



## Vocation Sunday - Called extra ordinary by Fr Christopher Jamison OSB



People give and receive calls the whole time. "I'll give her a call" we say or we tell somebody "the neighbours called by to ask after you" or people are called to account. So it's no surprise that the one in whose image we are made also gives and receives calls. God receives our prayers when we call out to him. However, do we have the same faith that God calls out to us? If we want more people to hear God's call to be priests and religious we must become a local church community that enables everybody to hear God's call.

We need to be people who listen to God, who respond to his love and who live out that response day to day. Listen. If God is calling then the first task is to listen. The Bible tells the story of young Samuel who heard God's call but didn't realise at first that it was the voice of God. 'Speak Lord your

servant is listening' said Samuel eventually and that prayer is a simple model for those seeking to know God's will. A regular rhythm of prayer is the foundation of all vocations.

A single Catholic man or woman who wants to be a disciple of Christ, who lives a Christian way of life and who works fruitfully may well be called to the consecrated life or the priesthood. They don't have to be heroic nor do they have to feel completely at ease with the idea. They must simply open their heart to the Holy Spirit and believe that God calls people like them to be priests and religious. If they sense that call directed to them, they should discuss it with a religious or priest. It's a discussion that can bring great joy.

Today the Church celebrates the call to the priesthood and the consecrated life. We remember other callings at other times but it is right that on one Sunday we pray especially for those God is calling to be consecrated or to be ordained as priests and deacons. The people God calls to these ways of life are people who put the extra into ordinary. Priests and religious are not extraordinary, they/we are ordinary people called to make visible the extra dimensions of ordinary life.

**HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS - THIS SUNDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> MAY AT 4.00 PM.**



### Holy Hour for Vocations



The Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life this year will be celebrated today Sunday 7th May. It flows from the broader culture of vocation, and is when the

universal Church asks the Lord to send more labourers to the harvest as priests and religious.

The theme for this year is 'Called: extra-ordinary'.

What's your role? To join us in prayer on Sunday afternoon at 4pm to pray for Vocations. Catholics around the world will be praying with you. Will you take a moment now to ask God, from the heart, to call people from our town, our parish? From our families? Perhaps even to call you?

*JOIN US ON SUNDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> MAY AT 4 PM.*

*Question the beauty of the earth, the beauty of the sea, the beauty of the wide air around you, the beauty of the sky: question the order of the stars: question the living creatures that move in the waters, that roam upon the earth, that fly through the air: the spirit that lies hidden, the matter that is manifest, the visible things that are ruled, the invisible things that rule them; question all these.*

*They will answer you, 'Behold and see we are beautiful'. Their beauty is their confession to God. Who made these beautiful changing things, if not One who is beautiful and does not change?*

**Saint Augustine**

### REGINA CAELI

O Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia!  
For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia!  
Has risen, as He said, alleluia!  
Pray for us to God, alleluia!  
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!  
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia!

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER  
YEAR A  
PSALTER WEEK 4  
PARISH MASS BOOK  
Readings: from page 262  
Preface: from page 74**

# THIS WEEK

## SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup>

10.45 am DVD Presentation on Fatima  
- Hall

2.30 pm Polish Catechism - Hall

## SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER Yr A PS Wk 4

4.00 pm Holy Hour for Vocations

### OUTREACH: Ecclesiastical Education

**Fund** This collection helps to meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and the permanent diaconate. It also helps support certain forms of ongoing formation of the clergy. **Gift Aid Donors** are asked to place their contribution in the white envelope in their pack which is specifically for this outreach.

## TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup>

8.00 pm Eucharistic Healing Service

8.00 pm Baptism Preparation - Hall

## SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Fatima

2.30 pm Polish Catechism - Hall

Food Bank Sale after 5.30 pm Mass

## SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER Yr A Ps Wk 1

Food Bank Sale after all Masses

5.45 pm Inscription Mass for

Confirmation candidates

### OUTREACH Society of St. Vincent de

**Paul (SVP)** The SVP is an international Christian organisation tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing practical assistance to those in need. Our parish SVP group seeks to help those who are suffering poverty in whatever form and in 2016/17 they made over 1000 visits and provided practical assistance on 462 occasions. GIFT AID DONORS are asked to place their contribution in the special SVP envelopes available in the narthex.

