

PARISH BULLETIN

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

10th March 2019

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

10/2019/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.

CHILDREN IN NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS requiring preparation for the Sacraments and **non-Catholic children in Catholic Schools** wishing to become Catholics. Next meeting **Saturday 6th April 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 **Wednesdays 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!

ST FILUMENA'S 50/50 CLUB DRAW – February winners: 1st Prize – K. Burnley; 2nd Prize – F. Campbell; 3rd Prize – L. Street. Congratulations!

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

ST AUGUSTINE'S FUND RAISING UPDATE: To date we have received lump sum donations of £100, £200, £150 & £100 towards the debt of over £30,000. **MANY THANKS.** Fifteen members of the parish attended a meeting last Friday to discuss the situation and a Parish Fundraising Committee was formed. Please support future fundraising events.

THREE PARISHES ACCOUNTS SUMMARY FOR 2018: There is a copy of income and expenditure of our three parishes posted on our noticeboards.

CAFOD APPEAL – We welcome Phil Mayland, North Staffs Deanery CAFOD Coordinator, who is visiting our three parishes to make the CAFOD Family Fast Day appeals this weekend. The Family Fast Day is Friday 15th March.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - Evening of training and reflection at Holy Trinity Church, Newcastle, on Tuesday 2nd April 19:00. All Extraordinary Ministers are asked to attend this important event.

READERS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER - Would those from our three Parishes who are available to read at the Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil Services please sign the lists by 24 March. As in previous years, these will be celebrated at St. Augustine's.

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



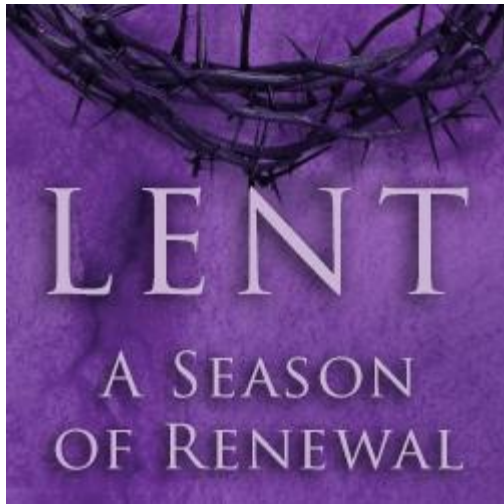
For those who have died recently - and those whose anniversary occurs around this time.

Parish Offertory for last weekend:

<u>Meir:</u>	£277.25	of which	£108.00	was gift aided
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£385.00	of which	£222.42	was gift aided
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£ 79.00	of which	£ 46.00	was gift aided

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !
please gift aid, if possible

This weekend there is a second Collection for CATHEDRAL MAINTENANCE



Unlike New Year's, Halloween, St. Valentine's Day and other pagan holidays that are celebrated by the secular, non-religious world, **the Lenten season** is observed by dedicated religious believers, by Christians.

Lent is the season of fasting and self-denial observed by many Christians in the days preceding Easter Sunday each year. The word "Lent" comes from a word meaning "lengthening days", with the Lenten season consisting of forty fast days as days lengthen in early spring. Since Easter's date moves each year based on the lunar calendar, Lent's dates vary from year to year. However, each year it begins on Ash Wednesday, which occurs sometime in February or early March.

Lent is neither commanded nor implied in the Bible. Instead, it is a tradition that developed slowly over the first several centuries of church history. During

the first three centuries of the church Christians often prepared to celebrate Easter with a "short preparatory fast of one, two, or more days". At about 190 AD the Church Father, Irenaeus, "knew nothing of any Easter fast of forty days" but did mention Christians fasting for shorter periods of time before Easter. These early, pre-Easter fasts were used to mark the time between the death of Jesus and his resurrection, and to prepare one's heart for Easter Sunday.

In the Roman Catholic tradition Lenten fasting has been seen as a form of penance to the Lord for past sins. Christians from a variety of traditions see it as a time of prayer, repentance, and self-sacrifice for the purpose of focusing their attention on Christ and His sacrifice in the days leading up to Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday when people make their way to church to receive an imprint of ashes on their forehead in the form of a cross. "These are to remind us of our mortality and our dependence on God" as well as the sacrifice of Christ, which makes it possible for sinful mortals to go to God.

Forty is a significant number in the Bible. It is a number associated with anticipation and preparation. Moses waited on Mt. Sinai forty days to receive the Law (Ex. 34:28), Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years before entering the promised land (Ex. 16:35), Elijah walked forty days to meet with God at Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8), and most significantly, Jesus fasted for forty days in the wilderness before his temptation (Mark 1:13).

Even after Christians had come to agree on a forty-day period of fasting before Easter, there was little uniformity in how churches counted the days. In Jerusalem Lent lasted eight weeks and people fasted Monday through Friday for a total of 40 fast days. In other places people fasted for six weeks, six days a week, making 36 fast days. Many in medieval times pointed to this period of thirty-six days "as the spiritual tithing of the year, thirty-six days being approximately the tenth part of three hundred and sixty-five."

Today Lent lasts six and a half weeks, with exactly forty fast days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Sundays have never been included as fast days, since celebration rather than fasting should characterize every Sunday - the day Jesus rose from the dead.

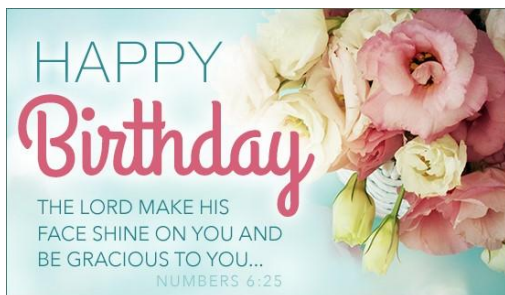
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BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN MARCH:

Evelyn Barber, Kathy Champion, Pam Goodwin, Gabrielle Halliday, Moira Hewetson, Hannah Jagt, Tracy Keeling, Pauline Murray, Mary Owen,

Holy Mass for the birthday intentions of those listed above will be offered at St. Augustine's Church on Sunday, 31st March 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 !**



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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

	St. Augustine's MEIR	St. Filumena's CAVERSWALL	St. Mary's CRESSWELL
9th March Saturday			18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – Private Intention
10th March SUNDAY FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Year C	11:00 – People of the Parish	9:00 – Albert Dawson RIP	
11th March Monday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9:30 – Christine Pyatt Int	9:15 – Freda Wilcox RIP	
12th March Tuesday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9:30 – Holy Souls		
13th March Wednesday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9:30 – Pauline Murray Int	8:00 – 13:30 – Stations of the Cross	
14th March Thursday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9:30 – Ron Torjussen RIP		
15th March Friday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9:30 – Roy & Solly Int 17:45 – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction 18:30 – Stations of the Cross 19:00 – Vincent Coleman RIP		
16th March Saturday <i>Lent Feria</i>	9:30 – Birthday Int		18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – People of the Parish
17th March SUNDAY 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT - Year C	11:00 – Sean Maloney RIP	9:00 – Pat Shufflebottom RIP	



Confessions

*Friday: 17:45-18:30
Saturday: 10:00-10:30*

*Sunday before Mass
8:15-8:45*

*Saturday before Mass
17:15-17:45*

and *BY REQUEST*



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**