	
<b>28<sup>th</sup> January Monday</b> <small>Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church</small>	9:30 – Charles Hewetson RIP	9:15 –	
<b>29<sup>th</sup> January Tuesday</b> <small>Feria in Ordinary Time</small>	9:30 – Elaine Borthwick Ints		
<b>30<sup>th</sup> January Wednesday</b> <small>Feria in Ordinary Time</small>	9:30 – Anthony Stones RIP	9:15 –	
<b>31<sup>st</sup> January Thursday</b> <small>Memorial of St John Bosco, Priest</small>	9:30 – Hill & Murray Families		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> February Friday</b> <small>Feria in Ordinary Time <b>FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH</b></small>	9:30 – Harold Williams RIP 18:00 – <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Benediction</b> 19:00 – Delphi Cartlidge RIP		
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> February Saturday</b> <small>Feast of the Presentation of the Lord</small>	9:30 – Betty Walton RIP		18:00 ( <i>Sunday Vigil</i> ) – People of the Parish
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February SUNDAY</b> <small>4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year C</small>	11:00 –	9:00 – Mary & Frank Bassett RIP	

 <p style="color: purple; font-size: 1.2em;"><b>Confessions</b></p>	<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>		



**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**