



PARISH BULLETIN

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

17th February 2019

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

7/2019/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 – 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.

The Rite of Election will take place on Sunday 10th March at 15:00 in St Chad's Cathedral.



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

BAPTISM PREPARATION – at St. Augustine's Church on Wednesday 20th and 27th March at 19:00: Both sessions must be attended by parents before arranging the date of a baptism.

ST AUGUSTINE'S 50/50 CLUB DRAW – February winners: 1st Prize – M. Dovey; 2nd Prize – G. Halliday; 3rd Prize – T. Borthwick. Congratulations! Subscriptions £12 per number for the twelve months in 2019 are now overdue, please.

ST FILUMENA'S 50/50 CLUB DRAW – January winners: 1st Prize – L. Dudley; 2nd Prize – N. Byrne; 3rd Prize – A. Williamson. Congratulations! 2019 subscriptions £12 per number now due, please.

ST FILUMENA - Lent 2019 - There will be Lenten Lunches at the St. Filumena's Presbytery, Caverswall, each Wednesday of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, 6th March, at 12:30 followed by Stations of the Cross at 14:15.

St Filumena's: donations to the Priests' Training Fund in 2018 totalled £524.50, which is fantastic, thank you. If anyone else would like to donate to this fund please see Silvia Wright.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE on the recent meeting thanked 'the team' for the hard work involved in improving the heating system and the lights at St Augustine's. Thanks were also expressed to those who supported their fundraising events. There will be copies of the accounts of all three churches available soon.

However, the committee wants to bring to our attention that, after finishing all the works at St Augustine's and when the final bills are paid, the parish will have a debt of over £30,000. Unfortunately, some people who promised to donate substantial amounts towards the project have withdrawn their offer. It is crucial, therefore, that a Fundraising Committee be formed to make plans for the future. If you can offer any help and/or join this new Committee, please speak to a member of the clergy. **MANY THANKS for the generous donation last week of £100.00 towards this debt.**

RAFFLE AT ST MARY'S to raise funds for a new vacuum cleaner.

YOUNG AT HEART - next meeting Tuesday 19th Feb 14:00-16:00, Med-Equip and Staffordshire Police Talk.

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>	£331.30	of which	£156.50 was gift aided
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£335.52	of which	£217.10 was gift aided
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£149.00	of which	£110.00 was gift aided

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !

please gift aid, if possible

This weekend there is a second voluntary Collection for the SVP

WHO CAN RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION?

The Holy Eucharist (the Holy Mass) is the most important of the seven sacraments because, in this and in no other sacrament, we receive the very Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. Innumerable, precious graces come to us through the reception of Holy Communion. Communion is an intimate encounter with Christ, in which we sacramentally receive Christ into our bodies, that we may be more completely assimilated into his. “The Eucharist builds the Church”, as Pope John Paul II said (*Redemptor Hominis* 20). It deepens unity with the Church, more fully assimilating us into Christ.

The Church sets out specific guidelines regarding how we should prepare ourselves to receive the Lord’s Body and Blood in Communion. To receive Communion worthily, you must be in a state of grace, have made a good confession since your last mortal sin, believe in transubstantiation, observe the Eucharistic fast, and, finally, not be under an ecclesiastical censure such as excommunication.

First, you must be in a state of sanctifying grace. “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup” (1 Cor. 11:27-28). This is an absolute requirement which can never be dispensed. To receive the Eucharist without sanctifying grace in your soul profanes the Eucharist in the most grievous manner.

A mortal sin is *any* sin whose matter is grave and which has been committed wilfully and with knowledge of its seriousness. Grave matter includes, but is not limited to, murder, receiving or participating in an abortion, homosexual acts, having sexual intercourse outside of marriage or in an invalid marriage, and deliberately engaging in impure thoughts (Matt. 5:28-29). Scripture contains lists of mortal sins (for example, 1 Cor. 6:9-10 and Gal. 5:19-21). For further information on what constitutes a mortal sin, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Out of habit and out of fear of what those around them will think if they do not receive Communion, some Catholics, in a state of mortal sin, choose to go forward and offend God rather than stay in the pew while others receive the Eucharist. The Church’s ancient teaching on this particular matter is expressed in the *Didache*, an early Christian document written around A.D. 70, which states: “Whosoever is holy [i.e., in a state of sanctifying grace], let him approach. Whosoever is not, let him repent” (*Didache* 10).

