

Hogarth Partnership

bringing together the parishes of
St Teresa's, St Anne's, St Williams
(Fr Greg Price, tel. 257681)
St Thomas Aquinas, Holy Family
(Fr Kevin Dixon, tel. 463636)
St Osmund's, St Mary's
(Fr Thomas Mason, tel. 01833 631457)
and the chaplaincy of the Memorial Hospital
(Mrs Carol Moody, tel. 01325743029)

With

St Augustine's

30, Coniscliffe Road,
Darlington. DL3 7RG
Tel. 01325 266602

Email: info@staugustineschurch.org.uk

Website: www.staugustineschurch.org.uk

For all Safeguarding/DBS enquiries, please email :
staugustines.safeguarding@gmail.com

Parish Priest: Fr Tony Curren

Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle – Reg Charity No: 1143450

Diocesan Website: www.diocesehn.org.uk



Twitter@diocesehn

www.facebook.com/diocesehn

10th December 2023 2nd Sunday of Advent Year B

Word For Today



Is the coming of our God something we should fear or welcome with open arms? If our scriptures are to be believed then the advent of the Lord is that of a loving God, of someone whose only concern is to free us from what holds us back and to lead us to where we will flourish. That's why the Advent cry of the Church has always been "Come, Lord Jesus, come!"



IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE! I'm looking for volunteers to help put on a screening of this Christmas Classic in the Youth Hall on Saturday 16th December, with Mulled Wine, hot chocolate, mince pies and lots of tissues!



A PLACE FOR PRAYER IN ADVENT Each Tuesday of Advent, 6.30 – 7.30 p.m. in Church. An opportunity for quiet prayer and reflection. A 'Prayer Intentions' box is at the back of church. Please add a name or a particular intention. This will be part of our prayer time each week. **Please Note** A booklet of Advent Reflections produced by the Diocesan Vicariate for Faith and Mission, is available to download <https://bit.ly/DHNAAdvent>.

TUESDAY LUNCH Come along to a lovely social time on Tuesday at the Parish Centre. Doors open 12.15pm, lunch served from 12.30pm. Enter the spirit of Christmas with others. Soup, bread, cakes/deserts, tea, coffee and a little something else will be on offer.

MIGRATION AND CHRISTIAN ETHICS- THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who helped make the Migration and Christian Ethics event such a successful evening. These things are always, necessarily, group efforts: from developing the idea and format of the evening, to receiving the guest speakers and managing sound and live streaming. The dialogue was respectful, but genuine and robust. It succeeded in bringing the Church's long tradition of teaching into dialogue with a very live political issue. We are grateful to all our speakers for the spirit in which they entered into the conversation.

CURRER'S CARPARK CHRISTMAS CHUTNEY

Looking for that niche, out-of-the-ordinary, talking-point gift? Or wanting to make your own Christmas extra special this year!? Look no further! This chutney is made predominantly from local fruit (supplied either from our carpark or from parishioners' gardens) and bottled in 100% recycled jars. It loosely follows a Doverhouse recipe with plums, tomatoes, currents and a tiny hint of chilli and pairs well with cheddar, stilton or brie.

There are 120 jars of various sizes made in six batches (each batch took at least three hours to make!). We're not selling it but we are making it available as an opportunity to make a donation to the parish, a community that gives each of us so much and that does so much good in Darlington and beyond.

Just in terms of labour, at the rate of the minimum wage, we would suggest a minimum donation of £1.70 per jar, but you're welcome to use this as an opportunity to make a more generous donation to the parish!

GIFT AID Fr Tony and the Finance Committee

are eager to maximise Gift Aid on all cash

offerings where possible. This can be achieved by

making a standing order through your bank or requesting offertory

envelopes (together with a Gift Aid Form). Alternatively, you can register

for Gift Aid the first time you use the contactless machine (DONA) & it

will retain your details. Providing you are a UK taxpayer, St Augustine's

can claim from the Government an extra 25p for every £1 donated. As we

approach Christmas, many of us make a special donation for the Season

so we have added a separate button to the DONA machine to assist with

this & suggest that you consider making your donation during Advent to

save queuing at the machine on Christmas Eve / Day. Remember you only

need to add your Gift Aid details once if you use the same bank card for

donations. If you have any questions at all regarding donations & Gift Aid,

please contact Debbie Irving,

Gift Aid Co-ordinator by emailing giftaid.staugustines@gmail.com



TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS by Lantern & Torchlight

in Stanhope Park, followed by Mulled Wine & Mince Pies at

Holy Trinity Church – Wednesday 20th December 6.00pm.

(Mass here will be 5.30pm that day)

NATIVITY PLAY There will be a rehearsal on Saturday 16th December

at 5.00pm in the Parish Grounds for all involved.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11

“Console my people, console them” says your God.
Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her
that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.

A voice cries, “Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,
Here is your God.

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 84

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,
and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Our Christmas Masses will be **7.00pm and Midnight** on Christmas Eve & **10.00am** on Christmas Day. For Mass times of all churches in our Partnership, please see the Poster on the Noticeboard or the leaflet.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY children aged from 3 years until they make their First Holy Communion, are welcome to join Children's Liturgy, every Sunday during 9.15am Mass.