On May 13, 2017, the centenary of first Fatima apparition, Archbishop Peter Smith will receive, bless and crown the National Pilgrim Virgin statue in St George's Cathedral, Southwark. Starts 12.30pm, but seats are limited so get there early.

## CONTACTS

**Parish** Canon Peter Stodart

**Priest:** frpeter@st-augustine.co.uk

**Assist** Fr. Josaphat Ezenwa

**Priests:** jcezenwa2@yahoo.co.uk

Fr. Agnelo de Souza

fbarbra11@hotmail.com

**Deacon:** Dcn. Kevin Dunne

kdunne246@gmail.com

**Office:** office@st-augustine.co.uk

**Parish** Gerard Garcia

**Council** chair-parishcouncil@st-augustine.co.uk

**Youth** Luke Goymour 07948970995

**Leader** youthleader@st-augustine.co.uk

**Catholic** St Augustine's 01892 529796

**Schools:** St. Gregory's 01892 527444

Beechwood 01892 532747

## Mass Times

### Sunday Masses

Sat 5.30 pm Vigil Mass

Sun 8.00 am

9.30 am Family Mass with Music Group & Children's Liturgy

11.15 am Sung Mass with Traditional Choir

5.45 pm

### Weekday Masses

Mon, Tues, Thurs: 7.30 & 10.00 am

Wed: 7.30 am, 12.30 pm

7.30 pm Extraordinary Form Mass (1st Wednesday each month)

4.30 pm Burrswood (2nd Wednesday each month)

Fri: 7.30, 10.00 am and 7.30 pm

Sat 8.00 and 10.00am

### Reconciliation

Sat 10.30 -11.30 am. 4.30 - 5.15 pm. Also by appointment.

Evening prayers of the Church with Benediction - Sunday 4.00pm.

Eucharistic Adoration Monday 6.30 am - 8.00 pm

Tuesday and Thursday 6.30 am -1.00 pm, Friday 6.30 am - 9.00 pm

Monday- Friday the church is usually open from 6.30 am until at least 8.00 pm

Rosary Mon - Tues & Thurs - Fri after 10.00 am Mass.

**Rosary Intention:** For all those suffering the effects of confrontation, that their leaders will soften their hearts and engage in dialogue.

### Prayer Groups

**Cenacolo** Thurs, Blessed  
Sacrament, 2.30 pm

**Charismatic** Tues, Church,  
8.00 pm

**Christian  
Meditation** Tues, Hall  
2.00 pm

**Keralan** Fri, Meet Room 3  
call 0786 2297715 for more details

**Mothers  
Prayers** Tue, Meet Room 3  
10.45 am

### Choir Practices

**Music Group** Thurs 8.00 pm

**Traditional** Sun 10.30 am

### Uniform Groups

**Rainbows** Mon 4.15 pm

**Brownies** Mon 6.00 pm

**Guides** Wed 7.00 pm

**Senior Section** Wed 7.00 pm

**Beavers** Thurs 4.15 pm

**Cubs** Thurs 6.00 pm

**Scouts** Thurs 8.00 pm

**PLEASE NOTE** - The groups listed above meet **every week at the same time and on the same day**. Any alteration will be shown in the diary section of the newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\* FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES \*\*\*\*\*

Church Hall - Wed 4.15 pm, & Sat 9.00 am & 4.00 pm

**BAPTISMS** - We are pleased to welcome **Lilly, Helen, Samuele, Arthur and Maisie** to our parish community. There are leaflets entitled "Your Baby's Baptism at St Augustine's" in the church porch. Contact Jean Dunne, (01892 309062) and Jean will send you a baptism preparation pack.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** the repose of the souls of **Tony Haygarth** and **Ormond Power**.

Please also remember the sick and housebound in your prayers.

### THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Let us be actually greedy for  
time to spend in prayer.

**St Alphonsus Liguori**

### GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

If you are going into hospital and would like a priest to visit you during your stay it is essential that you let one of the priests know. Tunbridge Wells hospital and many other hospitals do not inform us when Catholic patients are admitted.

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017

Since our last notice, another vacancy on the Parish Council has arisen, and further nominations are sought.

To truly reflect the composition of our Parish, we would like to encourage female parishioners to consider joining the Council. The work of a parish councillor is interesting and rewarding and a diversity of contributions is essential. Sometimes it can be challenging. The Council's focus is on serving the Parish so we ask you please to consider helping us.

