

# PARISH BULLETIN

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

5<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

18/2019/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* (mobile: 07568 239216)

**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*

\* \* \*

**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 11<sup>th</sup> May 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** – April winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – June Day; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Irene Redfern; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Ann Hewetson. Congratulations!

**ST FILUMENA'S 50/50 CLUB DRAW** – April winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – T. Collinge; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – N. Washington; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – J. Berry. Congratulations!

**REFLECTION AND TRAINING SESSION FOR READERS AT MASS** – The Session will take place at St Teresa's, Trent Vale on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm.

When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel. Therefore, the readings from the Word of God are to be listened to reverently by everyone, for they are an element of the greatest importance in the Liturgy. Readers are encouraged to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Lectionary readings and to be able to not just read the reading, but **to proclaim** it as the Word of God.

**All Readers from our three Parishes are asked to attend at the session.** Details on the poster at the back of the church.

**ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH YOUNG READERS** - We are very pleased to have a dedicated group of young members of the Parish who read at our Sunday Mass. Existing youngsters and those who feel that they may be able to take an active part in the Ministry of Reading are asked to come along on SATURDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> MAY for a short Training Session, following the 9:30 Mass. It is very important that the more experienced readers come along too. We can all learn - the adult readers will be attending a Course in Trent Vale earlier that week!! Please prepare the Readings for Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> May, the Fifth Sunday of Easter. If you have not got a Sunday Missal, please ask Fr. Kaz or Fr. Jan for a copy of that week's Missalette. We look forward to seeing you all on 18<sup>th</sup>. The Session will last for approximately 1 hour, from 10:15, ending with refreshments at 11:30.

### PLEASE PRAY

**For those who are ill, especially:** Pauline Adams, Janice Austin, Mollie Blurton, Fiona Borthwick, Joan Brindley, Ruth Brock, Eamon Dooley, Leon Stefek, Margaret Stones, Doreen Thomson, Michele Yon, Beatrice Wright, deacon Trevor.



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

### Parish Offertory for last weekend:

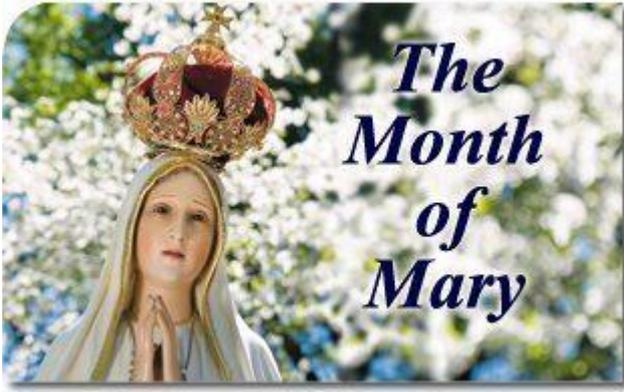
<u>Meir:</u>	£ 283,05	of which	£ 102,50 was gift aided
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£ 267,64	of which	£ 120,70 was gift aided
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£ 149,40	of which	£ 95,50 was gift aided

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !**

*please gift aid, if possible*

This weekend there is a second voluntary Collection for SVP

## MAY THE MONTH OF MARY



May, the month in which the earth springs into bloom (at least in the Northern Hemisphere) and we start thinking about planting gardens, family picnics, and making vacation plans. It's also the Month of Mary.

For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of Mary to honour Mary, Mother of God. Not just a day *in* May, mind you, but the entire month. The custom spans both centuries and cultures, with roots going back as far as the Ancient Greeks. In early Greece, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity. In Ancient Rome, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of blooms, or blossoms. They celebrated *ludi florals*, or

floral games, at the end of April and asked the intercession of Flora for all that blooms.

In medieval times, similar customs abounded, all centring around the practice of expelling winter, as May 1<sup>st</sup> was considered the start of new growth. During this period, the tradition of *Tricesimum*, or "Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary", came into being.

The idea of a month dedicated specifically to Mary can be traced back to baroque times. Although it wasn't always held during May, Mary Month included thirty daily spiritual exercises honouring Mary. It was in this era that Mary's Month and May were combined, making May the Month of Mary with special devotions organized on each day throughout the month. This custom became especially widespread during the nineteenth century and remains in practice until today. The ways Mary is honoured in May is as varied as the people who honour her.

It's common for parishes have a daily recitation of the Rosary during May, and many erect a special May altar with a statue or picture of Mary as a reminder of Mary's month. Additionally, it's a long-standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May – a custom known as May Crowning. Often, the crown is made of beautiful blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue. It's also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives. May Crowning, in some areas, is a huge celebration and is usually done outside of Mass, although Mass may be celebrated before or after the actual crowning.

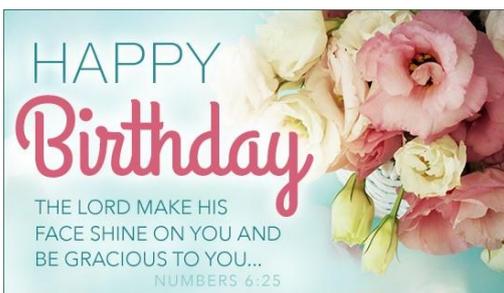
But May altars and crownings aren't just "church" things. We can and should be doing the same in our homes. When we echo the customs and traditions of the Church in our homes – our domestic churches – we participate more fully in the life of the Church. If you haven't already done it, I encourage you to erect a prayer corner in your home. No matter how fancy or simple it is. The main point is that it's a place designated for God, and more specifically, for spending time with him. Just as you need proper atmosphere to sleep, you also need proper atmosphere to pray.

For May, give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother. Make it appealing and a real tribute to her beauty and virtue. Do it because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters. For that, she deserves an entire month in her honour.

\* \* \*

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN MAY:

**Pat Bekalo, Paulina Collison, Molly Crowther, Lola Davies, Lucy Greenhow, Moira Greenhow, Catherine Häferer, Zachary Johnson, Anthony Jewell, Doreen Maloney, Steven McVey, Isabella Oakley, Len Ridge, Ann Williamson, Betty Williamson, Glen Woolgar**



**Holy Mass for the birthday intentions of those listed above will be offered at St. Augustine's Church on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 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
4 <sup>th</sup> May <b>Saturday</b>			18:00 – Peter Harrison RIP
<b>5<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Year C	11:00 –	9:00 – People of the Parish	
<b>6<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>Monday</b> <i>Easter Feria</i>	9:30 –	8:00 – Peter Killeen RIP	
<b>7<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>Tuesday</b> <i>Easter Feria</i>	9:30 –		
<b>8<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <i>Easter Feria</i>	9:30 –	8:00 – Janusz Gorny RIP	
<b>9<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>Thursday</b> <i>Easter Feria</i>	9:30 – Torjussen Family Int.		
<b>10<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>Friday</b> <i>Feaster Feria</i>	9:30 – Sid Williamson RIP 18:00 – <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Benediction</b> 19:00 –		
<b>11<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>Saturday</b> <i>Easter Feria</i>	9:30 –		18:00 – Elizabeth Stone RIP
<b>12<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Year C	11:00 –	9:00 – People of the Parish	

 <p><i>Confessions</i></p>	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 <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**