

PARISH BULLETIN

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

6th January 2019

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

1/2019/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;

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 – Next session at St Augustine's Church is on **Tuesday 8th January 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. [*this week: The Sacrament of Marriage & family Life – all welcome*]

CHILDREN IN NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS requiring preparation for the Sacraments and **non-Catholic children in Catholic Schools** wishing to become Catholics. Next meeting **Saturday 19th 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 – subscriptions £12 per number for the next twelve months are now due, please.

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



CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR THE HOMELESS AND NEEDY - Many thanks to all from our three Parishes who contributed so very generously to the Appeal. Two car loads of clothing, toiletries and blankets, etc., were taken to the Distribution Centre at the Temple Street Methodist Church. The great response to the extra Food Bank Appeal will certainly have helped to make the Christmas Season happier for many of the less fortunate people in our area. Many thanks.

GRATEFUL THANKS to those who are regularly involved in Parish life: cleaners, counters, altar servers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, readers, those who attend to the needs of the elderly, fund raisers, flower arrangers, charity organisers, altar linen laundry, church wardens, choir, safeguarders, health and safety advisors etc. Without the often-unseen work of these few people, our churches and liturgy would possibly not exist. As part of your New Year resolution consider joining our helpers.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR PARISH !

CHILDRENS LITURGY: At St Augustine's we are looking for suitable people to celebrate the liturgy with young children during Mass on one Sunday a month. Training will be given.

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 – Betty Walton who died recently and those whose anniversary occurs around this time.

Parish Offertory for last weekend:

<u>Meir:</u>	£495.35	of which	£319.50 was gift aided
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£	of which	£ was gift aided
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£127.00	of which	£83.00 was gift aided

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !

please gift aid, if possible

This weekend there is a second voluntary Collection for SVP

WHAT IS THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ?



The Epiphany of Our Lord is the Christian feast observed on the 6th January. Like many of the most ancient Christian feasts, Epiphany was first celebrated in the East. The word ‘epiphany’ comes from the Greek *epiphainen*, a verb that means ‘to shine upon’, ‘to manifest’ or ‘to make known’.

Thus, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Jesus Christ has made Himself known to the world, mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi or Kings (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11).

In the Western Church, in the 4th century, Christians began associating the Epiphany mainly with the visit of the Wise Men (Magi, Kings) to Jesus.

According to the Gospel of Matthew, the three men - named Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar - followed the star across the desert and found Jesus in Bethlehem (The three Kings - Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar - represented Europe, Arabia and Africa respectively). According to Matthew 2:11, they offered symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gifts were symbolic of the importance of Jesus’ birth, the gold representing his royal standing; frankincense his divine birth; and myrrh his mortality.

What the Church celebrates on the Solemnity of Epiphany is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation.

Because the three Kings had been searched, they found, and they believed; they were given the gift of faith. Certainly today, one of the most blinding obstacles to the search for faith and truth is secularism. Secularism only concerns itself with the here and now. It has no use for matters regarding the existence of God, the immortality of soul, or the eternal destiny of man. Not all secularists are atheists, but many are, while others are agnostics, and some are even luke-warm ‘Catholics’. Without a doubt, secularism is only one-step away from complete atheism.

The secularist passionately seeks human progress without any reference to the spiritual dimension of the human person. The secularist is only concerned with this life and has no concern with religion. In fact, the secularist attempts to experience human satisfaction through involvement in seemingly noble enterprises that are in essence missing the total picture of man’s true needs. Secularism keeps us from searching for God; it keeps us from finding true meaning in life. Historically, the Catholic Church has never had to deal with secularism until the arrival of our modern age.

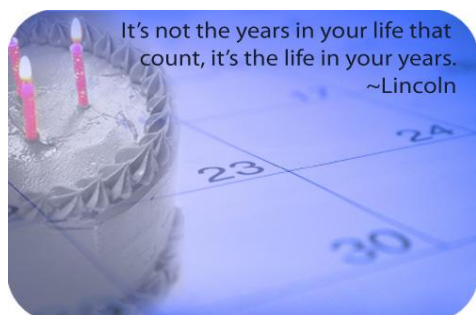
We, Catholics, need to be aware of secularism and not allow it to affect our lives. Sadly, so many Catholics have been poisoned in our days by this pervasive system of thought.

The visit of the Wise Men (Magi) to Jesus reminds us that God is truly with us. Sometimes during our journey, clarity disappears, and we begin to doubt. Let us remember that Jesus is always with us. He is Emmanuel, God with us. Like the shining star, He is present in the Tabernacle, just as He was present in the manger of Bethlehem. The Solemnity of the Epiphany is not only about three Wise Men that visited the manger. Instead, this Biblical event speaks to us about the plan of God for the entire human race: “*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you*”.

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BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN JANUARY:

Vincent Coleman, Shelagh Tomkinson, Julia McVay



Holy Mass for the birthday intentions of those listed above


**will be offered at St. Augustine’s Church on Sunday,
27th 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
5th January Saturday			18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – Private Intention
6th January SUNDAY SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - Year C	11:00 – People of the Parish	9:00 – Private Intention	
7th January Monday <i>Christmas Feria</i>	9:30 – Peter Fraser RIP	9:15 – Holy Souls	
8th January Tuesday <i>Christmas Feria</i>	9:30 – Holy Souls		
9th January Wednesday <i>Christmas Feria</i>	9:30 – Holy Souls	9:15 – Holy Souls	
10th January Thursday <i>Christmas Feria</i>	9:30 – Holy Souls		
11th January Friday <i>Christmas Feria</i>	9:30 – 18:00 – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction 19:00 –		
12th January Saturday <i>Christmas Feria</i>	9:30 –		18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – Private Intention
13th January SUNDAY FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	11:00 – Deceased Members of P. Pio Prayer Group	9:00 – People of the Parish	

 <p>Confessions</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