

Mass Times

Sunday Masses

Sat 5.30 pm Vigil Mass

Sun 8.00 am
9.30 am Family Mass
11.15 am Sung Mass

Weekday Masses

Mon, Tues, (see diary overleaf for full details)

Wed 12.30 pm

Thurs 10.00 am

Fri 10.00 am

Sat: 10.00 am

Reconciliation

No Reconciliation on Saturday, 30th Dec.

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Into this world, this demented inn in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ comes uninvited.

Thomas Merton

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

God of comfort, these times seem so uncertain, so scary. The world seems darker than it has in the past and I am less sure of myself. Maybe that's a good thing; maybe now I am turning to you with a realization that I need you so much more and that my life is not in my own control. Let me not forget all of those around the world who are frightened at this moment. Help those who are victims of terrorism and war. Be with those who have lost so much in the past year. Hold us all in your loving arms and let us be comforted by the strength and peace you want to much to offer us through the birth of your son, Jesus.

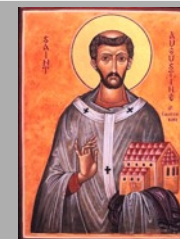
Thank you for the many gifts you offer us. Taken from Creighton University's Online Ministries' Praying Advent web site. used with permission. <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/>.

Please note the latest items can be accepted is 4pm on Monday in any given week, although inclusion for the coming weekend can't be guaranteed. Contributions to: newsdesk@st-augustine.co.uk or office.

Newsletter can also be printed off the website - <http://www.st-augustine.co.uk/newsletters.php>

ST AUGUSTINE'S NEWS

24th December 2017



Christmas Proclamation



In religious communities, great Cathedrals and small chapels around the world, the Proclamation of Christmas will be joyfully sung or read on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. The words of the Proclamation offer us a sense of the place in history that the birth of our Saviour has and invites us to rejoice.

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December. Unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in God's own image.

Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;

In the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace.

Jesus Christ, Eternal God and Son of the Eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

Taken from Creighton University's Online Ministries'

Praying Advent web site, used with permission.

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/>.

**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR B PSALTER WEEK 4
PARISH MASS BOOK
Readings: from page 90
Preface: from page 65**

The Clergy Wish Everyone A Happy and Holy Christmas

We would like to say thank you to our priests

Christmas is one of only two occasions in the year when we are able to demonstrate in a tangible way our appreciation and gratitude to our priests for all their unfailing help and support. They are ordinary men with an extraordinary calling which they fulfil with zeal every day of the year as they proclaim God's message. They do this wherever, whenever and in whatever situation, ministering to us and supporting us through the highs and lows of our everyday lives.

May God Bless them all this Christmas

And may the Lord also bless our deacon as he continues to support the priests and us in his ministry – may he be blessed with good health and continue to have the strength and fervour of his calling.

The Newsletter Team

CRIB OFFERINGS



Our Crib offerings at St Augustine's will be in aid of 'Friends of the Holy Land' (FHL), an apolitical and ecumenical Christian charity, existing to help and support the Christian population of the Holy Land and to develop a resilient and enduring Christian community there.

Bethlehem's Christians are increasingly fleeing what has become a virtual prison for their community. Faced with towering walls of separation, water shortages, and an uncertain future for their children, many emigrate if they can. Many of the Christians we assist lack the income for even the most basic essentials of life. There is little access to medical care and the traditional ways of life, such as farming are often no longer available to them. The fields surrounding Bethlehem, where shepherds once 'watched their flocks', are now barred to their descendants as large areas of land have been confiscated.

Every penny given will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health and housing costs and initiatives. FHL is non-political and ecumenical. For further information, please look at their website www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk and keep our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land in your prayers at this time.

FHL is recognised among the clergy and the Christian communities over there as meeting a need that few others can fulfil. As well as cases in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, FHL is receiving more applications to support Christian refugees who have fled Iraq and are now living in Jordan.

With grateful thanks for your donations.

"MIDNIGHT" MASS

At the suggestion of the Liturgy Committee, this year there will be no Mass at Midnight. Instead there will be Mass at 10 p.m. preceded by carols from 9.30 p.m.

IMPORTANT

Please note that weekday Mass will only be celebrated at 10 am and 12.30pm on Wednesday between Christmas & New Year. **NO EARLY MORNING MASS UNTIL Tuesday 2nd JANUARY.**

The Church will open shortly before Mass and the office will be open for an hour after Mass. Adoration restarts Monday 15th January 2018.

ITALIAN CONVERSATION CLASS

start on 15th January at St Dunstan's. £5 per session funds to go to St Dunstan's Church Fund. See poster for full details. Call Diana 01892 537017

A Journey Back from Addiction by Justyn Larcombe

Monday 15th January 9.30am – 4.30pm
Burrswood Conference Centre
A fascinating talk by Justyn which will appeal to anyone looking for guidance and encouragement. £50 per person includes tea, coffee and pastries, a 3-course buffet lunch and cream tea.

OFFERTORY

Offertory	£597.17
Offertory GA	£930.81
Outreach for St Aug.	
Christmas lunch	£1333.15
CAFOD	£13
Mitapeeap	£28.65

Thank for your generosity.

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 24th 4th Sunday of Advent
Yr B Ps Wk 4 Christmas Eve

Masses at usual times on weekend until 5.45 pm
First Mass of Christmas
9.30 pm Carols & Readings before
10.00 pm Mass with carols
NO MIDNIGHT MASS

MONDAY 25th Christmas Day

8.00 am Mass
9.30 am Family Mass
11.30 am Mass with carols
6.30 pm Confessions in Polish
7.30 pm Mass in Polish
MSZA SW godz 19.30

NO OUTREACH TODAY All Offerings on Christmas Eve and at Christmas Day Masses are a gift to our three Priests.

TUESDAY 26th St Stephen

10.00 am Servers' Mass to welcome new servers and rededicate our current servers.

WEDNESDAY 27th St John the Apostle

THURSDAY 28th Holy Innocents

FRIDAY 29th St Thomas of Canterbury

SATURDAY 30th
No Reconciliation today

SUNDAY 31st The Holy Family
Yr B Ps Wk 1

OUTREACH: Today is our annual general outreach for the many small, usually local, charities that ask for help but are too small for an outreach of their own. So we ask you to be generous. Thank You.

MONDAY 1st January
Mary, Mother of God

10.00 am Mass (no early morning Mass)
2.00 pm Filipino New Year's Day Mass & Reception in Hall after Mass.
All Welcome.

Please note: First Holy Communion classes start after the New Year - first session is Saturday Jan 6th.