In view of this vacancy having arisen shortly before the expiry of the last date for nominations, it has been decided to extend this date until 8 May 2017.

The Parish Council

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017

Please remember that our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 15 May at 8.00pm in the Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you haven't already got one please pick up an invitation, and take a copy of the approved minutes of last year's meeting, from the table in the porch.

Please don't forget that questions or suggestions can be submitted via the box in the porch or by email to the chairman at [chair-parishcouncil@st-augustine.co.uk](mailto:chair-parishcouncil@st-augustine.co.uk) before Saturday 13 May. If you make a suggestion, it would be beneficial for you to be present at the Meeting to address any queries.

The Parish Council

## FOOD BANK SALE

There will be a table sale of food items, that are not appropriate for putting in the bags that we hand out each week, outside the Church after all Sunday Masses on the 13/14<sup>th</sup> May – any reasonable offer or donations accepted. The income will be used to restock our depleted shelves.

## HOSPITAL VISITING

– a Corporal Work of Mercy

The Chaplain at the Tunbridge Wells, Pembury Hospital is assisted by a team of volunteers who visit the wards and are willing to listen and talk with patients. There are no Catholics in the Team: if you would like to be considered please leave your contact details with the Church Office.

**Schools Prayer Evening,  
Monday 15 May 7.30-9.00**

TW Baptist Church.

Come and pray for our local schools, their teaching staff and students, and for opportunities to share the gospel.

## OFFERTORY

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Offertory             | £1,050  |
| Offertory GA          | £792    |
| St George's Cathedral | £445.82 |
| GA                    | £438.70 |
| CAFOD                 | £48     |
| Mitapeeap             | £29.70  |

**Thank you for your generosity.**

## SPACES AVAILABLE THIS SPRING!

Our popular St Augustine's Scout group meets each Thursday evening and we would love to hear from any Catholic boys and girls aged 10-13 who would like to join us. We have a packed programme of activities planned for the next eight weeks including camping, athletics and games.

Please email the scout team Sue and Niels on [scoutleaders@rtwscouts.org.uk](mailto:scoutleaders@rtwscouts.org.uk) to find out more.

## UNDERSTANDING CAFOD WORKSHOP

You are invited to a workshop on **Saturday 20th May at Romero House, at the back of St George's Cathedral starting at 10 am til 3.30 pm with a shared lunch at 1 pm.**

This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the work of CAFOD, at home and abroad, whilst also inspiring you about volunteering for CAFOD.

## WALSINGHAM

There will be a Retreat at Walsingham this year from 12-16 November. Twenty-one people have already expressed interest but if you would like your name added to the reserve list please let me know at [lucia.crewdson@gmail.com](mailto:lucia.crewdson@gmail.com). Preference will be given to those who have not been before.

The Evangelisation Team invite you to a **Eucharistic Healing Service with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal.**

**8pm Tuesday 9th May**

With prayer for personal healing, prayer for unity in the Church and healing of divisions, for peace in all countries in the Middle East.

**Tunbridge Wells Men's Breakfast  
8.15 – 10.30am Saturday 20th May  
St James' Church Hall**

You're invited to join with men from across the town to share in the following:

- Full English Breakfast
- Fellowship with men from other churches
- Prayer

Hearing inspiring stories of God's amazing work internationally and locally (See information below)

To book in – please email Adam - [bennett.stj.adam@gmail.com](mailto:bennett.stj.adam@gmail.com) or Cliff - [cllyallen@aol.com](mailto:cllyallen@aol.com)

A voluntary contribution of £4 is suggested to cover the cost of food. (Please let us know of any dietary needs you may have).

## JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION Aylesford Priory, Kent.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May. 10.30am to 4pm**

The 2017 Diocesan Justice & Peace Commission, Spring Assembly entitled 'A Journey to Justice through Peace and Non-Violence', will be at Aylesford Priory. Registration from 10am. Speakers Pat Gaffney for Pax Christi and Michael & Patricia Pulman of Christian CND.

The event is free. Everyone welcome to come along. Please bring a packed lunch.

**Wototo Children's Choir from Uganda,** will be performing at Christ Church, High Street, Tunbridge Wells at 11.45am on **Saturday 20 May.** The Choir exists to share the love of Jesus in a dynamic and creative way. Tickets are free, and bookable through the Eventbrite website.

