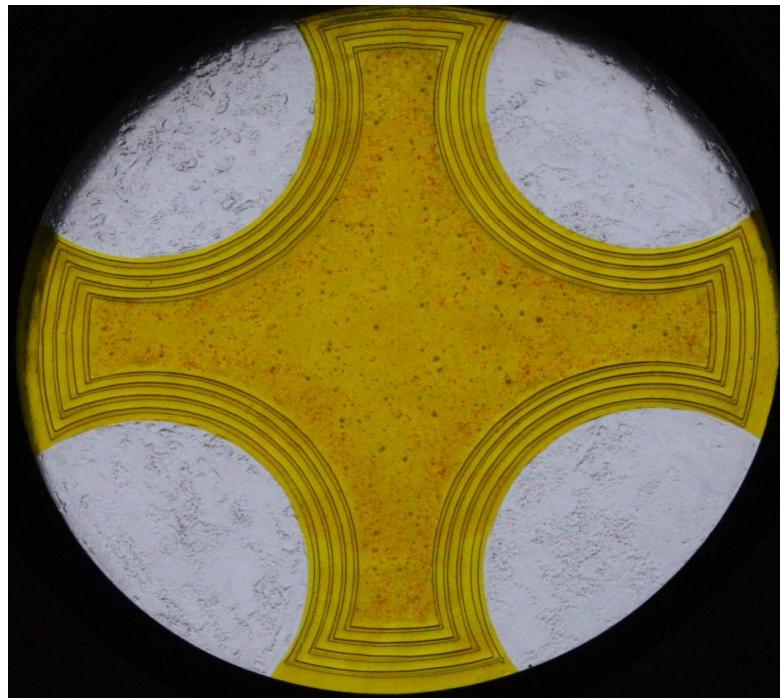


# THE AUGUSTINIAN

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



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# Welcome

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Dear friend in Christ,

2020 has been a very turbulent and memorable year in the life of humanity. It is obviously not for the very best or good memories, but for the reasons that once again reminded us human beings that there are simple microorganisms on the face of the earth which are still not under the control of man who claims that he has conquered everything. Humanity has conquered moon, mars, space, etc. but has realized there are still things beyond his understandings and capacity. This will invite us to reflect on the power that is beyond the human control, the power of our God, with whom we believe that there is nothing happening without him knowing it. There will always be the question, why then God is permitting all these to happen to his beloved children? I would simply say, it may not necessarily be the will of God, but rather is the result of human behaviour. Human behaviour has become so irresponsible to fellow human beings and to the Mother Nature.

However, all these facts don't mean that this will be the end. The history of mankind and the history of salvation remind us that God doesn't leave his children to doom. When they cry out to him, he stretches his hand and save them. We are in the advent season, which reminds us of such an intervention in the history of salvation and in the history of humanity in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus was the response of God the Father, to the cry of his people in suffering. It is the response to the HOPE of the people who believed that the promises will be fulfilled.

The same HOPE is the key for us to survive and overcome this pandemic. Advent is the time we eagerly await the coming of our saviour. We HOPE and pray that Christmas will bring us the good news of a remedy to this pandemic, in the form of vaccines apparently. Advent always reminds us not to fall into despair but rather hold on to the Hope and walk into the good tidings. God doesn't abandon his children. He is close to all who cry out to him in Hope. Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you". (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Let us always hope for the will of God to be accomplished in our lives. He may test us like Job, but if we stand firm in our faith in God, we will be filled with all his blessings. Let us firmly believe and therefore have the hope that he will fill us with all his blessings. May the child Jesus who is born in the manger as a fulfilment of the promises fill our lives with the joy He brings. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope". (Romans 15:13)

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous Christmas this year in whatever format it may come to us. It is all going to be different for some more time. But we will all overcome it together. Let us Hope and pray.

May God bless us all.



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

# St Vincent de Paul Society (Springfield)

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For most of us, 2020 has certainly turned things upside down! This is true of our SVP work too, as the majority of our activity was visiting people, now we're spending a lot more time on the phone!

