



**St Augustine's Catholic Church
High Wycombe**

Third Sunday of Advent (B)

13 December 2020

Please take the newsletter home with you for reference.

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🌐 www.facebook.com/StAugustinesHW

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 13 Dec - Third Sunday of Advent (B)

Gaudete

9am People of the Parish
11am Les Greenwood RIP
6pm Robert House RIP-Anniv

Monday 14 Dec - St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor

9.30am Hanbury Family

Tuesday 15 Dec -

9.30am Margaret O'Kane RIP
6.30pm Thanksgiving - Myriam Nango

Wednesday 16 Dec -

9.30am Fr. Jonathan - Silver Jubilee

Thursday 17 Dec - O Wisdom

9.30am John O'Brien RIP
6.30pm David Sontan - Thanksgiving

Friday 18 Dec - O Adonai

9.30am No Mass
6.30pm Mass

Saturday 19 Dec - O Root of Jesse

9.30am Foundation Mass - Lord

**Sunday 20 Dec - Fourth Sunday of Advent (B) O Key
Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers**

9am People of the Parish
11am Mass
6pm Robert Schafer-Peek

Psalm response

My soul rejoices in my God.

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given
to me. He has sent me to bring good
news to the poor.

Alleluia!

Acc: 2. When we eat this Bread and drink
this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

**CONFESSIONS - Please ring to make an
appointment.**

**RETIRING COLLECTION TODAY FOR:
MARY'S MEALS**

NEXT SUNDAY will see our Annual collection
for the **APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA** (Sea
Sunday - usually in **July**, but postponed this
year.

CHRISTMAS CAROL

SINGING: It doesn't look as if we'll be doing much singing in the church over Christmas, so we thought of having a Carol-Singing session in the car-park. We have been advised that while singing indoors is currently prohibited, singing out doors is fine. Those attending, if coming by car, should park across the road in one of the two car parks we normally use. If you are coming, then **please let us know in advance - either by phone or e mail**, so that we can be sure we have all the necessary safety measures in place. It would also be good to have three or four people to act as stewards, helping to organise arrivals and departures. Again, please let me know if you can do this. This Carol Singing will both be an act of witness and help get us into the spirit for the forthcoming celebration of Christmas. Our Carol singing is scheduled for next Saturday, 19th December, at 3.00pm. Do come along and sing for joy - you'll feel better for it!



CHRISTMAS TREE: A tree arrived on the doorstep on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - the day before I was going to go and arrange to buy one for St Augustine's. A big thank you to the anonymous donor.



CHRISTMAS MASSES: Since last Saturday we have been taking bookings for Christmas Masses. At the time of writing we still have a few seats available for the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at 7.30pm and for the 9.00am on Christmas morning. Plenty of seats are available for the 7.30am Christmas morning, so why not consider that? If you have children, they'll probably be up by 6.00 anyway!

CHRISTMAS STEWARDS/WELCOMERS: With the church expected to be full at every Mass it would be good if a couple of 'non-vulnerable' people at each Mass would volunteer to act as stewards - this means checking people in off the bookings list as they arrive, and helping them to find their seats if necessary. If you are willing to help with this please be willing to arrive 20 minutes before Mass and also, please, let me know as

soon as possible. Also, the rota of our Stewards for while the Church is open on Saturdays and Sundays comes to an end at Christmas, and it would be good to have some new volunteers. Please let me know if you are willing to go on the new rota for a one hour slot during the afternoon so that we can continue to keep our church open for times of private prayer. You might actually find it quite a relaxing and peaceful experience!



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021: Forms are now available for applications on the coming year's First Communion programme. Once we know how many applications we have we can sort out a start date, so please make sure the forms are filled in not only completely, but also clearly, so your e mail addresses can be read. Please return the forms to the Presbytery as soon as possible, with a copy of your child's baptismal certificate if they were not baptised at St Augustine's.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED

SACRAMENT: Following the recent Holy Hour on a Friday evening, there will be another one from **7.00 to 8.00 on Friday 18th December**. It's a great part of a preparation for Christmas to come into the Lord's actual presence in this way and pray for a while, or even just to look at Him while He looks at you. You don't have to come for the whole hour and it's fine if you just pop in for five minutes.

MARY'S MEALS: There will be an appeal this Sunday on behalf of the Charity 'Mary's Meals' with a collection.



ADVENT PRAYER - Contrition: The 'C' of ACTS. Because sin is, let's face it, part of our lives, so repentance and contrition need also to be part of our lives. This prayer is, of course, seen at its greatest in the Sacrament of Confession, part there is room for it always in our prayer. Indeed, each celebration of Mass starts with Contrition (The Penitential Rite, where we ask for God's mercy) and then with Adoration (as we sing or say the Gloria). The prayer of Contrition involves us looking at our lives to see where we fail to live up to

what God has asked of us. There are many ways in which this can be done. We might (and this is an excellent daily practice) at the end of the day just cast our minds back over the day seeing what has happened, what we have done and said and ask for God's forgiveness for what we find there that is sinful. We might ponder the so-called Seven Deadly Sins. They are so-called because they deaden the soul and all sorts of sins come under those headings. The Deadly Sin of Greed, for example, might lead us to dishonesty of one kind or another, that of Lust can lead us to make use of other people, treating them as mere objects, whether they are physically present or we are looking at their images. The Deadly sin of Pride can make us insensitive to others and give us an exaggerated sense of our own importance. And so on. For easy reference those seven headings are: Greed, Gluttony, Sloth (or Laziness), Pride, Lust, Anger, Envy. We might have a series on them some time. But remember, Contrition and Repentance are not designed to make you just feel bad, or worthless. They exist to let you know where you need that extra bit of help from God in trying to live in a way pleasing to Him. It's very much a positive thing, not a negative one. So if you're just feeling bad about your sins or wallowing in guilt, you're doing it wrong!

FINAL THOUGHT: I came across a passage from a letter of JRR Tolkien to his son. Tolkien was a daily communicant and went to Confession every week. 'Out of the darkness of my life, so much frustrated, I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament....There you will find romance, glory, honour, fidelity and the true way of all your loves on earth, and more than that: Death: by the divine paradox, that which ends life and demands the surrender of all, and yet by the taste (or foretaste) of which alone can what you seek in your earthly relationships (love, faithfulness, joy) be maintained, or take on that complexion of reality, of eternal endurance, which every man's heart desires.'

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: As usual the Christmas Day collection goes to the priests of the Parish. You can contribute to this even if you are going to be away at Christmas by putting an envelope in the basket or through the door of the Presbytery clearly marked '**Christmas Offering**' You are also able to contribute on line but you need to ensure that you use the priest's name as a reference rather than the Parish Thus you might put '**Fr Jonathan Hill**' instead of 'St Augustine's, High Wycombe.' You don't have to make separate contributions for each priest because the whole lot is divided between us anyway!

ST AUGUSTINE'S PSALM PROJECT: The normal times when the Psalms and their commentary are to be broadcast is on **Tuesdays and Fridays at 11.00**. Once posted on You Tube they will remain in place.

THE KNIGHTS OF ST.COLUMBA have once again provided A3 sized Christmas posters for displaying in your windows, and also a strip of "Keep Christ in Christmas" stickers to add to your Christmas card envelopes. **Please pick them up on the way out.**

DIOCESE: Diocesan e-Newsletter. Subscribe to the e-Newsletter of our Diocese. Visit the diocesan website: <https://northamptondiocese.org/> on the Home Page scroll down to the application form for our Diocesan e-Newsletter.

NYMO invite all young adults to an online advent retreat. Open to all aged **18-35yrs**, **each Tuesday of Advent, between 8.00-9.30pm** join the team on zoom for a time of prayer, worship and reflection. email hello@nymo.org for more information.

COMPANIONS IN CHRIST: Zoom Meetings on **Tuesday's** All welcome. 7.30pm doors open, 7.45pm start, 9pm finish. Although there is no obligation to attend **every** week and you can just drop in on a Tuesday evening if you feel like it. Please email Sarah Priestley mrs_s_priestley@hotmail.com or Catri Plummer c.plummer@ntlworld.com for the Zoom details if you would like to attend.

LUX.VALOUR WEEKEND: On Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st January 2021, we can all come together **online** for **LUX.Valour!** During our **LUX.Valour weekend**, we will be exploring what it means to be a young person of great bravery. How we can walk into the unknown of this New Year, confident that we are “not given a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power.” 2 Timothy 1:7. **If you are aged 11-18** and would like to join please click on the link below and complete the form on our website. <https://nyomo.org/lux-valour/> please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions at info@nyomo.org.

TOUR OF THE HOLY LAND

Wednesday **10 March - Friday 19 March 2021**. Cost £1845 per person. Led by David & Nabs Camp. For full details go to: www.christian-travel.com and enter the date of the tour.

Of your Mercy....Please pray for Les Greenwood, who died on 2nd December. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord..

ANNIVERSARIES: George Hazell, Peggy Jeffries, Robert Powell, Annie Byrne, Bill Kelly, Robert House, Nasim Illahi-Kent, Francis Hinchy, Rosein Johnson, Jane Milko, Geoffrey Nash, Lynda Hartless, Zbigniew Barszcz.

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION: £526.60
+ Standing Orders of £696

DIARY OF EVENTS

2020

20 Dec - Fourth Sunday of Advent - O Key

24 Dec - Mass at Midnight

25 Dec - The Nativity of Our Lord

Useful Websites:

<https://northamptondiocese.org>

<http://www.catholicreadings.org>

<http://www.heavensroadfm.com>

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

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk>

<https://northamptondiocese.org/donate/>

<http://cafod.org.uk/coronavirus>

PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL

Holy Michael, the Archangel defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.



Gaudete - Rejoice in the Lord always