

*SAINT AUGUSTINE
OF ENGLAND
CATHOLIC CHURCH*

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This Parish is part of Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered charity No. 234216



Fr Dominic Kavanagh Fr Paul Devaney Deacon Kevin O'Connor

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B December 17th 2017

Dear Parishioners,

'Be happy at all times! Happiness is our birthright as Christians. We give thanks to God for His Spirit who lives in us and makes us aware of our wonderful mission in spreading the good news of man's redemption. The Spirit brings us deep peace because the God who calls us will not fail us.' (Pope John Sunday Missal.)

The baptismal preparation evenings for January will take place on 4th and 11th January at 8pm in the Presbytery. All are welcome.

There is Pastoral Letter this weekend from Archbishop Bernard. Copies are available in both porches. **We offer our prayerful congratulations** to Matthew Blake and Fayth Cannan who are to be married at Saint Augustine's this Saturday, December 16th, at 3pm.

We welcome St Peter's Sixth Form to our morning Mass on Monday 18th December.

We have a Penance Service this Wednesday, December 20th, at 7pm in Church. Father Gerardo will be here to help with Confessions. The Service will include Hymns, Readings, an examination of conscience and Individual Confessions. There will be free car-parking in the lower level of the Dominion Car Park. **St Thomas More's Parish** in Sheldon are holding their Penance Service on Monday 18th at 7pm. **This Tuesday evening**, December 19th at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall we have Carols by Candlelight. It is in aid of HCPT Oxford. Please come and join us for an evening of Carols and high jinks, mince pies and mulled wine!! £5.00 per person.

To assist in planning please contact Marie on [01217058421](tel:01217058421) A warm festive welcome awaits you. **We are pleased to inform you that the Parish** has a new website up and running. This is thanks to the work of Bob and Bobby Ryder. We hope that you will find it helpful. Please advise us if you notice anything that would enhance the website or any changes that need to be made. One of the benefits is that when, for example, a new link is placed in the Newsletter, you can go directly to the website, by clicking on the link. (We hope!)

WELCOME to Bishop Robert Byrne who will be joining us for the 8pm Carols and readings and 8.30pm. Mass on Christmas Eve. There will be free car-parking in the lower level of the Dominion Car Park. **The First Mass of Christmas** will be 4pm on Sunday 24th December; there will be Carols at 8pm followed by Mass at 8.30pm. Christmas Day 9am and 11am Masses. Confessions on Saturday 23rd December will begin at 10.30am until Noon.

<p>16th December Saturday</p>	<p>Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28 12.30pm Tom Brennan-RIP Sarah Dennison-RIP Kevin Grant-RIP 3.00pm Wedding Matthew Blake & Fayth Cannan</p>	<p>Confession/Exposition 11.00-12.00 Noon Tea/Coffee available after 12.30pm Mass</p>
<p>17th December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> 	<p>Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28 9.00am Jing & Yukyo- Intention 11.00am Susan & Ben Kiernan-RIP</p>	<p>Tea/Coffee available after 9.00am and 11.00am Masses</p>
<p>18th December Monday Advent Feria</p>	<p>Jeremiah 23:5-8 Matthew 1:18-24 9.35am The Rosary 10.00am Kevin Basset-Poorly</p>	<p>Pre-School 9.30am-12.30pm Journey in faith Meeting after 10am Mass</p>
<p>19th December Tuesday Advent Feria</p>	<p>Judges 13:2-7,24-25 Luke 1:5-25 9.35am The Rosary 10.00am Frances Bigby-Get Well Clarke Family</p>	<p>Legion of Mary 6.15pm Youth Group 7pm 7.30pm Carols by Candlelight</p>
<p>20th December Wednesday Advent Feria</p>	<p>Isaiah 7:10-14 Luke 1:26-38 9.35am The Rosary 10.00am Richard Lambe-RIP Pauline & Sean Gallagher-RIP 7.00pm Penance Service</p>	<p>Parents & Toddlers Group Rainbows 4.30pm-5.30pm Brownies 5.45pm-7.30pm</p>
<p>21st December Thursday Advent Feria St Peter Canisius</p>	<p>Song of Song 2:8-14 OR Zephaniah 3:14-18 Luke 1:39-45 12.05pm The Rosary 12.30pm Patrick, Maureen, Martin O'Donnell-RIP Hazel Taylor-RIP Shields Family</p>	<p>Exposition 12.05-12.30pm</p>
<p>22nd December Friday Advent Feria</p>	<p>1 Samuel 1:24-28 Luke 1:46-56 9.35am The Rosary 10.30am Requiem Janet Dodman-RIP 6.30pm Daniel Brosnan-RIP</p>	<p>Exposition after 10am Mass until 12.30pm Holy Hour 5.15pm-6.15pm Followed by Mass at 6.30pm</p>
<p>23rd December Saturday Advent Feria</p>	<p>2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38 12.30pm Zigfred & Vanda Cettler-RIP Eugene McDonnell-RIP Deceased Members of the O'Callaghan Family</p>	<p>Confession/Exposition 10.30am-12.00 Noon Tea/Coffee available after 12.30pm Mass</p>
<p>24th December Fourth Sunday in Advent Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</p> 	<p>2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38 9.00am Eileen & Maurice Long-RIP 11.00am All People of the Parish</p>	<p>Tea/Coffee after 9am and 11am Masses</p>

Offertory Collection last week: £943:50 (Gift Aid £231:50 Loose 712:00)

Second collection last weekend: Poor Parishes of the Diocese-£601:51

The Catholic Union Of Great Britain- Urgent assistance needed to sign online letter to Secretary of State for Education. The government may be about to renege on its manifesto commitment to remove the 50 % cap on Catholic admissions to Free Schools. It appears that lobbying and letters to MPs have not worked. The bishops have therefore put an online letter on their website which all Catholics are asked to consider signing. It takes around 3 minutes. Follow the link: <http://cbcew.org.uk/education-cap> and then follow the two steps.

