

# PARISH BULLETIN

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

24<sup>th</sup> March 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

12/2019/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.

**CHILDREN IN NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS** requiring preparation for the Sacraments and **non-Catholic children in Catholic Schools** wishing to become Catholics. Next meeting **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019** following Mass at 9:30 at St Augustine's Church, Meir. For more information please contact Gabrielle Halliday.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION** – Second session at St. Augustine's Church on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 19:00**. Both sessions must be attended by parents before arranging the date of a baptism.

**ST AUGUSTINE'S FUND RAISING UPDATE:** At the recent meeting to form a new Fundraising Committee, LESLEY POWELL was elected Chair and TONY JEWELL, Minute Secretary. All parishioners are asked to support future fundraising events and are encouraged to attend future meetings – the next meeting will be on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 19:00**.

To date we have received lump sum donations of £100, £200, £150 & £100 towards the Parish debt. **MANY THANKS.**

**ST AUGUSTINE'S 50/50 CLUB DRAW** – March winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – G. Halliday; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – B. Holland; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – K. M. Oakley. Congratulations!

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

**ST FILUMENA** – We have 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.

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

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** - Evening of training and reflection at Holy Trinity Church, Newcastle, on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> 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, Mollie Blurton, Fiona Borthwick, Joan Brindley, Ruth Brock, Eamon Dooley, Teresa Key, Leon Stefek, Margaret Stones, Doreen Thomson, Michele Yon, , Beatrice Wright.

† † †

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

## Parish Offertory for last weekend:

## CAFOD FAMILY FAST

<u>Meir:</u>	£350.70 of which £117.50 was gift aided	£311.20
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£ of which £ was gift aided	
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£101.02 of which £ 55.00 was gift aided	£128.00

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !**

*please gift aid, if possible*

This weekend there is a second voluntary Collection for **CAFOD Disaster Emergency Appeal:** for hundreds of thousands of people in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi affected by Cyclone Idai

# SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

The Feast of the Annunciation is the reason why we celebrate Christmas on December 25. Christmas comes exactly nine months after the Archangel Gabriel invited the Virgin Mary to be the Mother of God, an event we commemorate on March 25. The dating of these Feast Days, although interesting, is of minor importance compared to their theological significance. It is fruitful to reflect upon the incarnation of Jesus Christ in the womb of the Virgin Mary as the antecedent to the explosion of joy, carolling, gift giving, eating, drinking, love and family unity that surrounds the birth of the Saviour. Perhaps Mary had a sort of private and internal Christmas at the moment of the Annunciation. Maybe she felt the fullness of the world's Christmas joy inside of her own heart when she realized she had been chosen to be the Mother of God. God could have become man in any number of creative ways. He could have incarnated Himself just as Adam was incarnated in the "Book of Genesis", by being formed from the clay and having the divine breath blown into his nostrils. Or God could have slowly backed down to earth on a tall golden ladder as a twenty-five-year-old man, ready to walk the highways and byways of Palestine. Or maybe God could have taken flesh in an unknown way and just been found, like Moses, floating in a basket by a childless young couple from Nazareth as they enjoyed a Sunday picnic along the Jordan River.

The Second Person of the Trinity chose, however, to become man like we all become man. In the same way that He would exit the world through the door of death, as we all have to do, before His Resurrection and Ascension, He also entered the world through the door of human birth. In the words of the early Church, Christ could not redeem what He did not assume. He redeemed everything because He took on human nature in all of its breadth, depth, complexity and mystery. He was like us in all things save sin.

The incarnation of the Second Person of the Trinity was a self-emptying. It was God choosing to become small. Imagine a man becoming an ant, while retaining his human mind and will. The man-turned-ant would appear to be like all the ants around him, and would participate in all of their ant activities, yet still think at a level far above them. There was no other way to do it. The man had to learn through becoming, not because insect life was superior to his own, but precisely because it was inferior. Only through descending, only through experience, could the man learn what was below him. All analogies limp, but, in a similar way, the Second Person of the Trinity retained His infused divine knowledge while reducing Himself to a man and learning man life, doing man work, and dying a man death. By such a self-emptying, He dignified all men and opened to them the possibility of entering into His higher life in Heaven.

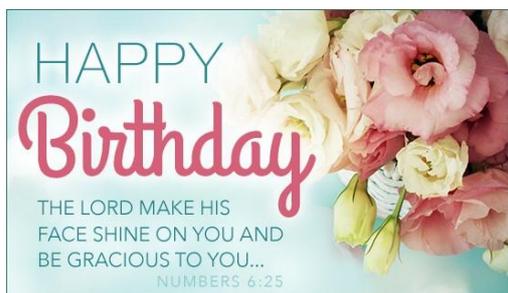
The Church's theological tradition speculates that one of the reasons the bad angels may have rebelled against God was envy. They may have discovered that God chose to become man, instead of the higher form of an angel. This envy would have been directed at the Virgin Mary as well, that Vessel of Honour and Ark of the Covenant who bore the divine choice. God not only became man, we must remember, but did so through a human being, one prepared from her conception to be perfect. March 25 is one of only two days of the year when we kneel at the recitation of the Creed at Mass. At the words "...by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man" all heads bow, and all knees bend at the wonder of it. If the story of Christ is the greatest story ever told, today is its first page.

*O Holy Virgin Mary, we ask your intercession to make us as generous as you in accepting the will of God in our lives, especially when that will is expressed in mysterious ways. May you be our example of a generous response to what God desires of us.*

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## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN MARCH:

**Evelyn Barber, Kathy Campion, Cheryl Clark, Beulah Gibson, Katie Goodwin, Pam Goodwin, Gabrielle Halliday, Moira Hewetson, Hannah Jagt, Tracy Keeling, Vicky McGowan, Pauline Murray, Mary Owen, Dot Ridge**



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

# MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

	St. Augustine's MEIR	St. Filumena's CAVERSWALL	St. Mary's CRESSWELL
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> March Saturday</b>			18:00 ( <i>Sunday Vigil</i> ) – Neville Mountford RIP
<b>24<sup>th</sup> March SUNDAY THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Year C</b>	11:00 – People of the Parish	9:00 – Gordon Piper RIP	
<b>25<sup>th</sup> March Monday SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</b>	9:30 – Trevor & Elaine's Ints	8:00 – Mairead Naughton Int	
<b>26<sup>th</sup> March Tuesday <i>Lent Feria</i></b>	9:30 – Ian Halliday RIP		
<b>27<sup>th</sup> March Wednesday <i>Lent Feria</i></b>	9:30 – Trevor's Ints	8:00 –  <b>14:15 – Stations of the Cross</b>	
<b>28<sup>th</sup> March Thursday <i>Lent Feria</i></b>	9:30 – B Holland's Ints		
<b>29<sup>th</sup> March Friday <i>Lent Feria</i></b>	9:30 – Marjorie Birks RIP 17:45 – <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Benediction</b> <b>18:30 – Stations of the Cross</b> 19:00 – John & David O'Neill Ints		
<b>30<sup>th</sup> March Saturday <i>Lent Feria</i></b>	9:30 – Colin Thomson RIP		18:00 ( <i>Sunday Vigil</i> ) – Gerald Peter Dovey RIP
<b>31<sup>st</sup> March SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT - Year C</b>	11:00 – Mona Valluzzi RIP	9:00 – Birthday Ints	

 <p style="color: purple; font-size: 1.2em;"><b>Confessions</b></p>	<i>Friday:</i> 17:45-18:30 <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

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