It's been a pleasure to get to know many elderly people who attend our Tea parties or who have been referred to us a lot better through frequent phone calls and buying their shopping for them. We've tried to keep their spirits up especially as we haven't been able to hold Tea parties, we've instead taken round flowers, sweets, a box of afternoon tea and have some treats planned for Christmas too!

For many of the families we support this has been a very difficult time juggling home schooling and everyday life. Being stuck at home all day every day really is tough when you don't have the spaces or resources that many of us are lucky enough to enjoy. We've tried to help with this by supplying craft kits and activity packs, providing food support where necessary and providing a picnic and day out somewhere by taxi in the summer holidays. Last week, we also held a Pizza making workshop on Zoom where Chef Paul taught us all how to make pizza – our members kindly sourced and delivered ingredients to the 14 families who wished to join in.

Since lockdown, we've seen the needs for furniture, appliances and household goods increase dramatically. On average, we now receive four referrals each week from Social services, Chelmer Housing, Essex Child and Family Wellbeing service, Foodbank, Peabody, Community Agents, Social Prescribers and other charities and churches.

Referrals vary from perhaps the need for children's clothing, toys or equipment to furnishing a whole house. We are able to raise funds for items that we don't get donated like electric cookers and carpets to be fitted through Acts 435 crowd funding which allows us to help many people get the basics they need. It's a real honour to be able to meet people often in a time of crisis and help them practically but we'd love to do more to be able to ensure we offer everyone we come into contact with the offer of a befriender to offer friendship and support in their time of need – at the moment we simply can't meet the demand.

If you think you could help in anyway please do get in touch, we'd love new volunteers to help us in a variety of ways, if you can help shopping, chatting on the telephone, moving furniture, sorting donations, organising events or anything else, please do get in touch.

**Jenny Clayton**

07796 393131

[presidentspringfield@svp.org.uk](mailto:presidentspringfield@svp.org.uk)



St Vincent  
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

# A visit to the Isle of Wight



A group of parishioners took advantage of a few weeks of liberalisation of restrictions to visit the Isle of Wight. Apart from the expected visit to The Needles (pictured above), we visited two distinctive churches.



Quarr Abbey is on the north coast of the Island near Fishbourne. It was founded in 1132 but destroyed during the Dissolution of the monasteries, though the ruins are still visible. However, it was refounded by monks from the French abbey of Solesmes in the late nineteenth century and a new Abbey was built. One of the monks was a trained architect and designed the new buildings and they were built over 5 years from 1907, with the main buildings of the cloister (not open to the public) being completed in the first year. The buildings are in a very distinctive style, with strong Byzantine influences (like Westminster Cathedral) and are now a Grade 1 listed building. There are now under a dozen monks in residence, though they

offer a range of courses, including one on Church polyphony. It features extensively in Robert Graves' biography "Goodbye to All That"

The other church, St. Lawrence Old Church, is referred to in Dixie Wills "Tiny Churches". It is slightly extended, before which it was probably the smallest parish church in Britain, in the village of St. Lawrence.



The church dates from the 12th century, and was expanded in the nineteenth before a new, much larger, church, also called St. Lawrence, was built. The old church has many features accumulated over the centuries, but has a feel of one that has been a place of collective worship for dozens of generations.





As well as these two, there is another church that is less distinguished but, in the tourist trap village of Godshill, has a notably picturesque location. On a hill on the edge of the village, it is enclosed by a collection of the village's thatched cottages. Being off the village's High Street, it is less busy and beautifully peaceful.



## HCPT Group 26 update

You may remember that before the start of the first lockdown, I ran a raffle to raise funds for HCPT Group 26. For those of you that don't know, this is a Catholic charity that I volunteer for and provides disabled and disadvantaged children with a fantastic week's pilgrimage at Easter time.

On 1 March, the Trustees of the charity decided to cancel the Easter 2020 trip due to the concerns of Coronavirus. This came as a shock to us at the time as the word "lockdown" had yet to come into existence and wearing facemasks were not fashionable yet!

After all the preparation that our group had done for the Easter pilgrimage, we were gutted that it was cancelled for the first time in HCPT's history. Looking back now, it was clearly the right decision!

Most of the parents fully understood the difficult decision that the Trustees had made and in hindsight we were very thankful they made their decision early enough to allow parents and carers to make alternative care arrangements for their children during the Easter week.

Although Lourdes had been cancelled, over the week we were due to be in Lourdes my group ran virtual pilgrimages looking at our best bits of the pilgrimages over the previous 10 years to thank our supporters. If you want to see this then please visit our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/HcptGroup26](https://www.facebook.com/HcptGroup26)

Unfortunately, Covid-19 continues to affect all charities and the future of HCPT remains uncertain. A charity like HCPT is very sensitive to Covid-19 because we are taking vulnerable children, who may be susceptible to picking up the virus to a different country. I am sad to let you know that on 23 September, the Trustees made the difficult decision to cancel the planned Easter 2021 pilgrimage that the individual groups supported.

My group remains hopeful that we can share the joy of Lourdes with more disabled children in Easter 2022 and possibly in late 2021. All of your donations at the raffle this year remain with HCPT to be put to good use at a future date. Please continue to pray for all charities affected by this pandemic.

**Ben Hitchen**  
**HCPT Group 26 member**

# Lockdown and the SVP

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It all commenced with a text message to my mobile phone in March 2020 warning me to stay home until further notice, and that I could open a window for fresh air! Those of you who are deemed vulnerable may have this resonate for you as well, but nothing could keep me indoors with the beautiful weather that we had this summer! I enjoyed being in the garden. I did however find myself unable to shop, unable to buy anything online, believe me I tried all the stores including Waitrose, M&S, Milk and More (I even had a letter ready for the milkman asking to help!) nothing! So I turned to SVP and they were wonderful! What unfolded was a routine and regular food delivery once a week. For purposes of this newsletter, I will refrain from mentioning names of the wonderful souls who came to my aid. They know who they are, bless them! My neighbour was also good to me and then things started to come together with a food parcel arriving once every 2 weeks following talking to the cancer nurse and even Tesco's approached me to say I was a priority person and they could help! The point I am trying to make is that there was a time during lock down when I thought I would starve to death at home and no one would know or care! Melodramatic of course, but yes, it was a fleeting thought for a very, very short time.

During this time, I turned to SVP and cannot thank them enough for their help and support. It was not about money, but having people to physically go and shop following additional letters from the GP, chemist, cancer specialist team and of course my MP and Boris himself warning me not to leave home. I did comply.

Then came the thoughtful and caring telephone calls from the parish members. How wonderful, to have people so generous and loving to give of their time and to phone and chat regularly to me. I know while writing this I am not the only person who was so well cared for by our parish. The parish emails started up as well which continues to be good to read and to hear where people are walking and what they are

experiencing on route, and all the brewing they are doing, but I just wanted to take the time to say, thank you to all of you who continue to be generous with your time, being able to reach out to others and give, give, and give in so many different and wonderful ways. I in particular enjoyed the different challenges of local treasure hunts with clues, reading of people cycling, oh my goodness how I wanted to get out there on my bike, and eventually being able to do so! During lock down I cycled on my static bike that goes nowhere at home, which was my main exercise and at the time I thought I would be preparing myself for the great walk to Compostella but of course this did not unfold this year. Anyone who had plans for any travel knows that all we doing is staying home or close to home. Never mind, something to look forward to for next year. We have so much to be grateful for.

Then came the slow return to a different way of life with Mass starting up again. I am sure we all felt the same going back to Mass for the first time after lock down.... Those of you who were/are stewards and help ensuring that the Church is safe for us to attend with booking systems and so on, again shows what a wonderful parish we have and how generous you all are to support and help.

So here, we are again in lock down, but somehow it feels different this time. Networks are in place, and we have done this before so it is not such a big deal. However, I am aware that SVP continue to be busy, reaching out to people who really need help in our parish and anywhere, and I can only praise them for the wonderful work they are continually doing and the joy and pleasure they are giving in continuing to reach out and to help others.

God Bless each and every one of you in our wonderful parish.

