



PARISH BULLETIN

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

6th September 2020

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A

36/2020/KS

St Augustine's (for Parish Office): 146 Sandon Road, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent. ST3 7DF; *tel.:* **01782 313734**

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* – *mobile: 07939 205515*
 Fr Jan M. Berny *OSPPE* – *mobile: 07568 239216*

Parish Deacon (Meir/Cresswell): **Rev Trevor Borthwick** (*retired*)

Parish Deacon (Caverswall): **Rev Peter Bowyer**

Parish Catechist **Gabrielle Halliday** – *mobile: 07764 245344*

Safeguarding representatives: (*for Meir*)

(*for Caverswall*)

(*for Cresswell*) **Julia McVey** – *mobile: 07791 364850*

A PRAYER BEFORE MASS

(*by St. Thomas Aquinas*)

Almighty and everlasting God, behold I come to the Sacrament of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: I come as one infirm to the physician of life, as one unclean to the fountain of mercy, as one blind to the light of everlasting brightness, as one poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Therefore I implore the abundance of Thy measureless bounty that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to heal my infirmity, wash my uncleanness, enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty and clothe my nakedness, that I may receive the Bread of Angels, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, with such reverence and humility, with such sorrow and devotion, with such purity and faith, with such purpose and intention as may be profitable to my soul's salvation.

Grant unto me, I pray, the grace of receiving not only the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood, but also the grace and power of the Sacrament.

O most gracious God, grant me so to receive the Body of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, which He took from the Virgin Mary, as to merit to be incorporated into His mystical Body, and to be numbered amongst His members.

O most loving Father, give me grace to behold forever Thy beloved Son with His face at last unveiled, whom I now purpose to receive under the sacramental veil here below. Amen.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

The churches of St Augustine, St Filumena, and St. Mary are open for collective acts of worship.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic we are obliged to follow the National Guidance given by the Government and by our Archdiocese. The most important of them are:

- 1. Social Distancing and Hygiene** – We have to sanitise hands on entering and exiting the church, and to use the ‘1 meter plus’ rule. This means people can sit 1 meter apart ‘plus’ the use of a face covering. Face coverings is mandatory in Places of Worship from Saturday 8th August 2020.
Please note it is face coverings that are required, which may be masks or not. They can be homemade face coverings. It is the responsibility of the person attending church to provide a face covering for themselves. Those with severe breathing difficulties and the under 5’s are not required to wear face coverings. For the adults who cannot wear face coverings the advice is that they stay 2-metres distant from others. Children must be with their families and so distant from others. Face coverings must be used by people in church. After each Mass, the church will need to be cleaned.
- 2. Numbers** – This rule means the maximum number of people who can be accommodate in a church for Holy Mass, determined on the base of the capacity of the church and the ‘1 meter plus’ rule. For St. Augustine’s – max number is **35**; for St Filumena’s – max number is **20**; St Mary’s – max number is **20**. The number may be slightly bigger if there are “family groups” attending Holy Mass. The rule “first come, first served” will be used to allow people into church.
Sunday Obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and on Holy Days remains lifted. Livestreaming Masses are available in internet for those who are housebound, vulnerable and who are extremely afraid of a possible risk of infection.
- 3. Liturgy** – There will be a number of changes to how Holy Mass will be celebrated.
- 4. Stewards – Volunteers** will help people enter and leave the church for Mass and help, if necessary, while in the church. Please obey their instructions and show them your respect and gratitude. **We desperately need volunteers from each Parish to help regularly clean the churches.** Volunteers – please contact a member of the parish clergy.
- 5. Recording Worshippers for Track and Trace** – You may be aware that the Government have asked places of worship to collate information of worshippers to assist track and trace. At present this is **OPTIONAL** for our churches and all places of worship.

PLEASE PRAY

For those who are ill, especially: Pauline Adams, Janice Austin, Fiona Borthwick, Joan Brindley, Pat Bromfield, Egidio Coronato, Eamon Dooley, Pat Porter, Leon Stefek, Lisa Swift, Pauline Tranter, Michele Yon, Evelyn Young, Teresa Wilcox, Beatrice Wright.



For those who have died recently: Janet Meakin, Doreen Thomson, Winifred Hilda Booth – the victims of the coronavirus, and those whose anniversary occurs around this time.

FUNERAL – Late Mrs Winifred Booth’s funeral will take place at St Augustine’s on Tuesday 15th September at 10:30.

