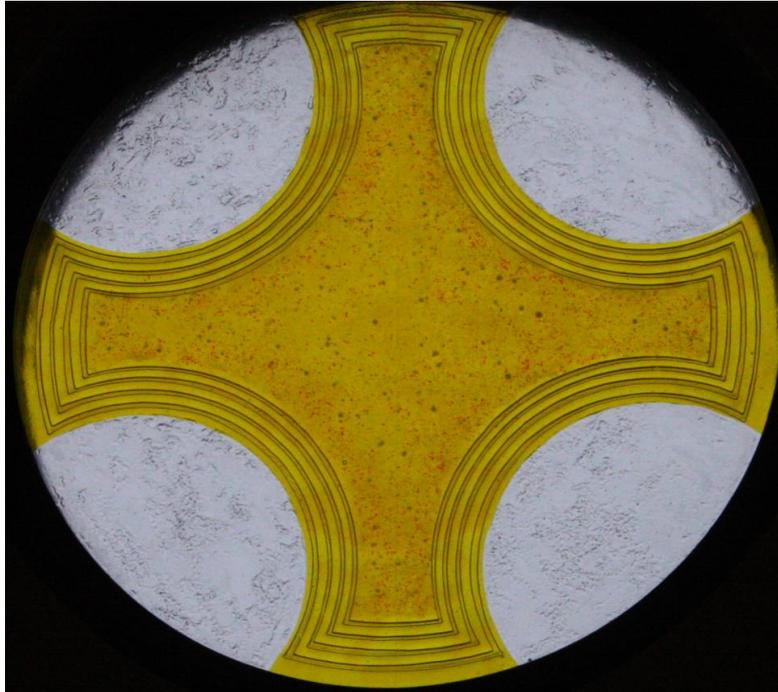


# THE AUGUSTINIAN

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



## Contents

Page 2	Welcome	Fr. Sabu
Page 3	Parish Events	Ben Hitchen
Page 4	What is Advent?	Kevin Lyons
Page 5	Letter from SJP	Tom Coen
Page 6	Knights Centenary	Chris Thompson
Page 8	A trip to Devon	Chris Thompson
Page 10	Christmas around the world	-
Page 11	Christmas Puzzle	Jacqueline Thompson
Page 12	Chelmsford Community Sponsorship	Chris Thompson
Page 13	Recipes	Jacqueline Thompson

# Welcome

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Dear friend,

A new edition of "Augustinian" is into your hands once more as we all start our preparations for Christmas. The nature is slowly making us feel that Christmas is in the air. The autumn weather bringing down the leaves, changing the colors everywhere and the weather is slowly moving in to the cold grips. Colorful decorations and lights are in place everywhere to celebrate the festive season. For us we start our preparations for Christmas with the beginning of advent season.

Advent is that season in the liturgical calendar in which church observe it as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. The term is a version of the Latin word meaning "coming". The humanity that was in huge oppression and misery was waiting for the coming of a savior. The reason for that waiting was the promise made to our forefathers, which they took in faith and therefore awaited patiently for the coming of the savior until it was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Now as we live to celebrate and make memory of that birth of Jesus in the manger at Bethlehem, we still await for his second coming to join us all to his kingdom. Thus our hope still continues to guide us to live a life that will make us worthy to be in his kingdom.

As I mentioned at the beginning HOPE is the main factor that keeps us moving forward every day. It is hope that makes the trees survive though the nature strip many of them bare without any leaves, looking as if they are all dead. But the hope within them will help them to explode with renewed energy and life at a later stage. It is hope that helps each individual human being to look forward amidst all the sufferings and miseries of this life to a time of goodness. Thus this season strengthens our hope as it stands as a proof for a promise fulfilled in the course of the history. The saviour promised was born to fulfil the promise as well as to save the people from their miseries.

So as we step in to this holy season of awaiting with hope for the coming of our saviour and as we celebrate Christmas, let us not fall into the temptations of the influences of commercial Christmas which has everything else except the message of Christ and the message of hope. Let us put Christ at the centre of Christmas and at all our celebrations. Let us try our best to bring hope and new life to the other by our life. Let us do everything in our capacity to strengthen our own hope and that of our dear and near ones and for those who think life is hopeless. Every simple gestures, greetings, gifts, time and effort spend for the other will help us to light up their hope. Let me wish you all a meaningful season of advent and a blessed season of Christmas. May the Christ born in the manger bring hope and comfort to your life and that of your loved ones.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**Fr. Sabu Pariyadan RCJ**  
Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus

# Parish Events

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## Parish barbeque

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September, parishioners gathered in the Presbytery gardens for a summer barbeque. Thank you to everyone who brought food and drink and the social committee for organising the event.



