

**11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2016 – 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A**



ST AUGUSTINE'S  
30 Coniscliffe Road  
DARLINGTON DL3 7RG

*PARISH BULLETIN*

BREVIARY WEEK : 3

Fr Seamus Doyle

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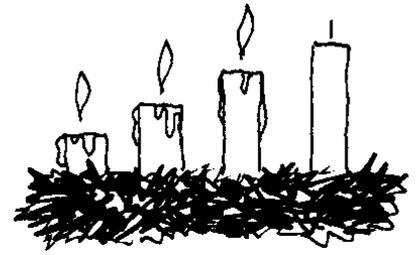
Thur/Fri 9.30 – 2.00

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

## *Word for Today*

Today's a day for rejoicing. Known as "Gaudete Sunday" (from the Latin word for "rejoice") it is Advent's midpoint when we pause to recollect that the coming of our God is something which should bring us only joy. To be a Christian is to await the coming of a God whose only desire is to save rather than condemn.

# ADVENT



## ST AUGUSTINE'S PRIMARY 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.
  - 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.

## 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

### CAROL SERVICES

- SUNDAY DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> 3pm – Holy Family
- SUNDAY DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 4pm - St Williams

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

Christmas Eve – Saturday 24th	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

A box of ***Prayer Tags*** to hang on the Christmas Tree is available at the back of Church. Please complete one and return it to the box.

## 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.

## SVP NEWS

- The Christmas collection for the SVP will take place after all masses today 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.
- **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

*Thank you for your continued generosity.*

## THANK YOU

Mrs Gail Wiper and members of the Inner Wheel Club of Darlington would like to say a massive thank you to all parishioners, friends and families who supported our recent Presidents Christmas Coffee Morning. We raised a magnificent £1,550.00 for our local Hosanna Children's Pilgrimage Trust who take disadvantaged and disabled children on holiday. We would also like to thank the Parish Centre Committee, staff and car park attendants for their help and assistance.

## STARS Pantomime Tickets

Tickets for STARS pantomime, Dick Whittington, will be available in the Parish Centre after Sunday Masses and from the Parish Centre bar from this weekend - prices £7 adult, £5 concession. Alternatively, from next weekend, tickets can be reserved via the STARS website <http://www.starsdarlington.co.uk>

Performance dates Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January, including Saturday matinee



***Copies of The Weavings available at the back of Church***

**First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6.10**

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees  
and say to all faint hearts,  
Courage! Do not be afraid.

Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;  
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,  
everlasting joy on their faces;  
joy and gladness will go with them  
and sorrow and lament be ended.

**Psalm:**

**Either:** Come, Lord, and save us.

**Or:**   
Come, \_ O Lord, and set \_\_\_ us free.

### **Second Reading: James 5:7-10**

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

### **Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11**

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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FORWARD TOGETHER  
IN  
**HOPE**

The combined Partnership Proposal is now on our website - [staugustineschurch.org.uk](http://staugustineschurch.org.uk).

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### **REFLECTION – A reed in the wind**

John the Baptist was no reed swaying in the wind.  
A reed swaying in the wind is a symbol  
of those who are easily influenced,  
who go along with whatever is popular,  
and who have no convictions of their own.  
But the humble reed can teach us something.  
The fact that it is light means that it is  
at the mercy of every wind that blows.  
But it has great strength too.  
The greatest storm cannot uproot it.  
Even when giant oaks come crashing down,  
the slender reed still stands secure.  
Lord, teach us that there is strength  
in weakness and suppleness,  
and give us the wisdom to know  
when to bend and when to stand firm.

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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 (Shared Table).

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.

### **NEEDED Sleeping bags for Darlington homeless over Christmas**

If you have any unwanted (not new) sleeping bags stored away at home we would be grateful if you could bring them to Church next Sunday and they will be collected and handed over to the 700 Club.

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## ST AUGUSTINE'S PARISH CLUB/CENTRE INFORMATION

### 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

Please come along and join us in this Christmas favourite in the gardens 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)

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

### PADDINGTON BEAR

This week	£18.32
In Bank	£442.32
Total Raised so far	£31,233.67



### CHRISTMAS CARDS

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

<b>DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup></b>		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A</b>		
	St Augustine's	9.15 am	Charles Frank RIP	
	St Augustine's	11.00 am	Cliff&Louise Hutchinson	
	St Augustine's	6.30 pm	Kevin McKeown RIP	
MONDAY	St Augustine's	12.00 pm	Eucharistic Service followed by Exposition till 3pm	
	St Augustine's	5.30 pm	Advent Liturgy	
TUESDAY	St Augustine's	12.15 am	Sr Mary Farragher Ints.	
WEDNESDAY				
THURSDAY	St Augustine's	12.15 pm	Jean Wild/Sheilagh Walshan RIP	
FRIDAY	St Augustine's	7.00 pm	Joseph McIntyre RIP	
SATURDAY	<b>CONFESSIONS 10-11 am</b>			
SUNDAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> December 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent YEAR A	St Augustine's	9.15 am	Anthony John Millett RIP	
	St Augustine's	11.00 am	Timms Family	
	St Augustine's	6.30 pm	Keith Cowan 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				
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	<b>SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2016</b>			
	9.15 am	11.00 am	6.30 pm	
READERS	G Wiper/R Frank	M Frank/J Jones	J Owens/J King	
OFFERTORY	Mr & Mrs Charlton	Ingham Family	Mr & Mrs Humphrey	
WELCOMERS	Mr & Mrs Lynch	D Trees	R Ivanec	
COUNTERS TEAM	(A) P Anwyll/C Webb/A Watson/D Watson/J Brown			
Sunday Income	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	£ 405.00 Loose		
		£ 450.55 Gift Aided £563.18		
		<u>£ 855.55</u>		

NORTHERN CATHOLIC CALENDARS ON SALE IN PIETY SHOP - £2.50