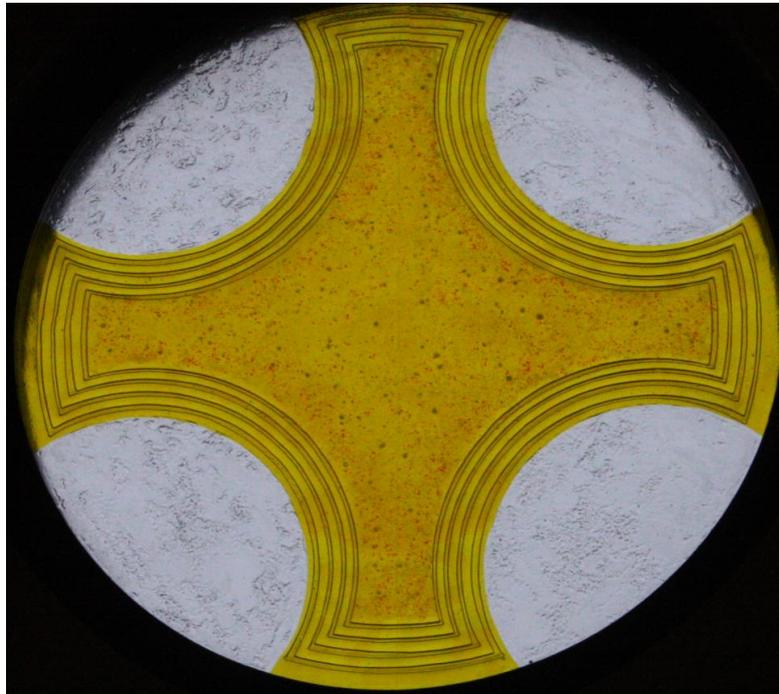


THE AUGUSTINIAN

The Parish Magazine for the R.C. Parish of Springfield



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Welcome

Greetings of joy and peace at Easter

Dear friend,

I hope and pray that your journey through lent was a meaningful one which lets us celebrate the glory of Easter and the joy of the Easter season. Let us rejoice and be glad because, Christ has died for us and is raised to bring us life everlasting. Easter is always the season that brings hope to us. The sign of shame, cross, has been made the sign of hope. It helps us to hope against hopes in our suffering realities of this world bearing in mind that all will pass to be glorified with the risen Christ. The nature shares that joy with us as she praises god with the new buds, shoots and flowers.

In lent we all tried to look into our own lives in order to see where all we need to correct our personal relations, behavior, habits, inclinations, weaknesses and failures of life. Thus we have made enough effort to reconcile ourselves with our god and neighbor, through fasting, penance and acts of charity. Thus we are all ready to receive the glory of the risen Christ. It is peace that Jesus offered to us. And having corrected our relation with god, ourselves and our neighbor puts us in a place to receive and enjoy the peace that Christ offers.

If we think that the forty days of lent helped us to be better persons in whatever sorts of ways, I think entering into the joy of Easter should not force us to lose the spirit of lent as well. While rejoicing at the Easter season let us keep the spirit of lent which insists us to be a better person. The risen self of Christ and our renewed self will make an entirely new relation, uplifting my faith life into a totally new realm in our daily life.

So let us continue our faith journey with renewed self, renewed hope, faith and charity. May the risen Christ enable us to hold on to the blessing we have gained in our life and help us to spread the joy of Easter. Let the hope that we receive from the empty tomb help us to be hopeful in our own lives and to spread hope into everyone whom we come across in our daily life.

A special thanks to all who worked hard to make this magazine reach into your hands. This helps us to know the pulse of our community. May this be an instrument in our faith development and faith witnessing. May god bless you all and wish you all the joy at the Easter.

May god bless us all.



Fr. Sabu Pariyadan RCJ

Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus

Teams of Our Lady

You may be dimly aware of the Teams of Our Lady (there is a poster on the notice board at St. Augustine's) or you may know nothing about us, but this article is to give you some background. Teams of Our Lady (Equipes Notre Dame) is a group that exists to support couples in their married lives through fellowship and friendship. The movement started in Paris (at a (not the) Parish of Notre Dame, hence the name) 80 years ago when four couples approached their Parish Priest to ask how they could grow spiritually in their marriage. It grew from those small beginnings and is now a worldwide movement with over 120,000 members. In the UK, we are part of the Alliance of Catholic Marriage Organisations, along with organisations like Marriage Care.

Four to six couples meet monthly for a meal, which can be anything from morning coffee to dinner and share news about ourselves and our families. After news, we have a Bible passage to consider and share thoughts on: these are included in a quarterly Teams newsletter booklet. This is followed by a time to share prayer intentions, which concludes with a psalm and prayer to be said together (also in the newsletter). We finish with a discussion on a topic, which may be the one in the newsletter, or it may be prepared by one of the Team couples (our Team usually chooses the latter).



Teams and their members are also encouraged to undertake some other activities outside the normal monthly meeting, known as Endeavours. Most are personal ones to encourage couples to pray together and take time to communicate with each other. A joint

one is to try to hold an annual Team retreat. There is a national structure that encourages individual Teams to come together, share ideas, pray and socialise, though the balance will vary between different events.

Teams are:

- A sharing group
- A support for couples
- Welcoming and sociable
- Confidential

Teams are not:

- A Rosary Group (there is nothing wrong with Rosary Groups, but we are not one)
- A counselling group (counselling needs professional expertise)
- A dining club (the spiritual aspect of Teams is paramount)
- A cooking competition (the Teams ethos says a simple meal, how simple is up to the Team)
- A debating club (the meditation and discussion is about sharing, not convincing each other)
- Strictly Catholic (many of our members are of other Faiths)

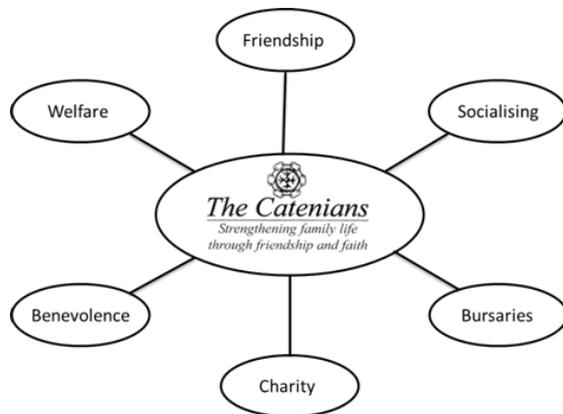


Each Team organises itself slightly differently depending on the circumstances of their members, but it is for each couple to attend together. For many couples, each is active individually in their Parish but Teams is something that they share. There is currently one Team in Chelmsford but we would like to establish more. If you think that Teams might be something that you want to find out about, contact Chris and Dominique Thompson on thompsoncjt01@blueyonder.co.uk.

The Catenian Association

What is it?

If you have not heard of the Catenian Association, you are not alone. It has been described as the best kept secret in the church. Yet there are just under 10,000 members in over 300 Circles (local groups) in Great Britain and overseas. Many members are active in the church and the main purpose of the Association is to allow like-minded Catholic men to socialise and network, frequently with their families. However Catenians do more than socialise.



Association Emblem

The name Catenian comes from the Latin 'Catena' for a chain. The Association emblem comprises a circular chain with a cross at its centre. The individual links of the chain represent the Circles and the cross at the centre represents the members' Catholic faith. As indicated by the emblem, members of Circles are encouraged to visit other Circles and there are ties with the clergy through masses for vocations and for deceased members and through invitations to President's Sunday and the (Ladies and) Clergy night.



Friendship

The Catenian Association enables Catholics to get to know those with whom they might normally only exchange the sign of peace or acknowledge with a nod as they leave mass or pass in the High Street. It allows Catholics to get to know others in parishes both near and far. Your local Circle is Chelmsford Mid-Essex and this covers St Augustine's and the other parishes within the Chelmsford area. Other nearby Circles include Billericay, Brentwood, Southend and Colchester

Socialising

The Association's basic activity is the monthly get-together which involves a short meeting with prayers, chatting, dinner and speeches/jokes from the Circle President and the President of any visiting Circles. A fair proportion of the monthly dinners are attended by the Ladies; and, for these, there is generally some form of entertainment. Various social events are organised to which wives and families are invited. Typical events are a BBQ, river barge trip and a visit to the theatre. In addition to Circle events, the Association has a golf society and a caravan fellowship.



Welfare and Benevolence

Catenians constitute a close brotherhood, and this reflects the strength of support that they aspire to provide to one another. Members pledge to help one another, particularly in times of difficulty or need. There is visiting of the sick, support to the bereaved and widows are encouraged to

come to Ladies' nights and other social events. Where the need is financial, there is the Catenian Benevolent and Children's Fund and, in less severe cases, the Circle can help with membership fees.

