

4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2016 – 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A



ST AUGUSTINE'S  
30 Coniscliffe Road  
DARLINGTON DL3 7RG

*PARISH BULLETIN*

BREVIARY WEEK : 2

Fr Seamus Doyle

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Thur/Fri 9.30 – 2.00

Hospital Chaplain – Rev Dc Jurgen Muller – (01325 743029)

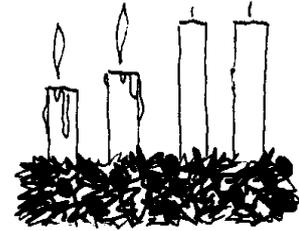
## *Word for Today*

Advent is a time for putting things right if we are to welcome Jesus into our midst. Isaiah paints a picture of a world that can be free from conflict; St Paul urges us to be united in mind and voice; and John the Baptist tells us to smooth out our lives.

The message couldn't be plainer.

# **ADVENT**

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## **ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL**

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 5.30pm they will be holding their Advent Liturgy in Church. All parishioners are most welcome.

## **ST AUGUSTINE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

will be celebrating Mass in school during Advent

All parishioners are warmly invited to join us at our next mass on

***Thursday 15th December 9.30am***

We look forward to seeing you.

## **ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

Will be held in Holy Family Church on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.

## **ADVENT RETREAT DAY – ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL - NEWCASTLE**

**Thursday 8 December 2016**

- 10.45 am Talk by Fr Paul Jenkins O Carm
- 11.30 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 12.05 pm Solemn Sung Mass for the Immaculate Conception
- 1.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
(Confessions from 1.00 – 2.00pm)

## **RECONCILIATION DAY– ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL - NEWCASTLE**

**Saturday 17 December 2016**

- 12 noon Service of Reconciliation with Bishop Séamus
- 12.30 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
(With individual confession until 4.00pm)
- 4.00 pm Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

## **ST CUTHBERTS CARE – ADVENT ALMS APPEAL**

St Cuthberts Care's two Catholic nursing homes provide invaluable peace of mind often to older people with no family and minimal income. Combined efforts from parishes to date have raised just over £17,000 towards our Hardship Fund and your ongoing support is immensely appreciated.

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## **CLUSTER EVENTS**

### **ST WILLIAM'S**

- **SUNDAY DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>** - Carol Service 4pm

### **ST ANNE'S**

will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Church on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December** at 7pm with Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Seamus followed by a celebration in the Parish Hall.

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## **CAFOD EVENTS CALENDAR**

- **CAFOD Quiz** – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December after the Nativity
- **Afternoon Tea and Christmas Sing-a-Long** - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December from 3pm till 5pm tickets priced at £4.00 and available after Mass or in the Parish Centre.

## **FIRST RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

Please remember in your prayers those children making their First Reconciliation here in St Augustine's on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm.

## **YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE NEED YOU!**

As over 600 families will be in great need in our town this Christmas, our young people are collecting toys, gifts and donations at all Masses next weekend 4<sup>th</sup> December to help families who are struggling. Please can you help? Gifts need not be wrapped. The deadline is 10<sup>th</sup> December and any presents after 4<sup>th</sup> December can be left at the presbytery.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY MASSES IN ST AUGUSTINE'S**

Christmas Eve – Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	5.30 pm	Carols
	6.00 pm	Christmas Mass
	11.30 pm	Carols
	Midnight	Christmas Mass
Christmas Day – Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Christmas Mass

**SVP** have launched their Christmas Time Appeal, although they always need and welcome financial donations, they're also asking parishioners to give a little of their time to help others by joining their local parish SVP group. To find out more please contact any members of the SVP Group

## First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobras hole; into the vipers lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

## Psalm

Either: In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.

Or:



## Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following

the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.

### **Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'. This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

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### **REFLECTION – The bird of hope**

Hope is the thing with feathers  
that perches in the soul,  
and sings the tune without the words,  
and never stops at all.

And sweetest in the gale is heard;  
and sore must be the storm  
that could abash the little bird  
that kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chilliest land,  
and on the strangest sea;  
yet, never, in extremity,  
it asked a crumb of me.

(Emily Dickinson)

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### **STUCK FOR AN IDEA FOR WHAT TO DO THIS NEW YEAR'S EVE AND CAN'T GET A BABY SITTER?**

HCPT Group 195 would like to invite you to their New Year's Eve Ceilidh at St Augustines Parish Centre, 7.30-12.30am.

HCPT are a charity who take disabled and disadvantaged children on pilgrimage holiday for a week, in Lourdes, France. This is a holiday of a lifetime for the children and a chance for respite for their families or carers. The children travel in small groups with dedicated volunteer carers and volunteer nurses and doctors. We have now set up a Darlington group 195 to take children from the local area. To reserve your tickets priced at £7.00 for adults (includes New Year's Eve toast) and £2.00 for children. Family tickets also available (2A + 2C for £15.00) please text/phone Julie Watson on 07809 340321.

