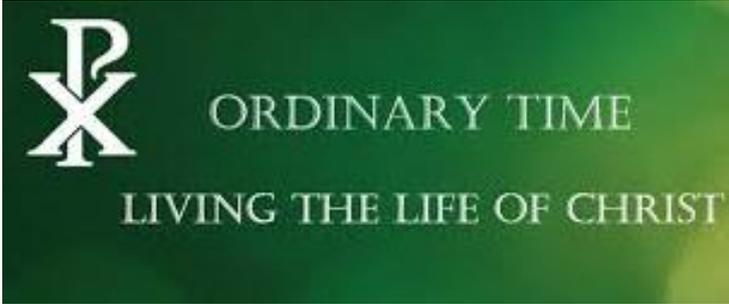


PARISH BULLETIN



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

3rd March 2019

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

9/2019/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.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP: will meet on Ash Wednesday, 6th March, after 9:30 Mass at St Augustine's in the Sacristy. All are welcome.

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, beginning on Ash Wednesday, 6th March, 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 towards the debt of over £30,000. **MANY THANKS.** All members of the parish are invited to attend a meeting to discuss the situation on Thursday 7th March at 18:00 in the Sacristy.

CAFOD APPEAL - Phil Mayland, North Staffs Deanery CAFOD Coordinator, will visit our three parishes of St. Augustine's, St Filumena's and St Mary's to make the CAFOD Family Fast Day appeals on the weekend of 9th and 10th March. The Fast Day is Friday 15th March.

YOUNG AT HEART - Next meeting Tuesday 5th March, 14:00-16:00: Beat the Cold.

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 Gordon Piper, Vincent Coleman, and those whose anniversary occurs around this time.

Parish Offertory for last weekend:

<u>Meir:</u>	£323.70	of which	£137.50	was gift aided
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£278.30	of which	£126.50	was gift aided
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£126.90	of which	£ 82.50	was gift aided

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !

please gift aid, if possible

This weekend there is a second voluntary Collection for the POOR



Beginning of the Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday is always the first Wednesday of the Lenten season and marks the beginning of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption. The atmosphere in the Church is quiet and the observance solemn. People reflect on how quickly human life can pass. All are reminded of the need for repentance.

Why we receive the ashes?

Our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and reminds us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when we are told: "Remember man, you are dust, and unto dust you shall return".

Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

Who may receive ashes?

Baptized individuals who have reached the age of reason. Babies and young children who have not yet received the Sacrament of Penance should not be presented to receive ashes since ashes are intended for those who are capable of personal sin. The observance of Ash Wednesday is intended to lead the baptized members of the Church to repentance and renewal of baptismal promises at Easter.

Tradition

The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the hair shirts which they were to wear during the forty days of penance and sprinkled over them ashes made from the palms from the previous year. Then, while the faithful recited the Seven Penitential Psalms, the penitents were turned out of the church because of their sins - just as Adam, the first man, was turned out of Paradise because of his disobedience. The penitents did not enter the church again until Maundy Thursday after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days' penance and sacramental absolution. Later, all Christians, whether public or secret penitents, came to receive ashes out of devotion. In earlier times, the distribution of ashes was followed by a penitential procession.

The Ashes

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.

Ash Wednesday is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation

Holy days of obligation are either commemorations of particular events (e.g., the birth of Christ or the presentation of Jesus in the Temple), particular people (such as Jesus' foster father, St. Joseph), or important theological concepts (such as the Kingship of Christ). Ash Wednesday does not commemorate these; indirectly it commemorates Christ since it is the beginning of preparation for the greater celebrations of Christ's saving work. Although Ash Wednesday is a day of penance (like all of the days of Lent except Sundays, which are feast days no matter when they occur in the liturgical calendar since they celebrate Christ's resurrection), the Church has never chosen to make it or any other specific day the definitive commemoration of the concept of repentance.

Ash Wednesday – is a day of fasting and abstinence

The Church emphasizes the penitential nature of Ash Wednesday by calling us to fast and abstain from meat. Catholics who are over the age of 18 and under the age of 60 are required to fast, which means that they can eat only one complete meal and two smaller ones during the day, with no food in between. Catholics who are over the age of 14 are required to refrain from eating any meat, or any food made with meat, on Ash Wednesday.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

	St. Augustine's MEIR	St. Filumena's CAVERSWALL	St. Mary's CRESSWELL
2nd March Saturday			18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – Thanksgiving
3rd February SUNDAY <small>8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year C</small>	11:00 – David Coe RIP	9:00 – People of the Parish	
4th March Monday <small>Feria in Ordinary Time</small>	9:30 – Charli Banks RIP	9:15 – Private Int	
5th March Tuesday <small>Feria in Ordinary Time</small>	9:30 – Vincent Coleman RIP		
6th March ASH Wednesday	9:30 – John Murray RIP 19:00 – Marion Pilling RIP	9:15 – 18:30 – Stations of the Cross	
7th March Thursday	9:30 – Gabriel & Meilyn Int	11:30 – Requiem Mass for Gordon Piper	
8th March Friday	9:30 – Syd Vasey RIP 13:00 – Requiem Mass for Vincent Coleman 18:00 – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction 18:30 – Stations of the Cross 19:00 –		
9th March Saturday	9:30 –		18:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – Private Int
10th March SUNDAY <small>1st SUNDAY OF LENT - Year C</small>	11:00 – People of the Parish	9:00 – Albert Dawson RIP	

 <p style="color: purple; font-style: italic;">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