**Louise Geddes**

# Chelmsford Community Sponsorship Scheme

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## An update on progress

We have reported on Chelmsford Community Sponsorship before but, for new readers, the aim of the scheme is to welcome a refugee family, probably from Syria, to Chelmsford. The scheme is expected to house them, place any children in education and support the family in registering with the various services they require and finding work. The ultimate aim is that the family will become integrated into Chelmsford life and contribute to the community and economy of Chelmsford. The scheme is regulated and approved by the Home Office.

This year has been a very strange one (that is a general as well as specific statement). In January, we were working towards having our application for approval ready to go to the Home Office by Easter. The application itself was almost ready, with only a few items remaining to be clarified. The main outstanding matter was that we needed written confirmation from both the City and the County that they supported the scheme. They were very helpful and indicated that were happy to support the scheme.

We met them just before the February half term and were expecting the confirmations in mid-March. However, by the middle of March everything had changed as a result of Covid-19. We resigned ourselves to marking time indefinitely and waited for developments. However, soon after Easter, the two authorities sent their confirmations to us and we were able to submit our application to the Home Office in May.

You will remember that we had gained the support of a local philanthropist who was buying a property to rent to us. A property had been identified but, about the same time as "lockdown" started, the sale fell through because of personal circumstances. Again, we were pessimistic about progress but, just after Easter, another property was identified and it is now owned by our benefactor. The property is in good repair, but needs some minor work and redecoration, but this is now underway, though probably a little more slowly than would

otherwise be the case. We will need to furnish the property but we have made a start on that and will be working on it while we are awaiting developments.

In June, the Home Office held a telephone conference with the local authorities and representatives of the scheme. They reviewed progress and spoke to us about some of the areas where they needed clarification. We identified areas where we needed to add information, and one of those was to identify lead volunteers for the various areas of work with the family. This took a little while, partly because of circumstances, but a team of leads has been identified and an updated application was sent to the Home Office, and their approval was given in September.

On the financial side, we had the £9,000, which we needed to have to submit the application at the beginning of the year. We have not been able to arrange fund raising but we have been applying to grant making bodies. We have been supported by the Walter Farthing Trust, the Wakeham Trust and Chelmsford Cathedral. Although we feel that further funding would give us more assurance that we were on firm ground, we have enough to get well under way. Although it is not a concern at the moment, if you have any fund raising ideas, or wish to donate or help us in any other way, we can be contacted by e-mail on [info@chelmsfordcs.co.uk](mailto:info@chelmsfordcs.co.uk).

We, therefore, now have an approved application, a team of lead volunteers has been identified and we have a property that is almost ready to occupy and we have resources. We are now waiting for a date for the resumption of resettlement flights. There is no indication of when that might be, though recent developments suggest that it is unlikely to be before the New Year. Until then we are preparing, training and, of course, praying.

**Chris Thompson**

# A visit to Bethlehem

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In October 2019 I was lucky enough to visit Israel and Jordan with my wife Max. Although this is just over a year ago it seems so much longer as result of what has happened to the world since then. All that we saw over the 12 days we were there could not be captured in this short article and so in this time of Advent I thought I would concentrate on our visit to Bethlehem.

We were in a tour party of about 40 people from mainly English speaking parts of the world. Our tour guide, Ezra, was 81 and had fled Germany with his parents in the 1930s. He had a wealth of knowledge as he had lived through the creation of Israel. It was worth the trip just to meet Ezra and hear about his life.

On the second day of our tour we visited Bethlehem. As we approached Ezra explained that a local guide would board the coach once we had passed the security gate, that his phone would not work in Bethlehem because it was an Israeli number and that the Israeli and USA flags at the front of the coach had to be taken down. We approach the security gate and saw the large wall which encircles the whole of Bethlehem.

Once through the security our new guide from the Orthodox Christian community living in Bethlehem joined us. As we drove to Manger Square we passed Banksy's hotel and saw a number of Banksy murals.



We left the coach and walked through Manger Square towards the Basilica of the Nativity. It has a long ancient wall that you walk past to the entrance. Once inside the Church itself is quite dark and there are preserved frescos on the walls. You have to queue to visit the Grotto and it was very busy. The wait is long and there was some pushing and jostling as different groups joined the queues!



Whilst queueing every half hour an Orthodox service (Russian, Greek or Armenian) would take place at the Altar above the Grotto. Limited numbers of people were allowed into the Grotto at a time. I took the opportunity whilst waiting to visit the Catholic Church of St Catherine next door. This was far more peaceful and spiritual. I visited the cave where the Angel appeared to Joseph. It was nice to take a moment to pray in this Church.



When I got back to the Basilica my group was quite close to the entrance but the door was about to be closed for a service. Our guide though knew the Priests and they allowed the door to remain open so we could watch from the side.



After the service it was time to enter the Grotto and we made our way down the steps to where Jesus was born. It was very crowded and hurried as you can see from the picture below. Many knelt to kiss and pray at the spot where the Manger had stood. You could only spend a minute or two in the Grotto before you had to leave to make way for others who had been queuing.



We all gathered in the courtyard outside St Catherine's before making our way back to the coach. Bethlehem is a very poor area and the communities who live there mainly rely on tourism, so we had a final stop at a gift shop which sold items made by the local Christian community. There were all sorts of carvings. The one in the picture below did not though make it into the suitcase.



**Peter Allen**

A cartoon illustration of an orange camel standing on the left side of the frame. To the right, there is a large amount of text in a brown, serif font. The text reads:

**What Christmas  
carol is sung  
in the desert?  
O Camel Ye Faithful**

# A Covid-19 experience as a doctor



I remember watching the first news reports from Wuhan in December and seeing videos of Chinese doctors in their protective clothing moving from room to room intubating critically ill patients. I remember the convoy transporting the evacuated Britons to the hospital in the Wirral to begin their quarantine and the first confirmed UK case at the end of January. Then we started to receive messages and personal accounts from doctors in Lombardy, Italy where hospitals were being overrun with COVID cases.

Our hospital did its best to prepare; new ventilators were ordered, boxes and boxes of personal protective equipment arrived, extra intensive care spaces were built and staff were trained up with COVID simulations and emergency drills. Despite all this, nothing could have fully prepared us for the sheer number of critically unwell patients that came through the doors from March to May.

We had compiled the best information from China, Italy and cases in the UK, we did everything we theoretically could come up with but after several days of painstaking improvements, patients would deteriorate so rapidly. Before every shift I'd pray for the ability to provide the best care that I could and pray that we wouldn't be overwhelmed.

The all too familiar bleep would ring in the middle of the night. It would be the doctors on the ward worried that their patient was becoming exhausted and too short of breath. We would visit the wards in protective clothing that would obscure our faces and limit our communication with already scared patients. Through our masks we would have to explain that our best hope was to bring them to intensive care and put them into an induced coma whilst we supported them through the

worst stages of the illness. Barely able to breathe, in the middle of the night, with no family allowed in the hospital, we would help them call home and explain what was to come. Then I would push the patient up the evacuated hospital corridor and into intensive care where they would stay for weeks or months, their life hanging in the balance. We would call families with updates, we had heartbreak discussions but their gratitude, messages of love and prayers provided a huge boost to the team throughout the challenging months.



The team spirit and commitment from my colleagues was something to behold. There wasn't a moment's hesitation before everyone stepped up to cover intensive care. People worked longer hours, more night shifts, more weekends, some moved into temporary accommodation out of fears of carrying the virus to elderly relatives. There were some harsh reminders of the risks when our colleagues became patients themselves.

I'm now back to my normal duties in the operating theatre as we try to get through as many operations as possible. It's been a turbulent year to say the least but I've felt overwhelmed by the support from the parish, the public, friends and family. My partner, Laura, has been my rock at home and we have recently got engaged which has been an absolute delight amid the difficult times. I couldn't have got through it without her and my family.

**Andy Webb**

# St Vincent de Paul Society (OLI)

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## Changes to the Indian Student Sponsorship Scheme

For decades, the Indian Student Sponsorship Scheme has been providing individuals, who would otherwise have received little or no education; with the opportunity to train for a career or to at least attend school.