BAPTISM COURSE Our next course takes place on Wednesday 7th February 2024 from 6.30pm – 8.30pm over in the Parish Centre. Please let us know if you wish to attend – info@staugustineschurch.org.uk or ring 266602.

We expect all new parents to attend this course and one of you must be a Catholic.



SAY NO TO HASSOCKFIELDS/FRIENDSHIP ACROSS BORDERS

Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre. At last week's vigil, we found out that the change from female to male detention centre will not now happen until June/July next year. and this in some way reflects the chaos of these decisions. Please remember these women in your prayers and items for the box under the shelf at the back of church.

THE TEACHING OF THE CHURCH ON GENOCIDE

Vatican II's Constitution Gaudium et Spes speaks out against genocide as any action 'designed for the methodical extermination of an entire people, nation or ethnic minority' and says such actions must be vehemently condemned. Any act of war aimed indiscriminately at the destruction of entire cities or extensive areas along with their population is a crime against God and man himself. It merits unequivocal and unhesitating condemnation.

ADVENT REFLECTION – WEEK 2 - PEACE

A NEW HOPE Advent invites new hope for a world in despair, light for a world in darkness, and peace for a world at war. It calls us to prepare anew for the coming of the God of peace and God's reign of peace on earth. May this holy season, give us new hope and inspire us to show ourselves to be "children of God" seeking to make peace in the workplace, in the community, in our homes, and in the world. Heather Kierna

And let us not forget COP 28

'God of blessings, the universe sings of your glory. Deepen our gratitude for all you have made and awaken in us a renewed commitment to care for the earth and each other. Inspire world leaders at COP28, with openness to listen to those most affected by climate change and with courage to act urgently and wisely, so that our common home may be healed and restored and all people, and generations to come, may delight in it. Amen.



CARMEL COLLEGE CHRISTMAS LITURGY & CELEBRATION

Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th December, 6.30pm in the John Caden Hall. Tickets £4, Concessions £3. Includes Wine/Soft Drink & Mince Pie. Tickets can be purchased through MCAS app or Tel : 01325 254525.

CARMEL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY Wednesday 20th December

1.30pm. All elderly members of our community are invited to Carmel College for music, entertainment, festive refreshments & Christmas Cheer. Please contact Tel : 01325 254525 or email admin@carmelbhcet.org.uk if you wish to attend.



Caritate is a new imprint of Franciscan Publishing, with profits from the sale of these books going to nominated charities. To see more details about this beautiful book by Elizabeth Peck, a former pupil at St Augustine's school, please scan the QR code or visit: www.franciscanpublishing.com.



Coffees after Mass in December are fundraising for our Parish. We have no volunteers to make Coffee after Mass on Christmas Eve (morning) & New Year's Eve. If you would like to volunteer, please advise Debbie in the Parish Office.

Many Thanks

10 th December 2023		2 nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B	
Sunday 10 th December 9.15am Mass live-streamed	St Augustine's St Augustine's	9.15 am 6.30 pm	People of the Parish Teresa Reay & Family
Monday	St Augustine's		NO MASS
Tuesday	St Augustine's	11.00am 12.15pm	Exposition Rose Hodge & Family RIP
Wednesday	St Augustine's	<u>12.00pm</u>	Requiem Mass for Liliana Smith
Thursday	St Augustine's	12.15pm	Mary Layfield RIP
Friday	St Augustine's	12.15pm	Ody & Billy Harding RIP
Saturday	St Augustine's	10.00am followed by confessions	Wayne Smith RIP
Sunday 17 th December 9.15am Mass live-streamed	St Augustine's St Augustine's	9.15 am 6.30 pm	People of the Parish Margaret Lindsey RIP
THOSE WHO ARE SICK	Please pray for Fr Gary Dickson and all the sick & housebound of the parish – Kate Turver, John Allinson Michelle Butler, Betty Smith, Iris McCready, Chris Tobin, Jim Cunningham Snr, Maureen Moore and those looking after them.		
LATELY DEAD +			
ANNIVERSARIES	DECEMBER Anniversaries Stella Davies, Alan Sisk, Emma Howard, Keith Cowan, Mary Courtney, Teresa Conway, Jean Carter, James Courtney, Joe Lyonette, Francis O'Hare, Bernard Carrigan, Mike Bennett, Jonny McTaggart, Kathleen Webber, Elizabeth Shaftoe, Annie Kee, Ray Hankin, Margaret Snowdon, Doris Trees, David Parkes, Constance Hall, Dominic Lindsay, Eileen Disley, Bill Leafe <i>May they Rest in Peace.</i>		
<i>10th December</i>	9.15 am	6.30 pm	
WELCOMERS	Jo Stowe & Jan Scott	Steven Roberts	
READERS	Marjory Knowles, Brian Jones	Brian & Julie Humphrey	
<i>17th December</i>	9.15 am	6.30 pm	
WELCOMERS	Shona Thomas & Julie King	Steven Roberts	
READERS	Jo Potter, Mark Jarema	Mike and Anne Webster	
COUNTERS	11th Dec. Team C (TA, NR)	18th Dec. Team A (HR, CW)	

PLEASE NOTE : NO 7.00PM MASS ON WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER