

## 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, Thurs 7.30 & 10.00 am  
Wed 7.30 am, 12.30 pm,  
7.30 pm Extraordinary Form  
(1st Wed monthly ONLY)  
4.30 pm Burrswood  
(2nd Wed monthly ONLY)  
Fri 7.30, 10.00 am & 7.30 pm  
Sat: 8.00 and 10.00 am

### Reconciliation

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

## CONTACTS

**Parish** Canon Peter Stodart  
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**Council** chair-parishcouncil@st-augustine.co.uk  
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www.st-augustine.co.uk office@st-augustine.co.uk

## Prayer

**December: Advent Service at 4 p.m.**  
**Sunday 23rd December: no 4 p.m. service but**  
**Reconciliation Service at 7.15 p.m.**

### Eucharistic Adoration

Monday - 6.30 am - 8.00 pm  
Tuesday and Thursday 6.30 am - 1.00 pm  
Friday 6.30am - 9.00pm

### Morning Prayers

Monday- Friday 7.00am, Saturday 7.40am

### Rosary

Mon - Tues & Thurs - Fri before 10.00 am Mass  
ROSARY INTENTION - That, during Advent, people will remember the true meaning of Christmas and not get swept up in the commercialisation of the season.

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

## Prayer Groups

Cenacolo Thurs, 2.30 pm -  
Blessed Sacrament  
Charismatic Tues, 8.00 pm - Church  
Christian Tues, 2.30 pm- MR3  
Meditation  
Mothers Tues, 10.45 am- Meet Room 3  
Prayers

### GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

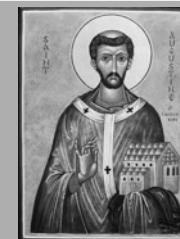
If you are going into hospital and would like a priest to visit you during your stay it is essential that you let one of the priests know. Tunbridge Wells hospital and many other hospitals do not inform us when Catholic patients are admitted.

**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

16th December 2018



## Third Sunday of Advent by Father Josaphat C. Ezenwa

This Sunday of Advent is otherwise known as Gaudete Sunday. It is a Sunday of joy and rejoicing that is evident from the Introit, the tone of the readings and the Vestments of the Mass.

In last week's Liturgy Baruch told us to take off our dress of sorrow and distress and put on the beauty of the glory of God. Today Zephaniah tells us that the 'The Lord is already in our midst'. St. Paul in his wonderful ways of exhortation tells us to rejoice and be happy. It does not matter what is going to happen, God is in control and we should not be afraid. The Lord intends to come into our lives more intimately during this Christmas season, in order to "renew us in his love" (Zeph 3.17). His love will bring us peace, a peace the world cannot give Jn. 14:27.

This wonderful peace comes not from any particular position in life or material possessions we have or will have but from the conviction that God who loves 'me' will take care of 'me' rain or shine. God has a perfect plan for your life and for mine. If we are convinced of this, we will always be full of joy. It is that sort of joy that sustained martyrs to undergo torture and death. This joy is possible also to those who find the Christmas season itself the most distressing because of the demands it makes and the tension it creates. Like St., Pope John Paul II mentioned let us cross the threshold with hope.

With Zephaniah, John the Baptist and Paul let us renew our trust in the Lord who is with us even when things do not go according to our dictates. To achieve this easily one must surrender oneself to God's divine will and that will make it easier to share what one has with the needy.

## 3rd Advent Service - Gaudete Sunday, Rejoice in the Lord 4:00 pm - 16th Dec

On Gaudete Sunday come and rejoice in our reading of

the Antiphons followed  
by Scripture and Reflections.  
Take this time to be before the Lord  
as once again we anticipate the  
Anniversary of his birth.

**'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel...'**



**THIRD SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT  
Year C Psalter Week 3  
PARISH MASS BOOK  
Readings: page 87**

## CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

As last year, the Christmas Vigil Mass will be at 5.30 p.m., and admission to the church will be limited to 500 people Reserving of seats will not be permitted. Once this limit has been reached, those arriving later will be directed to the Hall where they will be able to participate in the Mass by means of a video/audio link; they will also be able to receive Holy Communion in the Hall. Because of the high numbers expected at this Mass only the host will be offered to those receiving Holy Communion, whether in the church or in the hall.

IF NECESSARY THIS OVER-CROWDING PROCEDURE WILL BE FOLLOWED AT OTHER CHRISTMAS MASSES.

## "MIDNIGHT" MASS

Also as last 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.

## Madonnas - a social group for young women/mums Christmas Soiree - Wednesday 19th December 8pm

Please come along to meet other young women of the parish over a glass of mulled wine/spiced apple juice. The evening will have an international flavour with French chocolate yule log, Italian panettone, Czech Christmas carols and lots more....