The SVP National Office, in London, now directly administers the above Scheme, through a committee. If you previously supported this successful project or are considering doing so, please email the Office on: [info@svp.org.uk](mailto:info@svp.org.uk)

Alternatively, please use the Contact Us section under [www.svp.org.uk](http://www.svp.org.uk)

There is a "Category" box which includes "Twinnage and Overseas Aid" so that any message reaches the correct members of staff.

Parishioners may continue to contact me if they are having any difficulty in communicating with the National Office.

## Appeal for Specific Coins and all Banknotes

Thank you for your donations of unwanted banknotes and coins. All banknotes, Euro coins and legacy British coinage (including florins, shillings and obsolete 5 pence 10 pence and 50 pence pieces) generate the most income for us, when converted to legal tender.

If you have any currency to donate kindly place it in any sealed envelope marked "Foreign currency for the SVP", or "Old English currency for the SVP".

Please email me or leave a telephone message for me and I will arrange to meet you at a convenient place in Chelmsford, to collect them from you. Possible meeting locations are outside St Augustine's Church, outside Chelmsford Public Library (opposite the Co-operative Bank) or elsewhere in the City Centre.

Please do not leave items in the church or with the presbytery, as we may not be able to retrieve them for several weeks.

Thank you.

Please telephone:

Chris Pinto on: -

Chelmsford (01245) – 467764 (Kindly leave a message and he'll phone you back)  
or email him on: [chrispinto@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chrispinto@hotmail.co.uk)

**Christopher (Chris) Pinto**  
**Member – St Augustine's Conference, Chelmsford**  
**Charity Registration Number 1053992**



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# Stow Maries



How many of you know that Essex has Europe's largest surviving Great War aerodrome? This is Stow Maries, near Purley (website: <https://www.stowmaries.org.uk/>).

It was established in September 1916 as a base for B Flight, No 37 (Home Defence) Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps. It was part of the UK Government's response to German airship and bomber attacks on the British mainland during the First World War. It is now a memorial to the airmen and women who lived and died during that war, and to the mainland civilians who suffered attack from the air for the first time.



As well as many of the original buildings, the site also has two hangars housing historical aeroplanes, and three museums:

- Home Defence, including a display from Saint Omer in France
- Rule Britannia, showing how the roles of women changed during the First World War
- 37 (HD) Squadron, giving the histories of some of the people serving in the squadron during the war.



In normal circumstances, the aerodrome opens to the public every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with access to the hangars and museums, an excellent tearoom in the Airmen's Mess, and a shop where you can buy many interesting items.

Additionally, there are several large events every year with flying displays, classic cars, history storytellers, living history actors, blacksmith demonstrations, and much more.



Unfortunately, due to the COVID lockdown, the Aerodrome has had to close, but we are hopeful that it will be open again soon, so please keep your eye on the website. If you are interested in visiting, be assured that it has been awarded the Visit England "Good to Go" mark, showing that it adheres to the best practices for COVID safety. If you would like to get more involved, you would be welcome as a volunteer, or to support through membership of the Propeller Club – see the website for more information.

I hope to see you there one day.

**Steve Davey**

Volunteer at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome

## Christmas Wordsearch

### Christmas from the Holy Bible

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

Angels	Bethlehem	Birth	Christmas
Donkey	Earth	Emmanuel	Flocks
Frankincense	God	Gold	Hallelujah
Holy Spirit	Immaculate	Inn	Jesus
Joseph	Joy	King	Lamb
Magi	Manger	Mary	Myrrh
Rejoice	Savior	Shepherds	Star
Virgin	Worship		

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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 reading Augustinian 11 and thank you especially to all those who submitted articles. We sometimes struggle for material but articles for this edition came in with little prompting. There was obviously always going to be something of a Covid-19 flavour to this edition, but we hope that it has been balanced by a bit of a Christmas tone and some general interest items as well. We hope that we will do another coming up to Easter, so we are already collecting articles for that.

A particular thank you to Ben Hitchen for formatting as well as his own article and the camel joke (found on the internet!) and to New Hall for printing the finished article.

A Holy and a Happy Christmas to everyone and a hope that we can all be back together again in the New Year.

Chris