



# PARISH NEWS

Sunday: 11 am Sung Mass +

+ Holy Days: As Announced

**A Very Warm  
WELCOME  
This Sunday is  
Advent III  
11th December  
2022**

The Propers of the Mass  
are on page 323 of the  
Book of Common Prayer

## HYMNS

**11  
12  
295  
10**

*At the end of Mass, we  
will conclude with  
The Angelus  
turning to face Our  
Lady's Statue.*



**Please  
Turn off Your  
Mobile Phones**

*Dear Friends,*

This week we find we have three days; Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, which are named as **Ember Days**. These are special days for those who are to be admitted into Holy Orders. Ember Days occur at the Four Seasons, (being the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) after the First Sunday in Lent; the Feast of Pentecost; September 14 and December 13th.

The Epistle is from Saint Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians and sets forth the Apostle's teaching that ministers, that is servants, of Christ, are the "stewards of the mysteries of God." "It is required in stewards," writes Saint Paul, "that a man be found faithful."

The Preface to the Ordinal, the rite by which men are ordained in the Church, states, "It is evident unto all men, diligently reading Holy Scriptures and ancient Authors, that from the Apostle's time there have been these Orders of Ministers in Christ's Church, — Bishops, Priests and Deacons."

When I was consecrated, I heard the words "Receive the Holy Ghost for the Office and Work of a Bishop in the Church of God." In turn when I have ordained a man as a priest I have used these words; "Receive the Holy Ghost for the Office and work of a Priest in the Church of God."

The Bishops of the Church have continued as the stewards of the mysteries which we have received through unbroken succession from the Apostles, those same Apostle upon whom



our Lord breathed, and said "Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained."

Bishops, priests and deacons (being mindful that next Saturday will see Mark Morgan ordained deacon) are God's stewards. The ministry they share is not theirs, it belongs to Christ the Great High Priest. The authority and the sacraments they administer, and distribute, consist of what God alone can give. One of the original intentions behind a priest wearing black and the various vestments is to *hide the man* underneath, was to convey the central truth that the function of a deacon, priest or bishop is, at its core, **utterly** impersonal. By this I mean that the cult of personality that so often accompanies clergy "OH, I do like Father so and so ... he is such a nice man", although it may be true that Father so and so maybe a dear man, it has absolutely nothing

## Please Note

We regret there will be no weekday (including Wednesday) services until the New Year.

## December

✕

### Saturday 17th

*Ordination of Mark Morgan to the Order of Deacon*

12 noon Sung Mass

✕

### Sunday 18th

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

11am Sung Mass

5pm Carol Service

✕

### Saturday 24th

*Christmas Eve*

7pm First Mass of Christmas

✕

### Sunday 25th

No Mass

✕

## January

✕

### Sunday 1st

*Circumcision of Christ (Comm Christmas I)*

11am Sung Mass

*Followed by Healing Service*

✕

to do with the essence of the priesthood.

As priests there are two moments that really express the impersonal nature of the priesthood. When a priest stands before you and presents to you the Blessed Sacrament saying "*The Body of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life.*" And when a priest pronounces the absolution of your sins, conveying that Our Lord Jesus Christ has left power in His Church to absolve those who are penitent "*By His authority committed to me, I absolve thee from all thy sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*" It is then that you should not see "*nice Father so-and-so*" ... but you should behold a "*steward of the mysteries of God*".

Meanwhile we poor and sinful men, who stand before you in holy vesture, should always be mindful



**Christmas Carol Service**

**Sunday 18th December @ 5.00pm**

**All Welcome**

St Augustine's Church  
Eastling Road,  
Painters Forstal,  
Nr Faversham, Kent  
ME13 0DU

www.staugustineacc.uk

of Him whose priesthood and servanthood, we share and thank Him, that we, who are *not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under His table*, have been allowed to serve Him as His stewards.

*+ Damien*

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR ...

Canon Don and Di Walker; Chris Bosworth; Margaret and Laurence Mead; Diane Smith, Sue Fletcher; Barbara Henderson; Todd, David and Sheila; Colin Rumens; Ann Chapman; Pauline Allison; Harrison and Edward Eckert; Margaret and Peter Martin; Dorothy Hipkiss; Fr Miles Maylor; Vickie Wall; Pat Johnson; Fr Ed & Liz Bakker; Deb Stuck; Angela, Barrie and Sylvia; Kathleen Dunford; Sarah, David, Nicole and Corrina Winterburn; Deacon Jong; Malcolm Munn; Barbara Bowers; Isabella Ighodaro, Fr Howard Marsh, David Miller, Graham Owen, John Sullivan, Roy Hipkiss, Kim Proctor-Walsh, Deacon David Jewess. *For those who read these Parish Notes on our Notice Board outside Church 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 Peace in Ukraine and Russia and throughout the World.

*For those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer*

- Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic, Bishop Ordinary - Rt Rev Donald Lerow;
- Christian Social Workers and Counsellors especially marriage and bereavement counsellors.
- For Mark Morgan to be ordained deacon on 17th December

*And we remember the recently departed: especially Jaine Meredith Kite, and those whose anniversaries fall at this time:*

✕ Rest Eternal Grant unto them, O Lord **R/s:** 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

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### Honorary Assistant Priest

Father Raymond Thompson

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Parish Secretary: Mr Roy Hipkiss

Parish Treasurer: Mrs Kerry Scott

Organist: Mr Louis Collins

Cantor: Mr Barnabas Sharp

Caretaker: Mr Tibor Veres

Tel: 07591 149352

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