Charity

Money for charity is raised through dinner raffles and, for Chelmsford Mid-Essex, sums raised can be up to £1,000 each year. The charity is chosen by the Circle President and a frequent recipient is the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Occasionally, the Association has supported wider appeals such as those for 'jumbulances' which are a familiar sight ferrying those to Lourdes too ill to fly. A memorial for the Catenian centenary year raised £250,000 to provide clean water to those in desperate need in Africa, the money being entrusted to CAFOD.

Bursaries

The Bursary Fund exists to assist Catholic young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are prepared to work unpaid overseas to help under-privileged people. The Fund usually provides a contribution towards the costs of fares, subsistence and special

clothing. The Fund also assists with the expenses of young helpers who accompany pilgrimages to Lourdes and your local Circle has arranged support to pupils from St John Payne school.



Interested in joining?

Catholics from the parish of St Augustine have held many of the offices needed for the running of Chelmsford Mid-Essex Circle. If you are interested in broadening your circle of Catholic friends and, through socialising, helping others including local charities and young people, why not give us a ring to find out more. You can contact Roger Sclater on 01245 469458. You can also visit the Catenian website at www.thecatenians.com.

Solutions to last time's Sudoku

3	1	2	4	6	5	9	8	7
4	6	8	7	9	3	5	2	1
5	9	7	1	2	8	3	4	6
9	2	6	3	1	4	8	7	5
1	7	4	5	8	9	2	6	3
8	3	5	2	7	6	4	1	9
6	4	9	8	3	7	1	5	2
2	5	3	6	4	1	7	9	8
7	8	1	9	5	2	6	3	4

The Bereavement Group

It was after the death of both my mother & father that I felt the need for a Bereavement Group in our Parish.

It was at a Parish Vision meeting in 2016 that I attended to suggest this and was more than happy to start up a Group. I must say I was very pleased with the response to form a group and we had our first meeting on 6 June 2016.

This meeting was attended by Sue Macdonnell, Karin Seaman, Dominique Thompson, Mary Greenwood and myself. Bernadette Barwick was on holiday but was very interested to be involved in the Group and Jackie Chester also offered to help support the Group.

Anna opened the meeting with prayers for support and guidance for the group.

The meeting was a positive discussion about ideas we all shared and it was decided we do some research with any other bereavement groups to help us make our plans for the future.

The second meeting was on Monday 27 June 2016. Anna opened the meeting with prayers for support and guidance for the Group Attendees: Anna Doube, Sue Macdonnell Dominique Thompson and Mary Greenwood.

Discussion took place on our findings to prepare a report to be presented to the PCC on 3 August 2016 as follows:

- The priest or Deacon would be the first contact with the bereaved.
- A prayer card with group contacts details to be given to the bereaved on first contact.
- A record kept in a bereavement log book.
- The group would have access to the log book which should be kept in the Presbytery.
- Advertise group contact information on parish website & parish newsletter.
- Visits should be made in pairs and a rota prepared a mutually convenient time and place to meet keep parish priest informed on any referrals.
- An annual candle lit service for all recently bereaved and family intentions for the deceased in November.
- It was also suggested that we involve Rev. Jane as being a representative in our ecumenical parish (of course now we need to notify the new Minister as Rev. Jane is no longer in the parish)

The Group is not a counselling service but a friendly face to have a chat and support if needed could be passed to other professionals.

Another member of our parish Annette Post has recently compiled a very useful file of information and guidance in the preparation of funeral arrangements, which can be daunting on the loss of a loved one.

Please do not hesitate to call at any time; the members of the Bereavement Group are listed below:

Anna Doube 01245 450328

Parish Priest 01245 465333

Deacon Kevin Lyons: 01245 460782

Other group members: Sue Macdonnell, Karin Seaman, Bernadette Barwick,
Domnique Thomson, Jackie Chester and Mary Greenwold

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY SPRINGFIELD

IN LOVING MEMORY



The Holy Family

This prayer card is given to you on behalf of the parish,
We offer our sincere sympathy to you and your family
and assure you of our prayers at this time of grief

Sorrow is part of the cost of love, but many precious memories of that love will always remain for your comfort.

Lord, give me strength for this day. To weep when I should weep, to accept the comfort that memories bring, to face the future with courage, to meet people, those who love me, those who want to help me, those who want to comfort me, but don't know what to say. O God, Help me to know your peace, so that I may be able to bring peace to others. Amen.

O Lord, the giver of all life, I thank you for the love I have known, for joys and sorrows shared. I accept, Lord, that the life you once gave has returned to you, the source of all life and love. Please bring your gentle healing to the hurt that comes with parting. Thank you Lord Jesus, that you care about me. Amen.

