

*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**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B    December 24th 2017**

**Dear Parishioners,**

**'Mary, you have won God's favour.** God is forever faithful to His promises. From the time of David right up to the birth of Jesus there is no doubting that God is with His people. That which is hidden for endless ages is revealed in Jesus Christ who is the Son of the Virgin Mary.' (Pope Saint John Sunday Missal.)

**We look forward to celebrating** the Feast of Christ's birth with you and to welcoming visitors and friends to the Christmas Masses. We are particularly pleased to welcome our Children's Choir to the 4.00pm Mass and to welcome Bishop Robert and his parents to the 8pm Carols and Readings and to the 8.30pm Mass, on Christmas Eve.

**Thank you to each** and everyone for your help in preparing for the Christmas celebrations and for your prayerful and practical help. There will be a fuller thank you in next week's Newsletter.

**A Christmas edition** of the 'Augustinian' is available in both porches- price £1. Thank you to Gerard Burgess for his work as editor of the magazine.

The baptismal preparation evenings in January will take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm in the Presbytery. All are welcome.

The Week of Prayer for the Unity of Christians will take place between 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018. On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 6.30pm at Christ Church, on the Warwick Road, there will be a Christian Unity Service. Archbishop Bernard Longley will preach at this Service. Do please come along to pray with our Christian brothers and sisters.

Thank you to those who came to support the 'Carols by Candlelight', which raised £220 for the HCPT Oxford. It was a delightful evening and special thanks to Marie Watts and Libby Service.


We hope that you may have had an opportunity to look at our new website. We are grateful to Mr Bob Ryder and his son Bobby for setting up the new website. We would value any comments or suggestions.

We are having to replace the two boilers which serve the Church and the one which serves the flat, all of which are about 40 years old. At the moment we are obtaining quotes for new boilers. We will keep you up to date on our progress.

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

<p>23rd December Saturday <i>Advent Feria</i></p>	<p>2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12    Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38 12.30pm Zigfred &amp; Vanda Cettler-RIP Eugene McDonnell-RIP Deceased Members of the O'Callaghan Family</p>	<p>Confession/Exposition 11.00-12.00 Noon Tea/Coffee available after 12.30pm Mass</p>
<p>24th December Fourth Sunday in Advent <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i></p>	<p>2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12    Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38 9.00am Eileen &amp; Maurice Long-RIP 11.00am All People of the Parish</p>	<p>Tea/Coffee available after 9.00am and 11.00am Masses</p>
	<p>Isaiah 9:1-7    Titus 2:11-14    Luke 2:1-14 4.00pm Deceased Members of the Reynold Family Deceased Members of the Mullen Family 8.00pm Carols and Readings Isaiah 9:1-7    Titus 2:11-14    Luke 2:1-14 8.30pm All People of the Parish Catherine, Thomas &amp; Frances Anne Kelly-RIP Mrs Pat Mullen- Intentions</p>	
<p>25th December Monday <b>SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b></p>	<p>Isaiah 62:11-12    Titus 3:4-7    Luke 2:15-20 9.00am Bernadette O'Donnell-Birthday Isaiah 52:7-10    Hebrews 1:1-6    John 1:1-18 11.00am Ellen Shinton-RIP</p>	
<p>26th December Tuesday <b>FEAST</b> St Stephen</p>	<p>Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59    Matthew 10:17-22 9.35am The Rosary 10.00am Anne &amp; Pat McGowan-RIP</p>	
<p>27th December Wednesday <b>FEAST</b> St John Apostle</p>	<p>1 John 1:1-4    John 20:2-8 9.35am The Rosary 10.00am Michael &amp; Josie Carty-RIP</p>	
<p>28th December Thursday <b>FEAST</b> Holy Innocents</p>	<p>1 John 1:5-2:2    Matthew 2:13-18 12.05pm The Rosary 12.30pm Mary Concannon-RIP Margaret &amp; Sheila McNamara-Intention Tony Quinn- RIP</p>	<p>Exposition 12.05-12.30pm</p>
<p>29th December Friday <b>FEAST</b> St Thomas Becket</p>	<p>Colossians 1:24-28    Luke 22:24-30 9.35am The Rosary 10.00am Mary &amp; John Edge-RIP 6.30pm Margarett-Intention</p>	<p>Holy Hour 5.15pm-6.15pm Followed by Mass at 6.30pm</p>
<p>30th December Saturday</p>	<p>Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14 Colossians 3:12-21    Luke 2:22-40    OR Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3 Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19    Luke 2:22-40 12.30pm Jim Kinnard-RIP Tessy &amp; Dasan-16th Wedding Anniversary Kitty O'Sullivan-RIP</p>	<p>Confession/Exposition 11.00am-12.00 Noon Tea/Coffee available after 12.30pm Mass</p>
<p>31st December Sunday <b>Feast</b> The Holy Family</p>	<p>Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14 Colossians 3:12-21    Luke 2:22-40    OR Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3 Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19    Luke 2:22-40 9.00am John Kiely-RIP 11.00am Kay &amp; Tony Perry-RIP</p>	<p>Tea/Coffee after 9am and 11am Masses</p>