## Fr. Sabu's birthday

Fr. Sabu celebrated his birthday in November with some parishioners after the morning mass.



## SVP quiz night

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2019, the SVP quiz night raised over £500 for the Sudan and South Sudan. A big thank you to the compere Gary and the volunteers who made it happen. The winners received a lovely chocolate hamper as seen in the top left picture below.



## Upcoming events

- The Sycamore programme continues to run every Friday evening until 13<sup>th</sup> December
- Annual Parish Dinner on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at Channels
- Fairtrade Breakfast on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Central Baptist Church

# What is Advent?

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The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming". The holy season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these "last days" as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God's past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis, they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people. In this light, the Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" perfectly represents the church's cry during the Advent season:

***O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appears.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

During Advent a new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different. The first, second and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-coloured.

Prayer is a wonderful way to help cut away from distractions of the season and open your heart to prepare for the joy and hope of Christ's birth.

**This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.  
Fill me with Your presence from the very start.**

*The holy season of Advent starts on Sunday 1st December and ends on Tuesday 24th December*





# ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Dear Parishioners

I write to invite visitors following our open evening in October, where I emphasised to parents & carers our distinctive identity and purpose as a Catholic comprehensive school: ***Be it known to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school.***

Selecting a school to which we entrust our children's education is one no parent takes lightly, and the fantastic provision in Chelmsford and the surrounding area makes the decision still more difficult. Whilst any good school prepares children for life, Catholic education prepares children also for the life eternal promised by Christ's sacrifice. Visitors to St John Payne invariably comment upon the school's distinctive character, sensing something not better, but other, unique: an unquantifiable, immutable quality. In the words of a colleague recently new to the school, ***'It speaks for itself, without words.'***

Our students' contributions to open evening displayed the wonderful care and nurture they enjoy here, and the distinctive culture that makes St John Payne so dear to the many generations of families who have helped forge our community, and with whom we continue to enjoy firm associations. Such partnerships maintain the reputation for fantastic academic success and pastoral care that see my wife and I entrust our own children's education to SJP. We can offer no firmer endorsement of our faith in the school.

Its success is founded upon the formation students receive from their feeder schools and parishes; and they would certainly not be such wonderful ambassadors without the affirmation, support and love of a caring family. We are always grateful to parents and carers - a child's first and most important teachers - for honouring our partnership, and for continuing to advocate the school in the wider Catholic community.

Our vocation is to know, value and love our students as created in the image of God; and to support them to become who He created them to be. To this end we hold Christ's words in the temple ever in our hearts and minds, ***'Let the little children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'***

They truly are our greatest ambassadors, and will be eager to show you around when you visit. We look forward to welcoming you.

Yours sincerely

Mr T. Coen

Headteacher

# Knights Centenary

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## Knights of St. Columba

In the last Augustinian, we described the Knights' Centenary activities in the first half of the year, so we are bringing you up to date with our latest events. As one of our spiritual activities, we are having Sunday Masses said for our intentions at our five main Parishes. At the time of writing, we have had four and have a date for the fifth. The Masses were not intended to be a recruitment or promotion effort, but they have helped to keep us in the minds of the Parish congregations: the celebrating priests have all paid tribute to the work of the Knights in their comments.

Not part of our Centenary celebrations but a regular feature of our calendar, we have a regular Walking Quiz. This is about answering questions along a walking route, based on observation not knowledge, usually on a Sunday afternoon. This year we had five teams for a Quiz in Maldon High Street, finishing with supper in the Queens Head, on the wharf.

Another regular feature of our calendar is our Annual Lecture. Over the year's we have had well-known local celebrities, well known broadcast journalists, speakers with a particular professional expertise and general interest speakers. This year, for our Centenary lecture, we were pleased to welcome the national President of SVP, Helen O'Shea, speaking on "Faith in Action: the SVP's Mission". Her talk was an introduction to a lively question and answer session. We had been looking for a prestigious speaker for this year, and we hope that a national figure from a major Catholic charity will help to promote both our work and theirs. We ask the speaker to nominate a Charity to receive a donation from the Council, took a collection to supplement it, and were able to give £260 to our local SVP Conference.



