

**SAINT AUGUSTINE
OF ENGLAND
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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This Parish is part of Archdiocese of Birmingham
Registered charity No. 234216



Fr Dominic Kavanagh Fr Paul Devaney Deacon Kevin O'Connor

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD YEAR A 25th December 2016

Dear Parishioners,

'Today a Saviour is born! In the stillness of the night, God enters human history through the birth of His only Son. He is our peace and hope. In Him we praise God for His goodness to us in giving us so great a gift.' (Pope Saint John Sunday Missal.)

Father Dominic writes: 'Father Paul, Deacon Kevin and I wish to express our sincere thanks to each and everyone for your kindness and generous spirit of service, expressed in so many different ways during these weeks of Advent and Christmas tide. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and God's special Blessings as the year 2017 unfolds. We thank you for the beautiful Cards we have received and for the expressions of love and support and thanks expressed therein. We thank you for your gifts and especially the assurance of your prayers.'

The one collection at the Christmas Masses is your annual Christmas gift to the Priests of the Parish.

Thanks to your generous giving we have forwarded donations to the following Charities: 'Anawim', 'Sifa-Fireside', 'S.C.A.H.', 'S.V.P.' and 'St Chad's Sanctuary'; and from the Christmas Fayre we have divided the proceeds between CAFOD and Aid to the Church in Need. The benefactors have written to express their sincere thanks for your sustained generosity.


Please note that we have only one Mass on Thursday 29th December, which will be at 12.30pm, and there will not be a 9am Mass on Saturday 31st December. **You will be interested to know that Midnight Mass** is being broadcast from St Chad's Cathedral, B.Ham on Christmas Eve on BBC1, starting at 11.40pm.

Early in the New Year we will be asking for your support for a further debate on the Homelessness Reduction Bill. This will take place on 27th January. If you would like to gain some insight/understanding, please visit the Crisis website:

Peace Sunday will be celebrated in England and Wales on 14th/15th January 2017.

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place between 18th and 25th January. There will be a **Prayer Lunch on Tuesday 24th January** in the Meeting Place at Christ Church to which all are invited.

We welcome Father John Collins and Father Giles Goward, who will be helping with the Christmas Masses.

<p>24th December Saturday CHRISTMAS EVE</p>	<p>Isaiah 9:1-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 12.30pm Deceased Members of the Reynolds Family All People of the Parish 4.00pm Thomas, Catherine, Frances, Anne Kelly-RIP Roger & Helena Oldfield-RIP 8.00pm Carols & Readings 8.30pm Margarett</p>	<p>Confession/Exposition 11.00-12.00 Noon</p>
<p>25th December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</p> 	<p>Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-6 John 1:1-18 9.00am Ellen Shinton-RIP 11.00am John Dodman-RIP Charles Cassidy-Intention</p>	
<p>26th December Monday FEAST St Stephen</p>	<p>Acts 6:8-10 7:54-59 Matthew 10:17-22 9.35am The Rosary 10.00am Sheila McNamara Margaret McNamara</p>	
<p>27th December Tuesday FEAST St John</p>	<p>1 John 1:1- 4 John 20:2-8 9.35am The Rosary 10.00am John Richard Edge-RIP Bronagh Cullen-Get Well</p>	<p>Legion of Mary 6.30pm</p>
<p>28th December Wednesday FEAST The Holy Innocents</p>	<p>1 John 1:5-2:2 Matthew 2:13-18 9.35am The Rosary 10.00am Peter Connolly-RIP Mary Concannon-RIP</p>	
<p>29th December Thursday FEAST ST Thomas Becket</p>	<p>Colossians 1:24 Luke 22:24-30 12.05am The Rosary 12.30pm Eileen & Maurice Long-RIP Laurence Morgan-Birthday</p>	<p>No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 10.00am Mass</p>
<p>30th December Friday FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY</p>	<p>Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14 Luke 2:41-52 9.35am The Rosary 10.00am Dasan & Tessy _Wedding Anniversary 6.30pm Sheila Lyons</p>	<p>No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 10am Mass Holy Hour 5.15pm-6.15pm Followed by Mass at 6.30pm</p>
<p>31st December Saturday St Sylvester</p>	<p>1 John 2:18-21 John 1:1-18 No 9.00am Mass Numbers 6:22-17 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21 12.30pm Deceased Members of the O'Callaghan Family Vethanayagam</p>	<p>Confession/Exposition 11.00-12.00 Noon</p>
<p>1st January Solemnity of Mary Mother of God</p>	<p>Numbers 6:22-17 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21 9.00am Kay & Tony Perry-RIP 11.00am Pat Jones, Children & Grandchildren-Intentions</p>	

**Offertory Collection last week: £1,224:35 (Gift Aid £278:60 Loose £965:75)
Collection last week end: Father Hudson's Care.-£1154:32**

A 'Prayer Request' box can now be found in each entrance porch. You are welcome to place the names of those you would like prayers for, or any prayer intention you may have in the box as provided. Your intentions will be transferred to the Sanctuary on a weekly basis, and prayers will be offered for all those mentioned.

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School is looking for Teachers who would be available for Supply. If you are interested please contact the Head teacher Mrs Willmott on 0121 705 4355.

SVP CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR HOMELESS-We need socks and any decent quality boots. Plus men's underwear in sizes small and medium(32"-34"pants)



Headship Vacancy – St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Governors are seeking to appoint a new headteacher from 1st September 2017 and would be pleased to meet people who would be both excited by and attracted to the position. Details of the position are available on www.eteach.com or www.wmjjobs.com Alternatively, details can be obtained from the school (Tel 01543 501380). Visits to the school are welcome.

Readers this week	Eucharistic Ministers this week
Christmas Eve	Christmas Eve
12.30pm Kate McNamara	12.30pm C.Docker
4.00pm Anthony Killeen	4.00pm S.Withers
8.00pm Madeleine Coburn, Michael Keating, Gerry Coburn Pam Davis	8.30pm Madeleine Coburn, Angela Keating
8.30pm Sarah Pitchford	
Christmas Day	Christmas Day
9.00am Pam Davis	9.00am Helen Brookes. M.Hallissey
11.00am Chris Hodrien	
11.00am Annette Kelly Eilish Duffy	
SUNDAY 1st January	SUNDAY 1st January
9.00am Teresa Cund	9.00am Don & Mary Deneny
11.00am Mary Clark	11.00am Helen Brookes
Cleaning Rota: for week beginning December 26th for Services December 31st/Jan 1st –A	
A.Ryder, M.Clark, C.Sinha	
Flower Rota: – for week beginning 26th December for Services 31st Dec/1st January- Chris Docker	

Please remember in your prayers the sick of the Parish

Jayne Hemming	Brian Jones	Anne White	Joseph Lockington
Peter Griffin	Clare Farmer	James Farmer	Kathleen McLoughlin
Martha Sheridan	Katie Kelly	Patricia Jones	Eilish Duffy
Mick Green	Andrew Simpson	Bernadette Day	Anthony Sadler
Christopher Browne	Kate McAvinney	Sarah Maloney	John Balder
Ann Marie Boyd	Kathy Stead	Amando Tenorio	Heath Balder
Maureen McLoughlin	Louisa and Nick	Margaret Kelly	Teresa Farrelley
Angela D'Arcy	Joseph Farmer	Peggy Roper	Therese Coulton
Baby Lily Day	Rose Walsh	Aidan, Patrick and Michael O'Donnell	Norman Hart
Martine and Rita McDonnell	Raymond Shenstone	Cornelius Callanan	Doreen Shirley
Sally & Maddy	John Keaney	Glen Hughes	Finbarr Herron
Michael Cassidy	Susanna Gordon	Mark Andrew Sutton	David Nuna n
Dean	Elisabeth Scull	Norman Eaglesfield	Rita Jones
Baby Lara Constantinou			

1 CORINTHIANS 13 CHRISTMAS VERSION

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls,

But do not show love to my family, am just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cakes, preparing gourmet meals and arranging

A beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my neighbour, am just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, sing carols in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity,

But do not show love to my staff, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the tree with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and Sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on those I see the most, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful that they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who

Can't, and gives for no returns. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. Video games will break; pearl necklaces will be lost golf clubs will rust. But love will endure,

If ever there was a good reason to rejoice over the birth of any child, it must surely be today on the birthday of Jesus, the Son of Mary, who alone of all men is called and truly is God with us - of whom alone it can be said that the *Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us*. Christmas Day is nothing if not a day of universal joy. Children should rejoice because on this day God himself became as one of them; virgins, because a Virgin brought forth and remained unstained even after giving birth; wives because one of their number became the Mother of God; sinners because their Mediator and Saviour and Healer has come to redeem them; the just, because their Reward exceeding great has been born into the world.-*Saint Peter Canisius*

Please pray for: Ray Nicholson who died recently. (Requiem 9th January 10am; Reception 8th January 5pm) and Jennifer Gulliver. (Requiem Tuesday 3rd January, 1.00pm; Reception Monday 2nd, 7.00pm) Also Joseph Rohan, Doreen Delaney, Lilian Josephine Roe, Doreen Mary Essex, Gerard McVeigh, Gerald Reddington, Mary Concannon, Thomas Kennedy, Helen Patricia Bird, Maureen Ferran, Jacqueline Lemmon, Margaret Taylor Smith, Patrick Joseph Rooney and Kathleen(Kay) Margaret Perry whose anniversaries are at this time.

Safe Guarding Representatives are: Anne Ryder 0121 705 3067 anne.ryder@staugustinesolihull.org.uk
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