

BULLETIN

The Catholic Parishes of

St Augustine of Canterbury, 146 Sandon Road, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7DF

St Filumena, Blythe Bridge Road, Caverswall ST11 9EA; **St Mary**, Cresswell Old Lane, Cresswell ST11 9RF

Parish office at St Augustine's: tel.: **01782 313734**

email: saoc.meir@rcaob.org.uk; website: www.augustinemaryandfilumena.org.uk

Parish Clergy: Parish Priest **Fr Jan M. Berny OSPPE** (mobile: **07568 239216**), **Fr George Wojciech Cieciora OSPPE**

Deacon **Trevor Borthwick** (retired), Deacon **Peter Bowyer**

Parish Catechist: **Gabrielle Halliday** (mobile: 07764 245344)

Safeguarding representatives: **Julia McVey** sg.stmary.cresswell@rcaob.org.uk

2nd March 2025

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

9/2025



Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. (Psalm 51)

Mercy. That's what it's all about. As we begin Lent, a great place to start is with a better understanding of mercy. Often when we think about

Lent, we think of it with a sort of dread. "I have to give something up," we often think. But if that is our thought, then we are missing the point. Do I "have to" give something up? Well, yes and no. It's true that God wills this and has spoken this practice of self-denial and self-discipline to us through His Church. That is true. But it's much more of an invitation to grace than the imposition of a burden.

Giving something up is really all about entering into God's abundant mercy on a deeper level. It's about being freed from all that binds us, and it helps us experience the new life we so deeply seek. Giving something up could refer to something as simple as fasting from a food or drink. Or, it can be any intentional act that requires a certain self-denial. But this is good! Why? Because it strengthens us in our spirit and our will. It strengthens us to be more resolved to say "Yes" to God on that complete level. Mercy, in particular, is an act of love that, in a sense, is not deserved by another. It's a free gift that is given purely from the motivation of love. And this is exactly the love God gives us. God's love is all mercy. And if we want to receive that mercy, then we also have to give it. And if we want to give it, we need to properly dispose ourselves to giving mercy.

This is accomplished, in part, by our little acts of self-denial. So make this a great Lent, but don't get stuck thinking that the Lenten sacrifices are burdensome. They are one essential piece of the pathway to the life God wants to bestow upon us.

Baptism Preparation – Parents wishing to arrange a Baptism for their child need to complete two preparation sessions along with Godparents where possible.

The second session is on **10th March** at 7:00pm at St Augustine's.

Journey in Faith – Meets at St Augustine's, every Tuesday in term time, 7:30 pm.

For more information contact: Gabrielle. 07764 245344

Children Sacramental Preparation Meeting – For Children attending Non-Catholic Primary Schools wishing to receive the sacraments or Non-Catholic children wishing to become Catholic. Next session is 15th March at St Augustine's, 11:00 am.

Confirmation Class, Thursday 6th March at 6pm.

For more information contact Gabrielle. 07764245344

50/50 CLUB

ST AUGUSTINE'S – FEBRUARY winners:

1st Prize – R. Nunes, 2nd Prize – M. Chetwin. Congratulations!

ST FILUMENA'S – FEBRUARY winners:

1st Prize – A Preston, 2nd Prize – G Woolgar. Congratulations!

Thank you for your contribution to this invaluable fund. I am now collecting for March 2025/26. Please see Glenis with any queries. Thank You

PLEASE PRAY

For those who are ill, especially: Joanne Coronato, Eamon Dooley, Agnes June Jarville, Pat Porter, Dorothy Preece, June Toplass, Pauline Tranter, Beatrice Wright.

For those who have died recently – Denice Culley, Pat Powell, Margaret Mulley, Frank Nixon, Dennis Cuningham, Betty Kay, Marian Dovey, Betty Williamson and those whose anniversary occurs around this time.

Parish Offertory for last weekend:

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|----------|---------|----------------|
| <u>Meir:</u> | £299.60 | of which | £125.00 | was gift aided |
| <u>Caverswall:</u> | £230.00 | of which | £133.00 | was gift aided |
| <u>Cresswell:</u> | £205.00 | of which | £187.00 | was gift aided |

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

please gift aid, if possible

This Sunday there is a Second Collection for Cathedral Maintenance.

The parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Registered Charity No. 234216

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

| | St. Augustine's MEIR | St Filumena's CAVERSWALL | St Mary's CRESSWELL |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1st March 2025 Saturday <i>(Sunday Vigil)</i> | 18:15 – (Sunday Vigil) – | | 17:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – Tracy Kate Beech (Hammond) |
| 2nd March Sunday EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C | 11:00 – People of the Parish | 9:00 – Pat Powell RIP | |
| 3rd March Monday <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i> | 9:30 – | 8:00 – Fr Michael White Intentions | |
| 4th March Tuesday <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i> | 9:30 – | | |
| 5th March Wednesday ASH WEDNESDAY | 9:30 – School Mass – 11:30 – Funeral service for the late Michael Tams 19:00 – | 11:00 – School Mass – Ann Williamson RIP 15:00 – Stations of the Cross | |
| 6th March Thursday <i>Thursday after Ash Wednesday</i> | 9:30 – John Murray RIP | | |
| 7th February Friday <i>Friday after Ash Wednesday</i> | 9:30 – 18:00 – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction 18:30 – Stations of the Cross 19:00 – | | |
| 8th March Saturday <i>Saturday after Ash Wednesday</i> | 9:30 – 18:15 – (Sunday Vigil) – People of the Parish | | 17:00 (<i>Sunday Vigil</i>) – Private Intention |
| 9th March Sunday FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C | 11:00 – Alison Irvine | 9:00 – Deceased Members of the Consall Walker family | |



Confession

Friday: 18:00-18:45
Saturday: 10:00-10:30

Sunday before Mass
8:15-8:45

Saturday before Mass
16:15-16:45

And
BY REQUEST



PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY!

The Rosary means "Crown of Roses". The rose is the queen of flowers, and so the Rosary is the rose of all devotions, and it is therefore the most important one.

Mass intentions please hand in an envelope to a member of the clergy

Church offerings can be made directly to each parish account:

St Augustine's - Acc No **04763483** Sort code **01-05-27**
St Filumena's - Acc No **03392775** Sort code **01-05-27**
St Mary's - Acc No **15628833** Sort code **01-05-27**

Please send items for the Parish Newsletter by Thursday evening (e-mail: saoc.meir@rcaob.org.uk)