**Keen listeners to our Annual Lecture**



**Chris Thompson (left) and Helen O'Shea (right) at the Annual Lecture**



**A £260 cheque presented to our local SVP conference**

On Friday of the same week, we had a Songs of Praise. We invited 10 guests from the civic, charitable and religious life of Chelmsford to choose a hymn and introduce it, to be sung together, with a few words about the importance or significance of the hymn. The guest list included the Mayor and Chelmsford's MP, the Chief Executive of the CHES and Director of the Diocese's Children's Society and Tom Coen and Lord Petre, as well as representatives of the local Parishes societies and our Province. It was held at Our Lady Immaculate Church and one of their priests, Fr. Pius Collins, presided, along with our Chaplain, Rev. Kevin Lyons, and Fr. Pius chose one of the hymns. Afterwards, we had a small reception in the Parish Hall where the congregation had the opportunity to meet the guests and we presented a cheque to Brentwood Catholic Children's Society for £2,200 raised by our annual Fund Raising Walk.



**Chris Thompson (left) and Peter Whittington (middle), Action Convenor, present the cheque to Bernadette Fisher (right)**

We finished the week with a formal dinner at Ingatestone Hall, near Brentwood. The Hall is the family home of the Petre family, who maintained the Faith in Essex during the Reformation and the penal times following. The Petres are one of the leading lay Catholic families of Essex and, as well as sheltering priests during the Reformation, made a major contribution to the restoration of the Church in Essex after the return of the Hierarchy. The current Lord Petre welcomed us to the Hall and was Guest of Honour at the dinner, which began with champagne and canapés in the courtyard before dinner. We were seated in long gallery with the top table on a raised area: one could imagine an Elizabethan feast, or a discrete Elizabethan Mass, taking place there. With the meal prepared, and wines chosen, by real experts, everyone agreed that it was a fitting celebration to mark our Centenary.



**Tom Coen, Head of St. John Payne School, introduces his hymn**



**Chris Thompson (middle), Council 302 Grand Knight, with Chelmsford's Mayor Cllr Bob Massey (left) and MP Vicky Ford (right)**

Chelmsford Knights have a wide ranging and interesting programme of action, spiritual and social events but we are always keen to recruit new members to help with our work. If you want to help with any aspect of our activities, contact:

**Chris Thompson**  
thompsoncjt01@blueyonder.co.uk or

**Peter Whittington**  
whittingtonfamily@btinternet.com

# A trip to Devon

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Our September trip this year was to Devon. A dozen people took a minibus tour, starting with the motorways down to Bridgewater, most of the time being spent getting round Bristol, and then along small but exceedingly scenic roads over part of Exmoor. We stayed in Minehead for two nights, and spent the day in between on the North Devon coast. It is a coast of tall cliffs and small harbours such as those pictured. On the third day, we crossed Devon to the south coast, which has lower cliffs and a string of harbours and estuaries. We stayed in Paignton for two nights and in between took a tour of South Devon. It is impossible to park in any town in South Devon (apart from Torquay) so we spent most of the time going from viewpoint to viewpoint. The day culminated in a visit to Buckfast Abbey on the edge of Dartmoor, though we were too late in the day to get any of their renowned tonic wine. On the final day, we took a tour of Dartmoor, though as our key route turned out to be unexpectedly closed we had to make our way by increasingly tiny roads across the moor. It involved a close encounter with a herd of cows but gave us excellent views of the moors, and later on the famous Dartmoor ponies. Our journey home from there gave us a passing view of Stonehenge.



**A first view of Exmoor**



**The clouds roll in over Exmoor**



**The harbour front at Ilfracombe**



**The cliff railway at Lynton**



**Dartmouth Naval College**



**Coffee at Blackpool in Devon**



**Buckfast Abbey**



**Torquay across the harbour**



**Salcombe**



**Stone Henge**



**Dartmoor ponies**

*To be frank, this is really just an excuse to put in some of my favourite photographs!*

# Christmas around the world

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## France

In many regions in France, Christmas celebrations start with St Nicholas day on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December. Many cities in France are decorated, especially in the Alsace region, where they say the first decorated Christmas trees appeared as far back as the 14<sup>th</sup> century. On Christmas Eve, children put their polished shoes out in front of the chimney and hope that *'Père Noël'* (Father Christmas) fills the shoes with sweets. Christmas Day is a public holiday and families get together for a big feast.

## Italy

In Italy, a nativity scene, a *'presepe'*, is usually put up in churches, town squares and often in homes. This is for many the most important part of the Christmas decorations. The nativity scene display with a crib filled with straw, originally stems from Italy and is now common occurrence in many countries around the world. In Italy, *'Babbo Natale'*, that's how Father Christmas is called in Italian, hands out presents to children on Christmas Day. Still in many families, gifts are exchanged only on 6<sup>th</sup> January, which is the Day of Epiphany. In Italy, the people wish each other *'Buon Natale'*, which means 'Merry Christmas'.



