

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

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17th December 2023 3rd Sunday of Advent Year B

Word For Today



Today is known as “Gaudete Sunday”, coming from the Latin word meaning “rejoice”. God expects us to be happy at all times, says St Paul, and to live lives of gratitude for all that he does for us. What do we have to thank our Advent God for?



A PLACE FOR PRAYER IN ADVENT

An opportunity for quiet prayer and reflection.

Tuesday 19th Dec 6.30 – 7.30 p.m. will be our last meeting this Advent. **We will be meeting in Number 10**

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.

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 to cover labour, at the rate of the minimum wage, the price would be £1.70. This doesn't mean we think £1.70 is a fair price given all the ingredients that had to be bought, it's quite an unfair price! Use this as an opportunity to make a more generous donation to our Parish.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Our Christmas Masses will be **7.00pm and Midnight** on Christmas Eve & **10.00am** on Christmas Day. **Please Note** : this means that there will only be one Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent – the 9.15am Mass. There will be no 6.30pm Mass because of the 7.00pm Christmas Vigil. For Mass times of all churches in our Partnership, please see the Poster on the Noticeboard or the leaflet.

OUR NATIVITY PLAY will be performed on Saturday 23rd December at 6.00pm in the Parish grounds. This will be followed by a Christmas Quiz in the Parish Centre. All Welcome.



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)

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



LIVE-STREAMED MASS

We are currently trialling new Bluetooth microphones to improve the sound quality of the livestreamed Mass. We used them for the first time last Sunday. It seems that the quality of the spoken word was significantly improved but that there were some issues with the music and so we will continue to try to improve this by adjusting the settings. If you, or someone you know, regularly follows the livestreamed Mass please give us your feedback.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.

Responsorial Psalm

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel: John 1:6-8.19-28

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.'

This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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Church flower donations for November £73.35.

Many Thanks for your continued generosity.

The Flower donation box is on the pillar opposite the Sacred Heart.

"The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me."

Like Isaiah in today's first reading, could you be anointed to serve as a priest or deacon of God? Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter 01207 299012 or vocationspromoter@diocese.org.uk.



The COP28 climate talks have ended with governments agreeing a call for the world to "transition away from fossil fuels". This is the first time all governments at a COP have formally acknowledged the world must move away from fossil fuels. Even though world leaders have finally recognised we need to leave fossil fuels behind, we know that words need to be turned into action to implement commitments made at COP28. We also know leaders need to pledge further steps so people in the world's poorest communities don't continue to pay the price for a crisis they have done least to cause. PS – Another way you can help to support communities on the frontline of the climate crisis is by buying a CAFOD climate World Gift in the run-up to Christmas! Catalogues at the back of Church.

ADVENT REFLECTION – WEEK 3 – JOY

Jesus is born into poverty – into a poor family seeking refuge. The well-known imagery of the cosy straw and the welcoming animals of our nativity scenes show the joy of the Holy Family in the birth of a precious child. But maybe those images gloss over the reality of the situation, hiding the fear of the family and the discomfort, the smells, the unpleasantness of giving birth in an animal shed. Do we also gloss over that line of bringing Good News to the poor? This coming year, could we spend some more time working out what that could mean to our parish?

CAFOD would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in last Friday's cabaret. The night was a great success and raised £946

which will help some of the most needy and vulnerable people in our global community.

LADIES OF THE PARISH AND FRIENDS... Nollaig na mBan (Women's Christmas) 6 January 2024 The parish centre bar will be open from 7.30pm on 6 January to celebrate the Irish Epiphany tradition of Nollaig na mBan, where women would take the day off, visit each other for tea and finish off the Christmas cake. Their menfolk/families would cover their usual work. Nowadays, it's more about having spa days and meals out together. As we don't yet have a spa at St Augustine's, we thought we would trial our first Nollaig na mBan in the way we know best: Expect great conversation over drinks/cocktails from the bar with a shared table of leftover Christmas cake and treats (BYO) and some elegant background music. No need to book – just turn up! See you there...PC Bar Team.

STARS PANTOMIME 'BEAUTY AND THE BEAST'

St Augustine's Parish Centre - Wednesday 24th, Thursday 25th, Friday 26th January at 7.30pm. Saturday 27th January 1.00pm Matinee & 6.00pm evening performance. Tickets £12 Adults £6 concessions. Ticket offer : 2 for 1 on Wednesday & buy 1 get 2nd half price on Thursday. Tickets available after Sunday Mass in the Parish Centre or Tel : 07481977873.

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.



***Coffees after Mass in December are fundraising for our Parish.
Any help on Christmas Eve or New Years Eve would be gratefully
received.
Many Thanks***

17 th December 2023		3 rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B	
Sunday 17 th December 9.15am Mass <i>live-streamed</i>	St Augustine's St Augustine's	9.15 am 6.30 pm	People of the Parish Margaret Lindsey RIP
Monday	St Augustine's		NO MASS
Tuesday	St Augustine's	11.00am 12.15pm	Exposition Mgr James Rooney RIP
Wednesday	St Augustine's	5.30pm	Frank Ward RIP
Thursday	St Augustine's	12.15pm	Alf Egan RIP
Friday	St Augustine's	12.15pm	Intentions of Francis
Saturday	St Augustine's	10.00am followed by confessions	Mary Quirke RIP
Sunday 24 th December 9.15am Mass 4th Sunday of Advent <i>live-streamed</i> 7.00pm Christmas Mass	St Augustine's St Augustine's	9.15 am 7.00pm	Jim & Elsie Lawley RIP Vince & Pam McCulla RIP
Monday 25 th December	St Augustine's St Augustine's	Midnight 10.00am	People of the Parish People of the Parish
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 Judith Harrison and those looking after them.		
LATELY DEAD +	John Smith (husband of Liliana Smith), John LeRoi		
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>		
17th December	9.15 am	6.30 pm	
WELCOMERS	Shona Thomas & Julie King	Steven Roberts	
READERS	Jo Potter, Mark Jarema	Mike and Anne Webster	
COUNTERS	18th Dec. Team A (HR, CW)		

PLEASE NOTE : WEDNESDAY'S EVENING MASS WILL BE 5.30PM