Jesus came “to comfort all those who mourn ...to give to those who mourn ... joy and gladness instead of grief, a song of praise instead of sorrow.”
Isaiah 61:2-3

News from the Knights

The Knights of St. Columba are now in our Centenary year, having been founded in Glasgow in 1919. Locally we have a schedule of events that will build up to the actual Centenary in October, but some have happened already. The Province (the Diocesan level) held a Centenary dinner last November at the County Hotel where Chelmsford was well represented to start our celebrations. We have started a programme of Sunday Masses round the Parishes of Chelmsford and Maldon, which we hope to complete by the Centenary date. We have a Centenary Dinner of our own planned for October, which is almost sold out now, but our main public celebration will be a Songs of Praise on 4 October at Our Lady Immaculate. Further details will be available over the summer, but everybody will be welcome.



Our spiritual activities have been lower key at the moment. Our Centenary programme is referred to above, but we had a Morning of Reflection at St. Augustine's at the end of March and a (quite large) group is going on a pilgrimage to Knock straight after Easter. However, we continue to pray for our Brothers who are in poor health, which is an unfortunately large number at present. Our Membership activity is, inevitably, intermittent. We ran a Recruitment Campaign in Our Lady Immaculate and Holy Name Parishes in the first half of March. At the moment, we don't know how well it went, but we have several possible new members.

The rest of our activities have continued as normal. You will have heard one of our speakers promoting Chelmsford Community Sponsorship in November (see full article in Augustinian 6), and this project is progressing. We decided that our Christmas poster needed to be re-designed and we were helped by the Art Department at St. John Payne. The new poster was distributed before Christmas and was well received. Our work to distribute the Brentwood News has ended with the discontinuance of the printed copy, but we will still be collecting and distributing the Diocesan Directories. At the end of January, we once again collected items in support of the homeless: toiletries go to Providence Row in East London and warm socks got to CHES. Both are very grateful for them because they have a continuous need for them. Any good quality used clothes are taken to the Hospice shops. We also presented a cheque for £2,500 to BCCS from our fund raising walk on the Thames estuary. A small group went to their offices to present the cheque. We are thinking of doing this years to finish at St. Peter's, Bradwell as another part of our Centenary celebrations.



Our usual Social programme is continuing. We have had our own Annual Dinner, again at the County Hotel, with a short talk by a representative from the J's Hospice. Our monthly Knights at Leisure has been interrupted by our Annual Dinner and also Christmas but has restarted with lunches in local pubs in the last two months. We had our annual walking quiz round Writtle in late September, which went well, with a good contest. We are thinking about Maldon for this year's and everyone is welcome: it is enjoyable as a family event.

20 years of serving!

On Sunday 4th November 2018, Simon Cook and Sandra Kirwan reached an impressive milestone of serving for 20 years in the parish.

When Simon and Sandra first arrived at mass that day, they told me that their extended families had come to mass, but had no idea why. It was a surprise to them to be receiving their certificates of achievement that day!

They have been serving for as long as I can remember and we are extremely lucky to have two dedicated servers in the parish, who are brilliant role models for the younger servers. I'm sure they won't appreciate me saying that they started serving before most of the other servers were even born!

The servers will be one of many groups preparing for the Holy week masses. It is our busiest time of the year and Simon, as MC, will be on hand to help things go smoothly.



Ben

Easter Eggs

The custom of giving eggs at Easter celebrates new life. Christians remember that Jesus, after dying on the cross, rose from the dead. This miracle showed that life could win over death.

For Christians the egg is a symbol of Jesus' resurrection, as when they are cracked open, they stand for the empty tomb. No-one knows when eggs were first used as symbols at festival times, but it was long before Jesus' time. Eggs were always thought to be special because although they do not seem alive, they have life within them especially at springtime when chicks hatch out.

Long ago people gave gifts of eggs carved from wood or precious stones. The first sweet eggs that were eaten were made in the last 100 years from sugar or marzipan. Since then chocolate eggs have become popular and these are given on Easter Sunday.



In some countries parents tell their children the Easter Hare or Bunny has hidden chocolate eggs and they race to find them round the house or garden. Children in other countries decorate hard-boiled eggs at Easter time by painting or dyeing them.

In some countries such as the United States egg rolling is a popular Easter game. This is usually done with coloured eggs. One of the most well known events is held in America on the White House lawn. Children and parents push the eggs along through the grass with wooden spoons.

Easter Bunny

Rabbits have been associated with springtime since ancient times. It is believed that the Anglo-Saxon Goddess of Spring, Eostre had a hare as her companion. The hare symbolises fertility and rebirth. Later Christians changed the symbol of the hare to the Easter bunny.

