

ST AUGUSTINE'S NEWS

St Augustine's Church Tel No 01892 522525
www.st-augustine.co.uk office@st-augustine.co.uk

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2018



A New Beginning, with a New Relationship with Jesus

Why should I make any New Year's Resolutions?

I never keep them. Almost all of us have had the experience of wanting to begin a new year resolving to improve, to do some things better than we have before. Why do our resolutions so often fail? So often our good intentions fail and fail quickly. There are many reasons, of course, and some of them relate to how realistic our resolving is, but sometimes, we resolve to end addictive behaviour without really giving it a chance. Most of the time, most of our resolutions are our best attempts at just having stronger will power. Though there are outstanding examples of heroic virtue, and some people really do quit addictive behaviour "cold turkey," there are far too many examples of failure.

What about my resolutions? While we are getting to get to know the Lord, the things we may have been tempted to resolve begin to change. We may still need to lose weight and exercise more, but what will inevitably rise to the surface are patterns that are like his. Attraction so naturally leads to imitation. Jesus is our friend, a wonderful Lord with a powerful way of loving and surrendering his life to the plan of his Father -- that he be Servant for us. The more we open our hearts to a deeply personal friendship with Jesus, the more we will open our hearts to ask the Father to use us, to be servants, too.

Then our desiring starts to be transformed. We will gradually and more deeply begin to ask for the graces we need - which is a more humble place to begin than making bold promises. We'll ask our Lord to purify our desiring. We will ask for the grace to be drawn into the pattern of Jesus' loving and forgiving. We'll ask for the desire to surrender more, to let go of our own needs more completely so that we can give ourselves to the needs of others first. We will begin to see the people closest to us with Jesus' eyes, with Jesus' heart. Our love for them won't depend upon how much they please us or even how much they reciprocate our love. That isn't the way Jesus loves us. Jesus loves us because we are sinners. Jesus loves us because we need forgiving and healing. Jesus loves us because we need loving.

Gradually, our resolutions get freer and more about self-donation. We open our hands in prayer and say, "Lord, these are my desires and I am asking you for the grace to live them." Gradually, the other spirits lose their power, their attraction. As Jesus confronts and contradicts the values of our culture in us and around us, the sillier all that kind of desiring becomes. We don't change our way of consuming, our way of seeing our role in the world or hear the cry of the poor day after day by strengthening our own will power. Our life style and our choices really become transformed when we become people who know, beyond anything else, that we are loved unconditionally by our God. When we become lovers of Jesus, we will naturally love the way he loves. When we become followers of Jesus this will be a blessed new year, indeed. And those who are sinners among us, the poor around the world, and those who suffer the tragic effects of sin, division and war, will experience the difference.

*Taken from Creighton University's Online Ministries website
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**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,
MARY AND JOSEPH
Year C Ps Wk 1
PARISH MASS BOOK
Readings: from page 105
Preface: from page 66**

THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 29th St Thomas of Canterbury
No reconciliation today

SUNDAY 30th The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Yr C 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.

TUESDAY 1st Mary, the Holy Mother of God
11.00am Mass (No early morning Mass)
2.00pm Filipino Sta Nino Thanksgiving Mass & Fatima Service. All welcome.

WEDNESDAY 2nd
Early morning Mass resumes today

THURSDAY 3rd Adoration resumes today
SUNDAY 6th The Epiphany of the Lord
Yr C Ps Wk 2

Outreach: Lepra is a UK based international charity working to beat leprosy. This disease affects the most vulnerable people in the world, causing life-changing disabilities, but there is a cure. Lepra works directly with communities to find, diagnose and rehabilitate people affected by leprosy. More than 600 people are diagnosed and start treatment each day, over 50 of these are children. For more information see: www.lepra.org.uk

NOTICES

Fr Peter will be away from 3rd January to 31st January. Whilst Fr Peter is in Cambodia along with the intrepid four parishioners the church office will only open for short periods each day.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did."

St. Maximilian Kolbe

Date for your diary

Bishop Robert Barron gave the keynote address on the **Mystery of the Mass** at the Adoremus Congress in September. We will be showing a video of this event on **Saturday 19th January at 3pm in the Hall.**

As Bishop Barron speaks about the 'Mystery of the Mass' you'll be transformed through insights about this most privileged encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ. The session has been timed to allow you to attend the 5.30 pm Vigil Mass which follows. Refreshments will be served after the DVD. All welcome.

Christmas Offering

Frs. Peter, Josaphat & Lixon thank everyone for the generous Christmas Day collection on their behalf and for all the cards & gifts they've received over Christmas.

Deacon Kevin & Jean also thank everyone for all their cards and gifts - with every blessing for a peaceful and happy 2018.

Elizabeth de Savigny-Bower

Following our mother's recent death, we have been overwhelmed by all the masses, cards, prayers, hugs & sympathy received for which we are all very grateful - to be so supported at such a time is very comforting. Thank you.

Sue, Gwyn & family

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Day Dinner - shoppers, cooks, servers, welcomers, bar-staff, transport organiser, drivers, gift providers, the advertisers, the Spread Eagle, Age UK and the whole parish for funding the event. As a result of all your efforts the guests enjoyed a very Happy Christmas Day Dinner!