Carols by Candlelight: Our festive treat returns!! In aid of the HCPT Oxford: Tuesday, 19 December 2017; 7.30 p.m. Parish Hall. Please come and join us for an evening of carols and high jinks, mince pies and mulled wine!! £5.00 per person. To assist in our planning, please contact Maria asap on 0121 705 8421 to reserve your spot. A warm festive welcome awaits!

What can religious couples do when their desire for the gift of a child is left wanting? So much of what is on offer in reproductive medicine puts couples in conflict with their treasured Faith. At Life FertilityCare we show that integration between Faith and medicine is possible. In fact it's better. As manager Ira Winter says: "Working with nature will always triumph over bypassing nature. NaProTechnology is not a quick fix, but it is a true fix. The couples really appreciate that they remain the co-creators with God and the child remains a gift of God within the marital union." To find out more see www.lifefertilitycare.co.uk or contact Life FertilityCare on 01926834654

A Lifeline for Marriages Is your marriage stressed, unloving, cold? Do you want to improve your communication? Have you separated, divorced, or are you thinking of doing so? Do you want to try again? The Retrouvaille programme may be just what you need! Next programme commences with a weekend 16th– 18th March 2018 Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire For Further information Or Future Programmes Contact Frances and Michael Tel or Text 0788 7296983. Julie and Gearoid Tel or Text 0797 3380443 Email; info@retrouvaille.org.uk Or visit website : www.retrouvaille.org.uk (Complete confidentiality assured.)

CRIB DONATIONS THIS YEAR- All donations made at our Crib will be distributed between; Father Hudson's Care, Life, and Friends of the Holy Land.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES- On sale in the porch. £3.00 each.

ABLAZE-2018- 6th January 2018 organised by Sehion Ministries. From 12-5pm at Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way West Bromwich B70 7JW

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND-are organising a Carol Concert at Lichfield Cathedral on Friday 15th December at 7.30pm. For details:www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/fhl-carol-service

Readers this week	Eucharistic Ministers this week
SUNDAY	SUNDAY
9.00am Don Deneny <i>Pam Daves</i>	9.00am Joan & Dan Doyle <i>Joan & Dan Doyle</i>
11.00am Mary Clark Chris Hodrien	11.00am Eilish Duffy Eilish Duffy
Cleaning Rota: for week beginning December 18th for Services 23rd/24th December - C Marguerite Pearsall, Anne hallissey, Julia McGovern, Katrina Hicken	
Flowers Rota: – for week beginning December 18th for Services December 23rd/24th-Chris Docker	

Please remember in your prayers the sick of the Parish

Jayne Hemming	Brian Jones	Anne White	Joseph Lockington
Clare Farmer	James Farmer	Kathleen McLoughlin	Martha Sheridan
Patricia Jones	Eilish Duffy	Mick Green	Andrew Simpson
Bernadette Day	Patrick Gallagher	Richard Bird	Russell
Christopher Browne	Kate McAvinney	Sarah Maloney	John Balder
Ann Marie Boyd	Kathy Stead	Amando Tenorio	Heath Balder
Maureen McLoughlin	Louisa and Nick	Margaret Kelly	Teresa Farrelley
Joseph Farmer	Peggy Roper	Therese Coulton	Betty Grealey
Baby Lily Day	Rose Walsh	Aidan, Patrick and Michael O'Donnell	Norman Hart
Martine and Rita McDonnell	Raymond Shenstone	Cornelius Callanan	Doreen Shirley
Sally & Maddy	John Keaney	Glen Hughes	Finbarr Herron
Susanna Gordon	Mark Andrew Sutton	David Nunan	Angela Duffy
Dean	Gavin Jones	Baby Lara Constantinou	Tony Duffy
Suzanne RhodenTench			

Mary's Christmas Dream

Joseph, I had a dream last night and in it people were having a birthday party for our Son, but I didn't understand it.

In my dream people had been preparing for the party for many weeks beforehand, they decorated the house with lovely red berried holly and tinsel, they went shopping and bought new clothes and they bought elaborate gifts. But I found it strange that these presents were not for our Son but for themselves.

They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and placed them under a tree, which they called a Christmas tree, I did think that this must be in memory of our Son. They'd decorated the tree with all sorts of coloured decorations. The branches were covered with sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on the top of the tree; it looked like a protective angel. I must say I thought it was beautiful especially as it was in honour of our Son.

Everyone was laughing and happy. They were so excited and at first I thought it was excitement for our Son's birthday, but in all the celebrations I found it strange that they never mentioned his name. How can you have a birthday celebration when the little child whose birthday it is, is never mentioned?

I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this party he would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful Joseph and everyone was so full of cheer, but it made me cry for our little Son that he wasn't even mentioned at his own birthday party.

I'm glad it was only a dream Joseph! It would be terrible if it had been real!



Please pray for: Janet Dodman (Requiem Friday 22nd December, 10.30am; Reception Thursday 21st 6.30pm) and Michael Finnegan (Requiem Erdington Abbey, Tuesday 19th December, 11am; Reception, Monday 18th December, 6pm) who died recently. Also Ellen Dickinson, Patrick Brennan, Patrick Thomas Kelly, Elizabeth Morgan, Damien Peter Crow, Dymphna McDermott, Ronald William Manton, and Mary Bernadette Theresa Turner whose anniversaries are at this time:

Safe Guarding Representatives are: Anne Ryder 0121 705 3067 anne.ryder@staugustinesolihull.org.uk
Teresa Cund 0121 733 2143