

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

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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

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

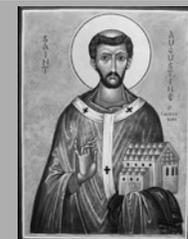
"The Reformer is always right about what's wrong. However, he's often wrong about what is right."

G.K. Chesterton

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

9th December 2018



Second Sunday of Advent by Father Josaphat C. Ezenwa

As we wait for the coming of Christ this Advent, we should remind ourselves that Christ is always with us. He has never been away and so he is not going to stage a comeback like a politician, a boxer, a celebrity or an important personality. What we are waiting for, is that Christ may reveal himself and make his presence felt in a new way; giving us an intense experience of the joy of salvation.

There should be joy and gladness in every Christian. If I lack this joy perhaps something is wrong with my Christianity. In today's liturgy, Baruch tells us to take off our dress of sorrow and distress and put on the beauty of the glory of God forever. 'God who is leading Israel in joy' does so "by the light of his glory" (Bar. 5:9). He continues this work of bringing us to Himself in Christ through the Sacraments.

St. Augustine confessed that he sought joy in created things until he found it in God through Christ. He described it in a beautiful poetic language thus: "Late have I loved you, O Beauty so ancient so new, late have I loved you! For behold, you were within me, and I outside, and I sought you outside and in my ugliness fell upon those lovely things that you have made. You were with me and I was not with you. I was kept from you by those things, yet had they not been in you, they would not have been at all. You called and cried to me and broke open my deafness: and sent forth your beams and shone upon me and chased away my blindness: you breathed fragrance upon me, and I drew in my breath and do now pant for you: I tasted you, and now hunger and thirst for you: you touched me, and I have burned for your peace."

Joy does not mean transient pleasure that comes from physical comfort but the peace that emanates from a person who strongly believes in our Saviour's victory over sin and evil in spite of the disasters and tragedies in the world. C. S. Lewis at his conversion called it 'Surprised by Joy'. This joy led St. Mother Teresa to achieve beautiful extraordinary things for God.

The joy of salvation is not magical. Christ has achieved it freely for us. He beckons that we avail ourselves of it by breaking the chains of selfishness, hatred and greed that tend to hinder us. Let us, therefore, yearn to reform our lives through the grace of God, and once this is attained, may we endeavour to share and express it through mutual love and fellowship.

2nd SUNDAY of ADVENT SERVICE - **Cloth for the Cradle** - 4.00 pm 9th December

Advent, a period of time where we are asked to be patient; to prepare, and to wait. The object behind these series of Advent Liturgies is to halt the rush towards Christmas and give us that time to ponder, mull, reflect and consider.

'Cloth for the Cradle', will echo and resound with the central theme of waiting.

Waiting for Christ to come, waiting for Christ to come again.
Containing a series of contemporary readings, intercessions,
prayer and song,

'Cloth for the Cradle' concludes with a symbolic action that prepares a makeshift crib for the Christ-child
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel...'

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
Year C Psalter Week 2
PARISH MASS BOOK
Readings: from page 84
Preface: page 65**



*****URGENT*****

DRIVERS REQUIRED
for Christmas Lunch

The Parish will again be hosting a Christmas Day Dinner for the Homeless, Needy or Lonely. Drivers are needed to pick-up guests at about noon to transport to the Age UK Hall off Camden Road and to take them home at about 2pm. Please give your name and telephone number to the Office.

Christmas Day Dinner

The turkey has been caught.



Anyone who would like to join us for dinner on Christmas Day at the Age UK Hall, Wood Street (off Camden Road), and has not received an invitation, please collect one from the Parish Office.

CATHOLIC SINGLES

is an organisation which helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further information visit: www.catholicingles.org.uk or tel. 0161 941 3498.

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 21st January.

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 be after the Sunday evening Mass**

First Holy Communion 2019

First Communion programme has now closed.

The first parents meeting is next **Tuesday 11th December - 8pm in the hall.** The programme diary as well as allocation of classes and any other queries that parents may raise will be addressed.

"It is essential that parents attend this meeting".

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, 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 or by post to the school.

Knock Shrine Weekend Pilgrimage
16th March 2019.

£599.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, taxes, transfers, 4 nights' DBB in Knock House Hotel.

All entertainment, excursions and guided tours included.

Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel.

Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

Walk with Me Booklet

The Southwark edition of 'Walk with Me', a journey of prayer for Advent and Christmastide, is now available. The booklets of daily meditations for Advent are available in the narthex and costs £1

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Our Diocesan Stewardship Team again produced a handy daily email to enable personal reflection. The focus is on the readings for each Sunday in Advent. The brief reflection will be sent directly to your Inbox to make it as easy as possible to take a little time out each day.

To receive your daily reflection – simply sign up at:

<http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/>

Filipino Sta Nino

Thanksgiving Mass & Fatima Service

Jan.1st 2019 at 2pm

And reception afterwards in the hall

Further information from

Lollett & Jaime Vidamo

Christmas Cards for Cambodia



Around this time of year we also remember our twin parish and send them religious Christmas cards which are always received with pleasure.

The address is: Fr Mark Lopez,
Catholic Church, PO Box 601
Kompong Thom, Cambodia

ADVENT III Service
16th Dec at 4:00pm

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.



THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2.30pm Polish Catechism - Hall

SUNDAY 9th Second Sunday of Advent
Yr C Ps Wk 2 Bible Sunday
4.00pm Advent Service – Cloth for the Cradle, followed by refreshments in the Hall

Outreach: Street Pastors are trained Volunteers from 25 local churches who care for those in their community. They have been operating in the town for nearly 9 years, patrolling in teams of men and women on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, helping to bring a calming peaceful presence to people who are out on the streets.

TUESDAY 11th
11.30am Funeral Mass – Georgette Frendo

WEDNESDAY 12th
2.30pm Bible Study – MR3

THURSDAY 13th St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

FRIDAY 14th St John of the Cross

SUNDAY 16th Third Sunday of Advent
Yr C Ps Wk 3 Gaudete Sunday
4.00pm Advent III 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.

OFFERTORY

Offertory	£1,703.45
Outreach	£1,078.04
Crisis	
CAFOD	£5
Mitapeep	£24.65

Thank you for your generosity.