Parish Offertory for last weekend:

<u>Meir:</u>	£298.00	of which	£157.00	was gift aided
<u>Caverswall:</u>	£261.00	of which	£195.00	was gift aided
<u>Cresswell:</u>	£180.00	of which	£150.00	was gift aided

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !

please gift aid, if possible

ST AUGUSTINE’S 50/50 CLUB

August winners: 1st Prize – M. Owen; 2nd Prize – M. Evans; 3rd Prize – D. Downes. Congratulations!

New members are needed please. Subscriptions, please pay Albert. 50% of subs goes to church funds, 50% to monthly prizes.

The three draws missed due to Covid-19 will be added as March, April and May 2021.

ST FILUMENA’S 50/50 CLUB

August winners: 1st Prize – V. Pitt; 2nd Prize – L. Wilson; 3rd Prize – A. Williamson. Congratulations!

March, April, May and June contributions that weren't drawn, due to the lockdown, will be kept for 2021. New members can join now for 6 months £6 for July-December 2020. Cheques are accepted and made payable to St Filumena’s Fund. If placed in an envelope, with your name & contact number and given to a member of the clergy, Glenis will collect it.

NATIVITY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



Jesus' saving work is the reason we celebrate the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. For it is through Mary's birth, her life, her consent to God's plan, that our redemption has been accomplished. The Church celebrates with a special feast the birth of only three people, that of John the Baptist, that of Mary and that of Jesus. All these festivities direct our attention to God's desire to bring us to salvation.

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The September 8th date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal *Protoevangelium of James* fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child who will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story, like many biblical counterparts, stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

September is wondrous time of year. The weather can still be perfect. The grass is lush. If you go to a farmer's market, the fruits and vegetables are at their peak. This is the last gasp before autumn and the harvest. Right now, summer has given everything it can, and just can't contain itself anymore. And yet. In the middle of that – at this blessed moment in the calendar – God gave us Mary.

How beautiful to realize that the mother of our Saviour came into the world when the earth was at its richest. One of the first prayers we all learn, the *Hail Mary*, speaks of Christ as the "*fruit of thy womb*". It's only fitting that the One who bore that fruit came into the world during this time, when nature is giving forth so much.

The Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary begins a unique octave devoted to the Blessed Mother. In the middle of the next eight days, we will celebrate the feast of the Holy Name of Mary. And at the end, we will celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows.

This is a period of special devotion to the Mother of God. We pray in thanksgiving for all that has come to us, and all that is yet to come. We pray for solace and for protection for our Church and our country. As we marvel at what September brings us let us say a prayer which Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (an American poet and educator) wrote:

*The morrow was a bright September morn;
The earth was beautiful as if new-born;
There was that nameless splendour everywhere,
That wild exhilaration in the air.*

That is September. And into this comes Mary, the woman who gave the world something surpassing that "nameless splendour" and "wild exhilaration". She gave us Emmanuel.


Because of this one obedient, beautiful, faithful woman, we are redeemed. Because of Mary, we are not alone. Because of Mary... "Emmanuel" – *God is with us!*

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'ABORTION REVERSAL PILL – A SECOND CHANCE TO CHOOSE'. Saturday 19th September 3-4pm (prompt start). Come and hear Dr Eileen Reilly gynaecologist/obstetrician explain more about the abortion reversal pill and how you can help promote it. Join us in the Upper Cloister Room of the Birmingham Oratory. For further info contact Isabel on 07773 501721, izzyvs@gmail.com. See also the poster at the back of the church.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

	St. Augustine's MEIR	St Filumena's CAVERSWALL	St Mary's CRESSWELL
5th September Saturday	18:00 – Arnold Family Int		17:00 – People of St Mary's Parish
6th September 23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year A	11:00 – Irene Redfern RIP	9:00 – People of the Parish	
7th September Monday <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30 – Private Int	9:30 – Pat Heritage RIP	
8th September Tuesday <i>Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9:30 – Albert Griffin Snr RIP		
9th September Wednesday <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30 – Holy Souls 19:00 – TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS	9:30 – Mr & Mrs B Wilcox	
10th September Thursday <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30 – Janet Meakin RIP		
11th September Friday <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30 – Special Intention 18:00 – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction 19:00 – Bryan Family Int		
12th September Saturday <i>Memorial of the Holy Name of Mary or Memorial of Our Lady on Saturday</i>	9:30 – 18:00 – Janet Meakin RIP		17:00 – Emilie McVey RIP
13th September 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year A	11:00 – Winnie Booth RIP	9:00 – People of the Parish	

 Confession	<i>Wednesday:</i> 18:00-18:45 <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> 16:15-16:45
	and BY REQUEST		

MASS INTENTIONS
PLEASE HAND IN AN ENVELOPE
TO A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY