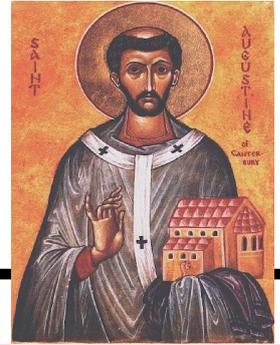




Anglican Catholic Church of St Augustine
Eastling Road, Painters Forstal, Kent ME13 0DU



PARISH NEWS

Sunday: 11am Sung Mass

Holy Days: As Announced

**A Very Warm
WELCOME**

Today is

Advent IV

**20th December
2020**

The Propers are on
Page 336 of the red
Book of Common Prayer

Today there will be no

Hymns

At the end of the service we
conclude with the
Angelus (in the back of the
white **Mass Booklets**)
Turning to face the Statue of
Our Lady.

**Government Covid-19
Guidelines and Rules**

In accordance with Government
guidelines we ask those using the
Church to wear facemasks in
Church (clergy in the Sanctuary are
permitted to remove theirs in the
sanctuary) to practice safe
distancing and use hand sanitiser.



**Please
Turn off Your
Mobile Phones**

Our Organ doesn't like them

Thank you

Dear Friends,

I hope and pray this weeks newsletter finds you safe and well. Whether you are in Church, in your own home, or standing outside the Church reading it on our notice board.

I am very grateful to Fr Raymond Thompson for celebrating Mass last Sunday at short notice after my back injury. I am pleased to say that my back is much better. Unfortunately, I will not be in Church today either. However, this time it is because I have been exposed to someone close to me who has tested positive for Covid-19. I am therefore required to isolate and, because of my serious pre-existing medical conditions, am awaiting the results of a Coronavirus test. Praise God I am not experiencing any symptoms at the moment, but I pray for those who have been in contact with me who are suffering from the virus, although also praise God, their symptoms do not appear serious at the moment. I hope to be out of quarantine and back at the altar in time for our Mass at 6pm on Christmas Eve and for the carol singing after Mass on the Church forecourt.

On Christmas Day, as for over 2000 years, the Gospel will proclaim the Good News of great joy which shall be to all people. From all the Altars and Pulpits of Christendom, from our little Church, from the mighty Cathedral in Canterbury, from St Peter's Basilica in Rome, from the secret places around the world where Christians are persecuted, the central and supreme mystery will be announced. "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." At that announcement every Christian knee will bow in humble gratitude for this first and most precious Christmas gift of Almighty God.

This Christmas will be a strange celebration. Some families will not be able to come together. Some will be mourning the loss of loved ones, while others will be confused and distressed. Those who always work through the holiday, in the uniformed and armed forces, our doctors, nurses and care home workers will do so with the extra stress and the burden of their wonderful sacrificial work and service to each other

Please read our Covid-19 worship notice



and the rest of us during this pandemic..

Christmas, over the years, has become for most of us a cosy and positive experience. The joy of seeing loved ones, of enjoying gifts and, perhaps, drinking and eating a little more than we should. In much the same way the countless depictions on Christmas Cards and in Church Nativities of Our Lord are full images of joy and happiness. They do not necessarily display the dreadful remembrance that when Our Lord came into the world, the world knew Him not. That when He came unto His own, His own received Him not.

Of course this all happened a very long time ago. What would happen if the Nativity had not happened then, at that point in human history, but happened this 25th December? Think of the world as it is today. Think of general population as they are. What would happen do you think? What would people do? What would the politicians and leaders say? What would the clever intellectuals of today say? What would the newspapers say? What would be said by men and women in the street? What would be written by popular writers? What would be the comments of the young and the modern? And the old and the sophisticated? The conservative and the liberal?

December

✘

Thursday 24th

Christmas Eve

6pm First Mass
of Christmas

*Followed by Carols in the
Car Park weather (and any
changes in Government
guidelines), permitting.*

✘

*This Christmas we will
confine our Christmas
Services to the Mass on
Christmas Eve.*

✘

Sunday 27th December

St John

(Comm Octave of Nativity)

11am Sung Mass*

✘

January

✘

Sunday 3rd

The Holy Family

(Comm Christmas II)

11am Sung Mass*

✘

** No congregational singing
of hymns.*

Suppose it were happening here in Painters Forstal? Then what? Would it be so very different? I wonder. I suspect we would see a repeat of the harsh reality 2000 years ago.

The few at the Manger.

The many who do not care.

The more who do not know.

Those who are wise to adore.

The ones who respond in hate.

No, the first Christmas was not as pleasant to think about, as we may fool ourselves into thinking. But then harsh reality is often difficult to contemplate.

On Christmas morning whether one is in Church, in one's own home, with family and friends or alone, at work, or even if sick and/or confined to bed. Whether in happiness or joy, in sadness or distress. We are faced with same question first asked of the world on that first Christmas Day.

Do we adore
or do we ignore?




Christmas Service 2020

Christmas Eve
6pm First Mass of Christmas

Followed by Carols in the Car Park*
(*Weather Permitting)

*Everyone of goodwill
is welcome to join us in Worship*

Requests for names to be added to our weekly prayer lists may be made by writing the prayer intention (names and reason) in clear printed writing on paper and given to the clergy. If you wish the intention to remain private—note that and the details will not be published on this weekly sheet

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR ...

Fr Don & Di Walker, Chris Bosworth, Margaret and Laurence Mead, Paul Fletcher, Barbara Henderson, Todd, David and Sheila, Margaret Miles, Danny and Colin Rumens, Frederick Chadwick, Ann Chapman, Diane Young, Pauline Allison, Harrison and Edward Eckert, Ina Bond, Margaret and Peter Martin, Dulcie Fidge, Margaret Bendelow, Dorothy Hipkiss, Fr Miles Maylor, Fr Roger Bell, Vickie Wall, Pat Johnson, Liz Bakker, William and Nancy Spencer, Stacy Sawyer, Kody Sawyer, the Hall Family, Bishop Damien and Roy Hipkiss and all those effected by or suffering from the Coronavirus and other infectious diseases.

For those who read these Parish Notes on the Notice Board outside and all who receive email or paper copies.

- For our neighbours and the people of **Painters Forstal** and **Ospringe** and the surrounding countryside, the **growth** of our **Church Family**.
- For **persecuted Christians** especially in Africa, Pakistan, the Middle East and China.

For those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

- Diocese of the Resurrection, Bishop Ordinary - Rt Rev Rocco Florenza;
- The Victoria College of Music and the Diocesan Ministry Training Programme;
- The children of the ACC especially those in this Diocese and parish.

And we remember the recently departed: specially, AND those whose anniversaries falls at this time

P: ✘ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord **R:** And let light perpetual shine upon them



CHURCH FLOWERS
To make a donation for Flowers in Church – Please see Mrs Margaret Mead

Rector

Bishop Damien Mead

Tel: 01797 321704

Email: dmead@anglican catholic.org

Honorary Assistant Priest

Father Raymond Thompson

Tel: 07443 438465

Email: frraythompson@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Mr Roy Hipkiss

Parish Treasurer: Mrs Kerry Scott

Organist: Mr Louis Collins

Cantor: Vacancy

(Parish) www.staugustineacc.uk

(Diocese) www.anglican catholic.org.uk