## Germany

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, markets are set up on main squares in many cities. Houses are decorated with fairy lights and festive ornaments in December, however, in Germany the Christmas tree is usually only put up and decorated at the homes in the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> of December.

## Norway

In Norway, children wait for *'Julenisse'*, the Norwegian Santa Claus. On Christmas Eve, the *'Julenisse'*, brings presents to the children. During the month of December, children wait eagerly for *'Jul'*, that is how they call Christmas.

## Iceland



In Iceland, children put their shoes on the windowsill so the *'Juletíde Lads'*, the Santa Claus, fills the shoes with little goodies. Christmas celebrations in Iceland start on Christmas Eve. Families get together and enjoy good food and many visit midnight mass.

## Philippines

In the Philippines there is a special tradition of having a Christmas lantern, which is called *'paról'*; the lantern is star-shaped, remembering the star of Bethlehem, and mainly made out of bamboo and paper. In the image you can see how the lanterns look. The Christmas lanterns are on sale during Christmas time in the many markets in the Philippines.



## South Africa

In South Africa, people celebrate Christmas Day with the family often with a *'braai'*, which is the South African version of a barbecue (BBQ), as it is summer season there. Many people go to mass on Christmas Day as well. At the Waterfront, there are many Christmas concerts during the weeks leading up to Christmas Day.

Source: <https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/christmas-around-the-world.html>

# Christmas puzzle

Find these objects in the picture below:



- How many Christmas cards in the picture?
- How many angels in the picture?
- How many baubles are there?
- What do you think are in the presents?

# Chelmsford Community Sponsorship Scheme

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It is now quite popular to make a Charity donation in place of Christmas cards or as presents to people who would like to support the Charity. Chelmsford Community Sponsorship is the project to settle a refugee family in Chelmsford. We are offering this facility during Advent to those who would like to help us. For details of how, find the Chelmsford Community Sponsorship envelope on the repository stand, or e-mail [info@chelmsfordcs.co.uk](mailto:info@chelmsfordcs.co.uk) and we will reply with details.

Chris

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## Tudor Spicy Apple Delight

### Ingredients:

800g stewed apple (or tins of apple pie filling)  
¼ teaspoon of cinnamon  
3 tablespoons of single cream  
¼ teaspoon of ground ginger  
honey and almond as you wish

### Steps:

1. Beat together the apples, cream and spices together in a large bowl.
2. Add honey until it is sweet enough.
3. Divide the mixture into dishes and add almonds and cream (or any other garnish that you wish).



## *Advent Prayer*

God of Love,  
Your son, Jesus, is Your  
greatest gift to us.  
He is a sign of Your love.  
Help us walk in that love  
during the weeks of Advent,  
as we wait and prepare  
for His coming.  
We pray in the name of  
Jesus, our Saviour.  
Amen.



# Snickerdoodles

Snickerdoodles are American fluffy and chewy cookies. They're great for Christmas!

## Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups white sugar
- ½ cup softened butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 2 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon



## Steps:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (205 degrees C).
2. Combine 1 ½ cups white sugar, butter or margarine, vanilla extract and eggs. Mix well.
3. Stir in flour, cream of tartar, baking soda and salt. Blend well.
4. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Combine 2 tablespoons sugar and 2 teaspoons cinnamon.
5. Roll dough in sugar/cinnamon mixture and place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets.
6. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until set. Immediately remove from cookie sheets.

*Taken from allrecipes.com*

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# Fab Fudge

## Ingredients:

- 100g butter
- 100g soft brown sugar
- 50g drinking chocolate
- 125g dried milk
- 4 tablespoons golden syrup
- 75g chocolate polka dots
- 1 teaspoonful of vanilla essence
- A small baking tin



## Steps:

1. Heat the butter, sugar and syrup until the butter has melted and remove it from the heat.
2. Stir in the drinking chocolate and leave until cool but not completely cold.
3. Add enough milk powder to give a stiff paste, then stir in the polka dots and vanilla essence.
4. Press the paste into a tin and leave it to set, then cut it into squares with a sharp knife.

*Recipe by Liz Burn from Woman's Weekly*

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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**

Thank you for taking and reading our latest Augustinian. It has many things that people should find interesting, but you may want to see something else. If so, let me have an article. We can only print the material that we have, so we will be pleased to get some new material.

In the meantime, thanks to those who have contributed articles to this edition: Fr. Sabu and Kevin, Tom Coen and Jacqui Thompson. Thank you to Birkett Long for their advertising support. Thanks also to Ben Hitchen for formatting the magazine and contributing material.

A happy and Holy Christmas and New Year to all our readers.

Chris