Offertory Collection last week: £1,353:44 (Gift Aid £415:20 Loose £938:24 )

Collection for Walk With Me Booklets:

**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.

**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](http://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](mailto:info@retrouvaille.org.uk) Or visit website : [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) (Complete confidentiality assured.)

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 4.00pm Mass-1<sup>st</sup> Mass of Christmas**

**Reader:** Kate McNamara **Eucharistic Ministers:** Chris Docker Helen Brookes

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Carols & Readings**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reader:** Michael Keating **2<sup>nd</sup> Reader:** Madeleine Coburn **3<sup>rd</sup> Reader:** Gerry Coburn **4<sup>th</sup> Reader:** Frank Miller

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 8.30pm Mass**

**Reader:** Anthony Killeen **Eucharistic Ministers:** Angela Keating; Madeleine Coburn

**CHRISTMAS DAY MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 9.00am Mass Reader:** Pam Davis

**Eucharistic Ministers** Anne & Michael Hallissey

**11.00am Reader:** Brian Healy

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Annette Kelly/ Eilish Duffy

<b>Readers this week</b>	<b>Eucharistic Ministers this week</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
<b>9.00am</b> Pam Davis Gerry Coburn	<b>9.00am</b> Joan & Dan Doyle Richard Bird & Caroline McGonigle
<b>11.00am</b> Chris Hodrien Marie Watts	<b>11.00am</b> Eilish Duffy Tessy Nettikkadan
<b>Cleaning Rota: for week beginning December 25th for Services 30th/31st December - D</b> Mary Murray, Pat Ferris, Veronica Naughton	
<b>Flowers Rota: – for week beginning December 23th for Services December 30<sup>th</sup>/31st-Chris Docker</b>	

**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	
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			

## THE INN KEEPER

I had to send that pair away- they do not pay and trade is trade and money too I say.  
And yet that girl-she shivered in the doorway there and once she raised her eyes to mine and  
smiled

I could have knelt I swear  
But some lout made a call for wine and broke the spell  
I turned then from the door and I did well  
Two merchants took the great room overhead  
That's my policy I buy and sell  
And keep my pity for the dead

And yet that girl- that girl- she turned and looked and fairer than before and went away  
As if she walked with emperors and was a queen  
And all the world was hers.

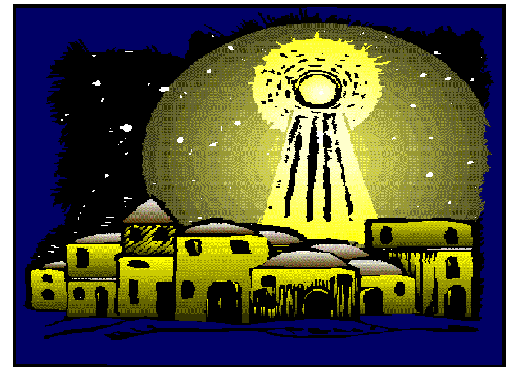
CHRISTMAS

JOHN BETJEMAN

*V6. And is it true? And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,  
A baby in an ox's stall?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
Become a Child on earth for me?*

*V7. And is it true? For if it is,  
No loving fingers tying strings  
Around those tissued fripperies,  
The sweet and silly Christmas things,  
Bath salts and inexpensive scent  
And hideous tie so kindly meant,*

*V8. No love that in a family dwells,  
No carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare-  
That God was Man in Palestine  
And lives today in bread and Wine.*



**Please pray for:** Betty Violet Grealey(Requiem Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 10am; ) and Dorothy Hurley who died recently. Also all those whose anniversaries are at this time: Patrick Spillane,Kathleen Ewart, Joan Handly, Baby Eve Fox, Joseph Ruhan, Doreen Delaney, Lilian Josephine Roe,Doreen Mary Essex, Gerard McVeigh, Gerald Reddington, Mary Concannon,Thomas Kennedy, Helen Patricia Bird, Maureen Ferran, Jacqueline Lemmon and Margaret Taylor Smith

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