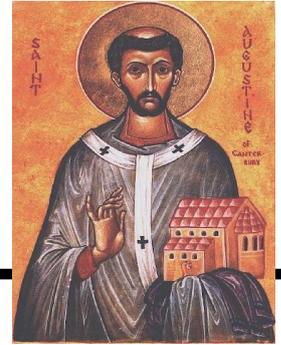




Anglican Catholic Church of St Augustine  
Eastling Road, Painters Forstal, Kent ME13 0DU



# PARISH NEWS

Sunday: 11 am Sung Mass + Week Days + Holy Days: As Announced

**A Very Warm  
WELCOME**

**This Sunday is**

**Christmas II**

Comm: Octave of St Stephen

**2nd January 2022**

The Propers of the Mass today are to be found on page 356 of the Book of Common Prayer

## HYMNS

**36  
374  
49  
323**

At the end of Mass we shall hold our brief, monthly **Healing Service**, concluding with praying together **The Angelus**, at Our Lady's Shrine



**Please  
Turn off Your  
Mobile Phones**

Our Organ doesn't like them

*Thank you*

*Dear Friends,*

Later this week we will celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord. Although today is the Second Sunday After Christmas, the Missal traditionally assigns the Proper's for the Vigil of the Epiphany to today.

What did you get for Christmas? I was a very lucky boy and Santa was very good to me. I am grateful for all my gifts, although I am one of those people who it is difficult to buy gifts for. Books, one would think, are a sure bet, but my house already has the appearance of a Library. Aside from theological and 'serious' tomes I do enjoy a good biography or autobiography. This year I received a biography of Queen Mary I have wanted to read for sometime. I am not sure what it is about biographies, autobiographies, memoirs and anecdotal reminiscences that I enjoy.

I have a collection spanning an array of people as diverse as Thomas Cranmer to Margaret Rutherford, from Winston Churchill to the diaries of a Victorian Country Parson. It is in the nature of these things that most of the subjects are 'famous' people. But as fascinating as most of them are, I have found nothing that compares with the amazing adventures and discoveries of the life stories of the many millions of simple, everyday folk, who have seen the star and found the Child.

The word Epiphany means manifestation or showing forth. By the leading of a star the only-begotten Son was manifested to the Gentiles, that is, the non-Jewish world. The Wise men, the Magi, following the Star, came to Bethlehem *"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they present-*



*ed unto him gifts; gold and frankincense and myrrh."*

These Wise men saw the light from the place in which they lived. They made the commitment to follow it. They had a desire to worship. They felt moved to come bearing gifts and to present their treasures. In those Wise men we should look to find, reflected, ourselves and all faithful Christians. For their history is the history of every one who has followed the star. At some point in our lives we have seen the star shining. Of course it is equally true that so many other people do not seem to see what we see, or perhaps far worse, do see it but reject it.

What is it that makes us sensitive? What is it that leads us to look upward? What is it that stirs the longing in our heart? What is it that gives us the strength for the long pilgrimage of discovery? Well, there are as many answers as there are pilgrims.

However, I am sure you will agree that for each of us it involves *"giving the best that we have"*. Only too aware that this is not enough, unless we appreciate the fact that the best we have can never be good enough.

# January

✕

## Sunday 2nd

*Christmas II (Comm Octave)*  
11am Sung Mass

*Followed by our monthly  
Healing Service*

✕

## Sunday 9th

*First Sunday After Epiphany*  
*Comm: The Octave*  
11am Sung Mass

*With blessing of Epiphany  
Chalk and inscribing the Magi  
blessing over the church door.*

✕

## Sunday 16th

*Epiphany II*  
*(Comm Bl. William Laud)*  
11am Sung Mass

✕

## Sunday 23rd

*Epiphany III*  
11am Sung Mass

✕

## Sunday 30th

*Epiphany IV*  
*(Comm Blessed Charles  
Stuart, King & Martyr)*  
11am Sung Mass

✕

In Christina Rossetti's beautiful Christmas Hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter" the final verse reads;

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart*

What is the best we have to offer? It is in this last line we find the answer to the question; our hearts. But not the soft, sugary, sentimentality of the human heart. No, we must offer *integrity of intention* which is the essence of purity of heart.

The story of each of our pilgrimages of adventure is only known to God, "unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid". All of us may begin from different starting points. We may have different experiences along the way but we have the same destination. The star which each of us has at some point in our lives manifested itself to us and prompted us to follow it until it stood over where the young child was.

We too have fallen to our knees and worshipped the new born King, and opened our treasures, and presented our gifts.

In our hearts we can find tiny nuggets of the gold which have formed in our strange trials of obedience and loyalty. We can find grains of the frankincense which we have formed in the secret prayers of our hearts and the public acts of worship we have shared. We can also find in our hearts the myrrh of the sorrows which teach us the value of resignation, of repentance and to recognise in the needs of others a requirement for love, sympathy and forgiveness.

The treasures give abundant material for us to write our own autobiographies. Although much of what we experience may remain silent and unknown to those around us, except to God, who has been at our side throughout!



## YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR ...

Fr Don and Di Walker, Chris Bosworth, Margaret and Laurence Mead, Paul and Sue Fletcher, Barbara Henderson, Todd, David and Sheila, Colin Rumens, Frederick Chadwick, Ann Chapman, Megan Young, Pauline Allison, Harrison and Edward Eckert, Margaret and Peter Martin, Margaret Bendelow, Dorothy Hipkiss, Fr Miles Maylor, Elizabeth Bell, Vickie Wall, Pat Johnson, Fr Ed & Liz Bakker, Deb Stuck, Angela, Hazel, Sarah, David, Nicole and Corrina Winterburn, Robert and Kathleen Dunford, Br Botolph OSB, Deacon Jong, Bishop David Haines, Malcolm Munn, Barbara Bowers, Isabella Ighodaro, Dot Johnson, in thanksgiving for the wedding on New Year's eve of Diane Young and Mike Smith. All those effected by the Coronavirus.

*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 the surrounding countryside and villages, the **growth** of our **Church Family**.
- For **persecuted Christians** especially in Africa, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Middle East and China.

*For those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer*

- Missionary Dioceses of the Northeast and Vaal, Rt Rev Dominic Mduyelwa, Episcopal Visitor;
- For ACC Churchwardens, parish councils. All ACC flower arrangers and church cleaners;
- The Uniformed Services, Police, Fire, Ambulance, Paramedics, Coast Guards and Lifeboat Crews;
- The Bishop's Council of Advice and the Officers of the Diocese,

*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**

(Parish) [www.staugustineacc.uk](http://www.staugustineacc.uk)

(Diocese) [www.anglican catholic.org.uk](http://www.anglican catholic.org.uk)



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Parish Treasurer: Mrs Kerry Scott

Organist: Mr Louis Collins

Cantor: Mr Barnabas Sharp