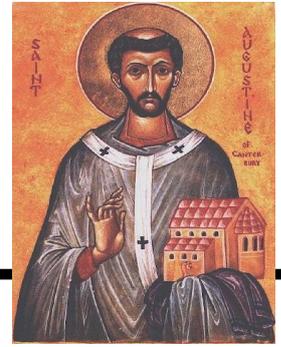




Anglican Catholic Church of St Augustine
Eastling Road, Painters Forstal, Kent ME13 0DU

PARISH NEWS



WELCOME

Today is

Quinquagesima

Comm: Our Lady of Lourdes

11th February
2024

The Propers of the Mass
are on page 378 of the
Book of Common Prayer

HYMNS

364

358

367

408

After the last hymn we will
prayer together The Angelus
facing Our Lady's Altar.



Please
Turn off Your
Mobile Phones

Dear friends,

After my four week round trip, by road, to Sicily, I am pleased to be home. It was an enjoyable time and I was honoured to speak at the Ecumenical event in Capo d'Orlando. Visiting so many of the ancient Roman sites, especially the amazing ruins of Pompeii, reminded me that we live in a transitory state, in a transitory world. Only God is eternal and unchanging.

During Lent, which begins this week with Ash Wednesday, we should be more than ever mindful of how we human beings suffer from the same awful complaint — our own sinfulness.

Sin is a barrier between us and God. In order to get close to him we have to deal with that barrier in some way. However unlike a physical barrier such as a river, wall or hedge, we can't go round it or climb or swim it! We have to face it head on and dismantle it by recognizing the barrier and confessing it to God.

Confession has an important position in our worship and there is a penitential component in most of our liturgies. Most of you reading these notes will no doubt encounter 'Confession' most often at every Mass when we join together in the general confession.

Traditionally the Anglican Tradition has taken the view that although Confession is essential, there is no requirement for that to take the form of private confession to a priest - but there has always also been a common understanding that it may be desirable depending on individual circumstances.

An Anglican aphorism regarding the practice is "All may; none must; some should". However normal catholic practice has been to make Confession at the very least in



preparation for Christmas and Easter

Through our baptism and confirmation we become a new creation and through the Mass we are united with Christ in a most intimate way. Nevertheless, we never reach the point of total perfection, for we sin and fall short of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. We sin and live according to our own ways and the ways of the world instead of according to the way of God. But, God is merciful and does not desire that anyone should be lost. He offers to us an opportunity to repent, to change our way of live and to be filled with his saving and healing grace.

This call to repentance was at the heart of the proclamation of Jesus. He called people to a life of conversion, a turning around from sinful ways to Kingdom ways (Mark 1:15) – Repent and believe the Good News! This calling to repent is an essential part of the life of every Christian for unless we repent and become like little children, we will not enter the Kingdom of God (Matthew 18:3). This call is for everyone, even those who feel that they are not sinners — for "if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves

February 2

✕

Wednesday 14th

Ash Wednesday

12 noon Low Mass

With Imposition of Ashes.

✕

Sunday 18th

Lent I

11am Sung Mass

✕

Saturday 24th

Ember Saturday in Lent

*Ordination to the Sacred
Priesthood of*

The Reverend Mark Morgan

11am Pontifical High Mass

Followed by refreshments

✕

Sunday 25th

Lent II

11am Sung Mass

✕

and the truth is not in us". (1 John 1:8).

It is actually fairly easy to go through the motions of repentance — we are warned about hypocrites who pour ashes on their heads and wear sackcloth! But real repentance is about conversion and that is something which begins in the heart of a person and from there it flows out into actions, into the way we live.

Being sorry demands a great deal more than just acknowledging our sins. It also requires more than just our life with God. Repentance also demands a change in the way we live with our brothers and sisters. It includes a life of real love.

A genuine conversion will involve penance, a fundamental change in the direction of our lives, a move away from doing sinful things, to a life of doing good before God. Such a person must renounce evil and the things that lure them away from God. They must seek the help and grace of God which are the only ways of living faithfully as a disciple of Christ and so conversion and repentance are built on faith.

We know from the Gospels that

Jesus forgave sins: Your sins are forgiven was an often repeated guarantee (Mark 2:5; Luke 7:48). This authority he passed on to the Church (Matthew 9:8) making the Church both the sign and the instrument of reconciliation. That gift of being an agent of reconciliation was given to Church in the person of the Apostles and it is to them and their successors that the specific ministry of sacramental reconciliation is reserved (2 Corinthians 5:18, 20).

This authority has always been claimed by the Church on the basis of the command of Jesus: *Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.* (John 20:22-23).

If you wish to talk to me, or Fr Ray, about sacramental confession, during Lent or at anytime, please don't hesitate to ask.

In the meantime make sure that you don't approach the general confession lightly!




CHURCH FLOWERS

*To make a donation for
Flowers in
Church—Please*

see Mrs Margaret Mead

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR ...

Chris Bosworth; Margaret and Laurence Mead; Diane and Mike Smith; Todd, David and Sheila; Colin Rumens; Ann Chapman; Margaret and Peter Martin; Dorothy Hipkiss; Fr Miles Maylor; Vickie Wall; Fr Ed Bakker; Deb Stuck; Sarah, David, Nicole and Corrina Winterburn; Malcolm Munn; Barbara Bowers; John Sullivan; Roy Hipkiss; Don and Rhonda Contreras; Fr Robert McBride; Canon Don Walker, Sally and Craig Pengilly, Robin Young, HM The King and HM The Queen and the Royal Family.

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 the Holy Land, and in Ukraine and Russia and throughout the World.

For those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

- Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic, USA. Bishop Ordinary - Rt Rev Donald Lerow;
- Oxford Movement House Group, North Yorkshire, Mrs Sally Lyth, Convenor;
- Preparation for a holy Lent
- Deacon Mark Morgan to be priested here on 24th February.

And we remember the recently departed: especially NN and those whose anniversaries fall at this time ... NN

✕ Rest Eternal Grant unto them, O Lord **R/s: And let light perpetual shine upon them**

CONTACTS

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Caretaker: Mr Tibor Veres

Tel: 07591 149352

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