## VOCATIONS WEEKEND

26th - 28th May 2017

A retreat weekend for young women considering the vocation to religious life.

There will be input from FCJ (Faithful Companions of Jesus) sisters on different aspects of vowed life, as well as opportunity for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are considering the vocation to religious life. For more information or to book a place, contact: Sr Lynne fcj: [lynnefcj@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnefcj@hotmail.com)

## So what happened in Fatima in Portugal in 1917?

by Michael Southern



Starting in May, The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children, Jacinta 7, Francisco 8, and Lucia 10 in the isolated area of Fatima. Thereafter she continued to appear to them on 13th of each month on six occasions, giving them messages that were to be relayed to the world. These concerned significant requests and related to Russia, future wars, persecutions and the Church, and to the need for the world to return to God *"Do not offend the Lord Our God anymore, because He is already so much offended."*

Our Lady's appearance had been preceded in 1916 by the Angel of Peace who entreated the children to pray. *"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You. I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You."* On the third occasion the angel came holding a chalice and above it a host and, with great reverence, gave the children Holy Communion and then prostrated himself before the chalice.

The following year on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1917 Our Lady appeared to the children for the first time. On each occasion she gave a specific message and always asked for prayer, particularly the rosary, and for sacrifices in reparation for sin. *"Pray the rosary every day, in*

*order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war."* The children described Our Lady as more beautiful than anything that could be imagined.

In June 1917, Our Lady promised a great sign to take place in October as a witness of her presence. Now called the Miracle of the Sun it was seen by a crowd of 70,000 when, after a spectacular display in the sky, the sun seemed to crash to earth, causing terrible panic, and then returning back to its proper position. Few were left with doubts!

Perhaps one of the most extraordinary aspects of the Fatima Apparitions is the unshakable account that the three children gave, their subsequent acts of prayer and sacrifices of reparation, and the witness of their lives. Great pressure was put on them. They were put into prison by the authorities yet did not waver.

Jacinta and Francisco died in the flu epidemic after WWI and Lucia in 1995. Jacinta and Francisco will be Canonised by Pope Francis in Fatima on 13th May this year. The cause for Lucia is still under investigation.

More recently, on 25th August 1991 in Medjugorje, as part of her message Our Lady said *".....I invite you to self-renunciation ..... so that, with your help, everything that I desire to realize through the secrets I began in Fatima, may be fulfilled."*

(Medjugorje still awaits the findings of the Church's enquiry).

There is so much more to the Fatima story. To find out more there is a DVD showing and information in the parish hall at 10.45 am on Saturday 6th May.

## ORGAN RECITAL



James O'Donnell  
©Clare Clifford

The celebrations to mark Fr Peter's Jubilee in June will begin on **Wednesday 21st June**, with an organ recital to be given at St Augustine's by James O'Donnell. James is the Organist & Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey, and so is in charge of the music at all royal and state events that take place there, including the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge a few years ago.

Pope Benedict attended a service there when he visited the UK, and was so impressed by the music he immediately invited the Abbey choir to sing at the Vatican.

We are therefore extremely privileged that James is coming to St Augustine's. He has agreed to play Widor's famous Toccata at the end of the programme at Fr. Peter's special request.

Do come and enjoy this very special event. **Admission is by programme (£10) available from the office.** Profits will be shared between Hospice in the Weald and Mary's Meals.

The recital will start at 8pm.

**If you are willing to display a poster for the concert, please collect from the table in the narthex.**

**Wednesday 21st June at 8pm**

**St Augustine's Church**

**Admission is by programme (£10 in advance) available from the office.**

## MASS - CAMBODIAN STYLE.

On Friday 28th April, parishioners joined the confirmandi in celebrating Mass - Cambodian style. In keeping with Khymer custom we were invited to take off our shoes on entering the Church and the more agile to sit on the floor. Celebrants and congregation were seated throughout the Mass. At the front of the altar were baskets of flower petals which were tossed in the air at the Consecration by members of the confirmandi.



Confirmandi toss flower petals at the Consecration

## 60th Wedding Anniversary Congratulations

Congratulations to Val & Paddy Reilly on their 60th wedding anniversary celebrated on Monday 1st May, feast of St Joseph the Worker. The family of the happy couple presented them with a beautifully framed papal blessing.