We look forward to welcoming you and celebrating with you and your families.

### **SVP NEWS**

- Northern Cross is on sale after all masses this weekend
- The Christmas collection for the SVP will take place after all masses next Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Please help us in our work to support lonely and vulnerable people in our community.
- The annual collection for Sudan will take place over the Christmas period. Working with local agencies, SVP has developed projects including baby feeding programmes, medical care and the provision of foster homes for orphans. Collection baskets will be alongside the crib.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

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## ST AUGUSTINE'S PARISH CLUB/CENTRE INFORMATION

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### PARISH CENTRE INFORMATION

To book the Parish Centre : email [staugspc@gmail.com](mailto:staugspc@gmail.com) or  
telephone 07909 747145

Bar Opening Times : Sunday 12-2pm & 7-10.30pm

### NATIVITY PLAY & CAFOD CHRISTMAS QUIZ – SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER

Thanks to everyone who came forward. We now have a full cast for this year's Nativity, although more singers welcome. Just come along to the rehearsal in the Youth Hall on Saturday 10th December at 5pm if you would like to sing.

So, now we have got it together, we need everyone else to come along and enjoy this Christmas favourite in the garden of the Parish Centre at 6pm on Saturday 17th December. Wrap up warm, bring a torch, and don't forget your Food Bank donations of tinned goods, rice and pasta. Mince pies and seasonal beverage after and all welcome to stay on for the Cafod Christmas Quiz.

### THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who organised the recent Beer Tasting, Party Night and Wreath Making Events in the Parish Centre. Thanks also to all those who came along to support. Our efforts raised just over **£2,400** much needed funds for First Stop.

Don't forget to email a picture of your wreath to [staugspc@gmail.com](mailto:staugspc@gmail.com)



**COFFEES AFTER MASS**  
are being  
hosted by Brownies/Guides

### PADDINGTON BEAR

This week                      £16.97

In Bank                        £424.00

Total Raised so far    £31,215.35

*We Welcome Joe Plumb from the*

*Peru Missions to our Masses*

*today*

### CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Piety Shop (in No. 10 at the back of Church) is now selling Christmas cards, books, diaries and calendars, plus Advent Calendars depicting the true meaning of Christmas and all very reasonably priced. Please take a look.

<b>DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup></b>		<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A</b>		
	St Augustine's	9.15 am	Jean Elizabeth Carter RIP	
	St Augustine's	11.00 am	Foy Family	
	St Augustine's	6.30 pm	Alex Peter RIP	
MONDAY	St Augustine's	1.00 pm	Fun. Serv. – Joan Beckwith	
TUESDAY	St Augustine's	10.15 am	Req. Mass – Alan Green	
	St Augustine's	6.30 pm	First Reconciliation	
WEDNESDAY				
THURSDAY	St Augustine's	12.15 pm	Ints. of Our Lady	
FRIDAY	St Augustine's	7.00 pm	Peter Gaffney RIP	
SATURDAY	<b>CONFESSIONS 10-11 am</b>			
SUNDAY 11 <sup>TH</sup>	St Augustine's	9.15 am	Charles Frank RIP	
December 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent YEAR A	St Augustine's	11.00 am	Cliff&Louise Hutchinson	
	St Augustine's	6.30 pm	Kevin McKeown RIP	
THOSE WHO ARE SICK	Please remember Fr Gary Dickson, Fr Richard Harriott, Sister Evelyn and all priests and religious in the diocese who have health problems. Also the sick and housebound of the parish - Joan Foster, Maureen Harrison, Michelle Butler, Anne Kee, Teresa Hughes, Betty Smith. and those looking after them.			
LATELY DEAD	Alan Green			
ANNIVERSARIES	<b>December Anniversaries</b> - Stella Davies, Emma Howard, Thomas Wake, Keith Cowan, Mary & James Courtney, Catherine O'Keefe, Phoebe Pearson, Teresa Conway, Ralph Pearson, Anne Decosemo, Alan Love, Jean Carter, Dennis Beaumont, Erin Adam, John Fay, Francis O'Hare, Moria Griffin, Joe Lyonette, Hilda McCallum, Anthony Millett. May they rest in peace.			
MINISTERS	SUNDAY 11 <sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2016			
READERS	9.15 am	11.00 am	6.30 pm	
OFFERTORY	St Augustine's School	F Ingham/A Gibbon	I Pearson/C McKeown	
WELCOMERS	St Augustine's School	Mrs Whalen	Mr & Mrs Hughes	
	Irving Family	Mr & Mrs Brockley	R Ivanec	
COUNTERS TEAM	(D) J Kilgour/B/Tully/M Knowles/C McKeown/C Springfield			
Sunday Income	27 <sup>TH</sup> November 2016	£ 401.91 Loose	£ 290.69 Gift Aided £363.36	
		£692.90		

Advent Booklets & Calendars available at the back of Church.