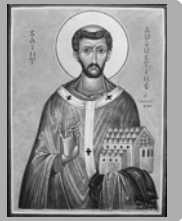


ST AUGUSTINE'S NEWS

6th January 2019



AT THE THRESHOLD by Fr. Josaphat C. Ezenwa

*Come to me you
who labour and
are over
burdened and
I will give
you rest.*



We thank almighty God for the gift of another year. We are happy and greet one another with Happy New Year. This wonderful joy of a new year brings on thoughts. Often there are thoughts of the past year, both happy and sad. There are thoughts of the future, perhaps wondering, perhaps full of plans for the days ahead. If there are fearful thoughts, let us try trust; if there are gloomy thoughts, let us look to the sunrise of new hope. Let us cross the threshold with courage and faith in the

One who goes with us and shows us the way for He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Life can be full of mess at times and full of challenges. I once met a friend I had not seen for a long time: "I asked about her kids and husband, and when I did, her eyes watered, her chin quivered, and the story spilled out. He'd left her. After twenty years of marriage, three kids. (The Baptism of their first baby I remember vividly was a hit. Three mini-bus load of guests!) ... that euphoria and happiness gone. He traded her in for a younger model. She did her best to maintain her composure but couldn't. The grocery store produce section where I met her became a sanctuary. Right there between the tomatoes and the heads of lettuce, she wept. We prayed. Then I said, 'You'll get through this. It wouldn't be quick or easy. But God will use this mess for good. In the mean time don't be foolish or naïve. But don't despair either. With God's help you will get through this.'"

There are several stories of woes like this. For instance someone was fired. His dismissal was because he made stupid and inappropriate remarks at work. His boss kicked him out. He is fifty-eight years old with a family of four and he feels terrible. His wife is angry and his kids are confused. These are similar things that happen now and again. How does one handle these occurrences as we plod on during the year? Please I am not a pessimist.

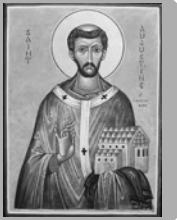
It is only easy if one is very close to the Lord who said, "Come to me you who labour and are over burdened..." Among our resolutions let us endeavour to be very close to the Lord each day of our life through this year. May the Lord grant us his blessing. May his constant love watch over us and those we hold most dear. May he fulfil our deepest hope in everything we do and so keep us in his care each day the New Year through. Amen.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Year C Ps Wk 2
PARISH MASS BOOK
Readings: from page 114
Preface: page 67

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THIS WEEK

**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. 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

MONDAY 7th

11.30am Funeral, Betty Mauduit - Church

TUESDAY 8th

12 noon Tuesday Lunch Club – Hall

4.15pm First Holy Communion Class – Hall

Hall

6.00pm Winter Shelter - Hall

WEDNESDAY 9th

2.30pm Bible Study – MR3

SATURDAY 12th

8.45am First Holy Communion Class - Hall

1.30pm Polish Carol Service - Hall

4.00pm First Holy Communion Class - Hall

**SUNDAY 13th The Baptism of the Lord
Outreach: 3H – Helping Hands for Holidays.**

Founded over 40 years ago, thousands of those less fortunate than us have enjoyed a memorable and fulfilling holiday away from the stresses and strains of their difficult, confined everyday existence. To many, it is what they spend the whole year looking forward to. See <https://www.3hfund.org.uk/>

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Faith is to believe what you do not see.
The reward of faith is to see what you believe."

St. Augustine

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Date for your diary

Saturday 19th January at 3pm

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 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.

First Holy Communion Classes

Tuesdays 4.15-5.15, Saturdays 8.45-9.45,
Saturdays 4.00- 5.00.

Children should only come to the class for which they have registered.

Zapraszamy wszystkich na koledowanie po polsku

sobota, 12 stycznia 13:30-15:30
w głównym holu przy kościele.

Polish Carol Service,

Saturday 12 Jan, 1:30-3:30pm in the main hall. All welcome.

OFFERTORY

Weekend 23/12/18

Offetory	£1856.80
Outreach Human Trafficking	£743.38
Cafod	£57
Mitapeeap	£35.50
Retiring collection from Elizabeth Bower's funeral for Kompong Thom	£168.28

Weekend 30/12/18

Offetory	£918.86
Outreach – general outreach	£575.01
Cafod	£5
Mitapeeap	£3
Retiring collection from Stefanie Donovan's funeral for Cafod	£425.3

Thank you for your generosity.

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