The tradition is that the Easter bunny leaves Easter eggs on Easter Sunday. Parents hide eggs in the garden and the children go on an egg hunt to find them.

The idea of an egg-laying rabbit was taken to America in the 1700's German immigrants. They told their children to make 'nests' with their caps and bonnets, and if they were good the Easter bunny would leave them coloured eggs.



Easter Wordsearch



Easter



G N I R P S F H A T T F W P N
N R I V C L S X O E F O N A B
K B J J I Q Q T B G T U A P K
C N T C R E A V B B M Y U H T
C Q K R G L N A D O E P A Q F
P H P T Q D S Q U G A T N U H
B P O Y Y K Y N R M S H T N S
U Z X C E M Y N O B T W T S X
L B C T O J N P O B E A N S A
O S P X S L M O M G R F T P I
F P P V Y K A R I R Y S X A E
R C E L W S C T Z A N L A G R
F A L E K H T I E S N C G L A
Z E W I P Z K A H S U S X M W
J C Z S X S X D H C B Y G X E

BASKET
CHICKS
EGGS
HUNT
SPRING

BEANS
CHOCOLATE
GRASS
JELLY

BUNNY
EASTER
HATS
PEEPS



Bunny cupcakes



Ingredients:

- 185g self-raising flour
- 120g golden caster sugar
- 120g butter (softened)
- 100g pot natural yoghurt
- 1 lemon zested
- 2 eggs
- 250g pack fondant icing

For the frosting:

- 85g unsalted butter, softened
- Few drops vanilla extract
- 200g icing sugar
- A few drops of green food colouring

Method:

1. Heat oven to 190C/170 fan/gas 5 and line a 12-hole bun tin with paper cases. Put the flour, sugar, butter, yogurt, lemon zest and eggs in a bowl and mix with electric beaters until smooth. Spoon a large tablespoon of the mixture into each of the cases, making them as even as possible. Bake for 20-25 mins until the cakes are risen and golden, and a skewer poked into the centre of one comes out clean. Set aside to cool on a wire rack.
2. For the frosting, beat the butter, vanilla extract and icing sugar until the mixture is pale and creamy, and completely combined. Add a few drops of green colouring and beat it in. If piping, scoop the frosting into a piping bag fitted with a star nozzle, then pipe stars of green icing all over the tops of the cakes like tufts of grass. If not piping, spread the icing over the cakes and run a fork across to make it resemble grass.
3. Roll the fondant icing into small balls no bigger than a walnut (these are the bunnies' bottoms). Roll smaller balls to make tails and stick them on top of the bigger balls. Put one rabbit on each cake. Now make the feet by rolling two more small balls for each bunny and shape them into ovals. Rest these at one end of the ball so they look like feet.



Parish Events

Parish Dinner

We had our Parish dinner at the newly re-opened Channels in January. They did a fine meal and the company was the best. Keep your eyes open for next year's. All welcome, the more the merrier.



The wedding of Sandra Kirwan and Avjeet Grewal

Sandra Kirwan married Avjeet Grewal on Saturday 16th March at Our Lady Immaculate, Chelmsford. Sandra is a long-standing altar server at St. Augustine's (see page 9) and a Eucharistic Minister and there was a good turnout of parishioners there to wish them well.



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OUR PARISH VISION

1. A dynamic worshipping community - where people come for the first time and immediately sense the presence of God
2. A community where everyone is growing in their understanding of the Catholic Faith
3. A community where everyone is growing in the life of prayer and their relationship with God
4. A community where pastoral, spiritual and practical care is given to those in need
5. A community where more people are actively involved in the Mission of the Church.

OUR PARISH PRAYER

Loving Father,

You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son, that we might believe in Him and have eternal life.

May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day and live the Good News with joy.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit, Help us to "go out to the whole world and proclaim" our faith with confidence.

Give us the courage to witness to the joy of the Gospel by our words and actions.

Help our parish to become more welcoming and missionary, so that you may be known and loved by all people.

We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever,

Amen

EDITOR'S NOTE

Here is the latest edition of the Augustinian. Apologies to those who contributed to this one, but we could not fit in. It is always useful to have something to start the next one. We are always looking for material so if you have anything to offer, please send it to us as soon as possible. Anything about Springfield, Chelmsford or the Parish will be welcome, but if you have anything that would be of interest to parishioners, we would be glad to have that as well.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition or helped to produce it. Particular thanks are due to Ben, who has fitted formatting the article in with his other commitments, and to New Hall who have done this at the last minute.

Chris

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