Please RSVP by text so we can get an idea of numbers 07810 754745 (Louise)  
Let us know if you will bring along something traditional or international to share.  
£2 donation will cover costs. **Date for next meeting is Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January.**

## CROCHETED POPPIES

Tanya Power wishes to sincerely thank everyone who supported her

### Crocheted Poppies Appeal which raised £180 + Gift Aid = £225.

I was so proud to be able to help and in fact the highest recorded box brought in just under £450 so was very proud of my efforts, and making Ormonde proud as well. The confirmation letter is available in the Narthex. Thanks to one and all.

## CATHOLIC SINGLES

is an organisation which helps single Catholics of over 18 years meet other single Catholics, For further information tel. 0161 941 3498 or visit: [www.catholic singles.org.uk](http://www.catholic singles.org.uk)

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"The Church is a perpetually defeated thing that always outlives her conquerors."

Hilaire Belloc

Confirmation 2019  
Young people who are in Year 10 or above of secondary school may now enrol for the Confirmation programme.  
Confirmation will be celebrated on 30th June 2019.

Please take an enrolment form from the narthex and complete and return it as soon as possible. The first meeting for parents and confirmation candidates will be Sunday 27th January 2019 after the 5:45pm Mass and the following sessions will also be after the Sunday evening 5:45pm Mass

Filipino Sta Nino  
Thanksgiving Mass & Fatima Service  
Jan.1st 2019 at 2pm  
And reception afterwards in the hall  
Further information from  
Lollett & Jaime Vidamo

## A PRAYER FOR ADVENT -

### Wrapping Gifts

Dear Lord, I am tired. I sit here surrounded by ribbons and paper, gifts and tags and I struggle to feel the spirit of giving. I can barely remember which gift is for whom and at moments it all seems so far from your birth. Help me to take this moment to think of the many gifts you have given to me, the many ways your grace has blessed my life. Help me to remember that each gift is a tiny mirror of the generosity I see so clearly in your life and of the many ways you shower me with such lavish and undeserved love. Let me sit here for just a moment and feel that joy in my heart.

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/>.

## St Gregory's Catholic School

St Gregory's is currently consulting regarding proposed changes to the school's admission from 2020. Details can be found at [www.sgschool.org.uk](http://www.sgschool.org.uk), paper copies are available from the school. The consultation will be open until 17th January 2019. Comment should be made to Mrs Lynn Birchard at [lbirchard@sgschool.org.uk](mailto:lbirchard@sgschool.org.uk) or by post to the school.

## GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Parishioners will notice two envelopes for the Christmas period:

- A green envelope dated 23rd December 2018
- This is for your 'normal' weekly offering
- A yellow envelope which is incorrectly dated 23rd December - this is marked 'Christmas offering' and is the annual collection taken on Christmas Day for the clergy of the parish. Please use this yellow envelope on all Christmas Day (or Eve) Services

## THIS WEEK

**SUNDAY 16th** Third Sunday of Advent  
Yr C Ps Wk 3 Gaudete Sunday

4.00pm Advent Service - Followed by refreshments in the Hall.

**Outreach: St Augustine's Christmas Dinner**  
It is our custom to offer dinner on Christmas Day to anyone in Tunbridge Wells who is lonely or in need. This is a parish effort wholly dependent on the kindness and generosity of you, our parishioners.

**MONDAY 17th**

12.30pm Ladies Lunch & Prayer Grp - Hall

**TUESDAY 18th**

10.00am Funeral Mass - Douglas Jenner  
Noon - Tuesday Lunch Club - Hall  
2.00pm - ASDC - MR3

**WEDNESDAY 19th**

8.00pm Madonnas Christmas Soiree - Hall

**FRIDAY 21st**

10.00am Funeral Mass  
- Elizabeth de Savigny-Bower

Adoration ends today and will re-start on Thursday, 3rd January

**SATURDAY 22nd**

Extended times for reconciliation  
10.30am - 12.30pm & 4.00pm - 5.00pm

**SUNDAY 23rd** Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Yr C Ps Wk 4

7.15pm Reconciliation Service with several priests

**Outreach: Southwark Diocese Action Against Human Trafficking group**

The Pope describes trafficking as "... an open wound on the body of contemporary society". Latest official estimates the UK has 13,000 victims unofficial estimates are well over double this. Led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols the church is responding through the Santa Marta group as well as other church agencies.

## OFFERTORY

Offertory	£1,948.98
Outreach	
Street Pastors	£804.63
CAFOD	£5
Mitapeeap	£35.30

Thank you for your generosity.