

18th DECEMBER 2016 – 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A



ST AUGUSTINE'S
30 Coniscliffe Road
DARLINGTON DL3 7RG

PARISH BULLETIN

BREVIARY WEEK : 4

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Office Hours: Mon/Tues 9.30 – 2.00

Thur/Fri 9.30 – 2.00

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

Word for Today



The spotlight now turns on the birth of Jesus as Mary and Joseph find that their child will be Emmanuel, God with us. In this final week of Advent we seek to see the face of Christ in those whom we meet, to let Christ be born in our own lives.

Deanery Christmas Eve and Day Masses below:

CHRISTMAS EVE		
St Thomas Aquinas	Carols 5.30pm	Mass 6.00pm
St Augustine's	Carols 5.30pm	Mass 6.00pm
St Osmund's	Carols 6.00pm	Mass 6.30pm
St Teresa's	Carols 6.30pm	Mass 7.00pm
St Anne's		Mass 7.30pm
Holy Family	Carols 7.30pm	Mass 8.00pm
St Teresa's, <i>Polish Mass</i>		Mass 10.00pm
St Augustine's	Carols 11.30pm	Midnight Mass
St Osmund's	Carols 11.30pm	Midnight Mass
CHRISTMAS DAY		
St William's		Mass 9.00am
St Osmund's		Mass 9.30am
Holy Family		Mass 10.00am
St Augustine's		Mass 10.00am
St Anne's		Mass 10.30am
St Osmund's		Mass 11.30am
St Teresa's <i>Polish Mass</i>		Mass 12.30pm

CAROL SERVICES

- SUNDAY DECEMBER 18TH 4pm - St Williams
- Sunday 18th December at 4.30pm - St Thomas' Children's Christmas Carol Service

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.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Please look at the notice board at the back of church for the **Christmas List**.

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

Afternoon Tea and Christmas Sing-a-Long - Sunday 18th December from 3pm till 5pm tickets priced at £4.00 and available after Mass or in the Parish Centre.

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 18th to Saturday 21st January, including Saturday matinee

SVP NEWS

- 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.

Copies of The Weavings available at the back of Church

PADDINGTON BEAR

This week	£82.74
In Bank	£25.06
Total Raised so far	£31,316.41



JOB VACANCY

Carmel College – Letting Supervisor 23 ½ hrs per week, evenings and all day Saturday. Details on the board at the back of Church or on their website www.carmel.org.uk.

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above. No, Ahaz answered I will not put the Lord to the test.

Then Isaiah said:

Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means God-is-with-us.

Psalm:

Either: **Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.**

Or:



Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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FORWARD TOGETHER
IN
HOPE

The combined Partnership Proposal is now on our
website - staugustineschurch.org.uk.



BAPTISM COURSE

Where? St Augustine's Parish Centre

When? Wednesday 25th January & 1st February – 7.15pm – 8.30pm

Please let us know if you will be attending.



Contact Us

266602.

REFLECTION – Christmas expectations

As Christmas approaches, people's hopes soar.
However, the substance of these hopes
is often dictated by commercial interests.
Little wonder, then, that when
the sun goes down on Christmas Day,
many feel disappointed.
Those who pin their hopes on what the merchants promise
will always be disappointed,
not because they promise too little,
but too much – of the wrong thing.
What our hearts long for is a taste of what
the angels announced to the shepherds:
'Behold, I bring news of a great joy;
today a saviour has been born to you.'
This joy is the real hope of Christmas.
Let us open our hearts to receive it.

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.

TOY APPEAL

Thank you to all those who brought toys we filled five bag which will make a
difference to a number of families.

***PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO
COFFEES AFTER MASS ON CHRISTMAS
DAY AND NEW YEARS DAY***

COFFEES AFTER MASS
are being
hosted by Brownies/Guide



ST AUGUSTINE'S PARISH CLUB/CENTRE INFORMATION

PARISH CENTRE INFORMATION

To book the Parish Centre : email staugspc@gmail.com or
telephone 07909 747145

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

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the basics of their faith. In short, it was a memory aid. Since the song sounded like rhyming nonsense, young Catholics could sing the song without fear of imprisonment. The song's gifts had hidden meanings to the teachings of the Catholic faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, but it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. i.e. the church. The partridge in a pear tree is Christ Jesus, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."

Here is a complete list of the 12 symbols with their meanings:

- 1 Partridge in a pear tree = The One true God revealed in the person of Jesus Christ
- 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity
- 4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- 5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch" which contain the law condemning us of our sins.
- 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation
- 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments of the Catholic faith
- 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Spirit
- 10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

DECEMBER 18TH		4th 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
MONDAY	St Augustine's	12.00 pm	Euchristic Service followed by Exposition till 3pm
TUESDAY	St Augustine's	12.15 am	Peter & Mary Carrigan RIP
WEDNESDAY			
THURSDAY	St Augustine's	12.15 pm	Joseph Mercer RIP
FRIDAY	St Augustine's	7.00 pm	Mary Rylance RIP
SATURDAY	CONFESSIONS 10-11 am		
Christmas Eve	St Augustine's	5.30 pm	Carols
	St Augustine's	6.00 pm	Margaret Lindsay RIP
	St Augustine's	11.30 pm	Carols
	St Augustine's	Midnight	O'Hare Family
SUNDAY	St Augustine's	10.00 am	Kathleen & Hugh Tinney RIP
Christmas Day YEAR A		6.30 pm	NO MASS
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	James Christey		
ANNIVERSARIES	December Anniversaries - 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 25 TH DECEMBER 2016		
READERS	AS PER LIST	AS PER LIST	AS PER LIST
OFFERTORY			
WELCOMERS			
COUNTERS TEAM (B)			
Sunday Income	11 th December 2016	£ 390.64	Loose
		£ 291.33	Gift Aided £364.16
		£ 681.97	