Second, you must have been to confession since your last mortal sin. The *Didache* witnesses to this practice of the early Church. “But first make confession of your faults, so that your sacrifice may be a pure one” (*Didache* 14).

The 1983 *Code of Canon Law* indicates that the same requirement applies today. “A person who is conscious of a grave sin is not to... receive the body of the Lord without prior sacramental confession unless a grave reason is present and there is no opportunity of confessing; in this case the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible” (CIC 916).

The requirement for sacramental confession can be dispensed if four conditions are fulfilled: (1) there must be a grave reason to receive Communion (for example, danger of death), (2) it must be physically or morally impossible to go to confession first, (3) the person must already be in a state of grace through perfect contrition, and (4) he must resolve to go to confession as soon as possible.

Third, you must believe in the doctrine of transubstantiation. “For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself” (1 Cor. 11:29). Transubstantiation means more than the Real Presence. According to transubstantiation, the bread and wine are actually transformed into the actual Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ, with only the appearances of bread and wine remaining. This is why, at the Last Supper, Jesus held what *appeared* to be bread and wine, yet said: “This *is* my body... This *is* my blood” (Mark 14:22-24, cf. Luke 22:14-20). If Christ were merely present alongside bread and wine, He would have said “This *contains* my body... This *contains* my blood”, which He did not say.

Fourth, you must observe the Eucharistic fast. Canon law states: “One who is to receive the most Holy Eucharist is to abstain from any food or drink, with the exception only of water and medicine, for at least the period of one hour before Holy Communion” (CIC 919 §1). Elderly people, those who are ill, and their carers are excused from the Eucharistic fast (CIC 191 §3). Priests and deacons may not dispense one obligated by the Eucharistic fast unless the bishop has expressly granted such power to them (cf. CIC 89).

Finally, one must not be under an ecclesiastical censure. Canon law mandates: “Those who are excommunicated or interdicted after the imposition or declaration of the penalty and others who obstinately persist in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to Holy Communion” (CIC 915).

Provided they are in a state of grace and have met the above requirements, Catholics should receive the Eucharist frequently (CIC 898).

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

	St. Augustine's MEIR	St. Filumena's CAVERSWALL	St. Mary's CRESSWELL
16th February Saturday			18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – Private Intention
17th February SUNDAY <small>6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year C</small>	11:00 – Betty Walton RIP	9:00 – People of the Parish	
18th February Monday <small>Feria in Ordinary Time</small>	9:30 – Inskip Family RIP	9:15 – Holy Souls	
19th February Tuesday <small>Feria in Ordinary Time</small>	9:30 – Mary Chetwin RIP		
20th February Wednesday <small>Feria in Ordinary Time</small>	9:30 – Kathy Taylor RIP	9:15 – Hawley Family Int	
21st February Thursday <small>Feria in Ordinary Time</small>	9:30 – Deceased Members of the Dowson Family		
22nd February Friday <small>Feast of the Chair of St Peter, Apostle</small>	9:30 – Private Int 18:00 – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction 19:00 –		
23rd February Saturday <small>Memorial of St Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr</small>	9:30 –		18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – John Critchlow RIP
24th February SUNDAY <small>7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year C</small>	11:00 – Birthday Intention	9:00 – Arnold Family RIP	

 <p style="color: purple; font-size: 1.2em;">Confessions</p>	<i>Friday:</i> 18:00 – 18:45 <i>Saturday:</i> 10:00 – 10:30	<i>Sunday</i> before Mass 8:15 – 8:45	<i>Saturday</i> before Mass 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