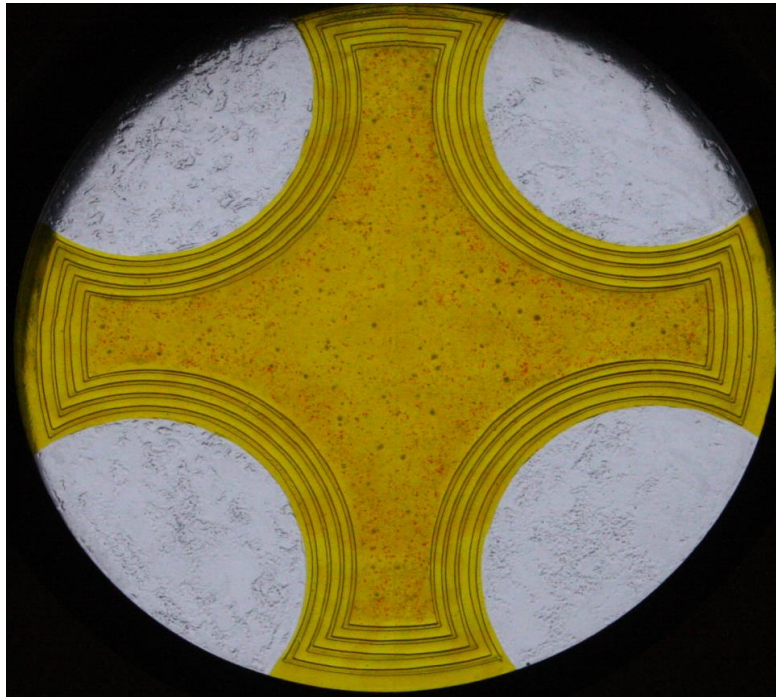


THE AUGUSTINIAN

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



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All change in Chelmsford

For every action in nature there exists an equal and opposite reaction... So, Isaac Newton observed as one of the world's pioneering physicists. We live in a world where ultimately all things balance out. At many levels in our lives where we lose something we gain something else. As I'm reflecting on this observation, I'm aware that this has been a time of action in our parish communities; across our Chelmsford parishes there have been great changes. The departure of the much-loved Norbertine Community, the change here at St Augustine of Canterbury Parish with the departure of Fr Jijo to having no resident priest, amount to the sense that a significant action has taken place. Sir Isaac may well ask, 'where do we see the balancing reaction?'

As I look back on these past weeks, I'm considering not just the sense of the change and loss, the inevitable difficulties of upheaval, but the beginnings of the equal reaction, that is a sense of the new energy that is part of this chain of action and reaction. It was really encouraging we had a great turnout from all our communities for the launch of the new website bringing together in one resource the information showing all the wonderful and diverse activities of all three parishes. The questions, observations and comments from parishioners were positive and there was a great sense that we look to this new chapter in the Catholic life of our City with an overwhelming sense of Christian Hope. There is every reason to know the Holy Spirit is at work in all that is happening, be it in the consolation of moments of loss or the excitement of new things to come. Most certainly the Holy Spirit is present in the continuity of the preaching of the Gospel in our daily lives and proclaiming the eternal Good News of Jesus Christ. Especially here at St Augustine of Canterbury we have the 40th anniversary celebrations to look forward to and our planning will soon begin to make these celebrations real beacons of hope for the future as well as festal thanksgiving for 40 remarkable years.

So, thank you for the warm welcome extended to your new priests, your patient understanding as we find new ways of operating with three parish communities, your enthusiasm for moving into new times, your gratitude for the tradition of our faith handed on through generations.

Fr Martin



Parish News

Church damage

You will have noticed the scaffolding round the Church in November. Last winter we had several bad leaks, and the floor and ceiling were at risk of serious damage. Fortunately, we had a dry summer but as autumn set in we had some very wet days, so it was clear that we needed to do something before the winter set in. We have some money to put towards it but there is still a significant gap (exactly how much is not known at the time of writing). We are still looking for further funding but keep alert for fund raising events in the new year, presumably in the newly weather-proof hall.

Little Pantry

The Little Pantry continues to provide an essential service to local people. When it started, it was being replenished every few days but recently it has been emptied every day. Contributions need to be nonperishable and in durable packaging (tins or packets, not glass). Fresh fruit and vegetables are welcome but fresh meat or meat not in tins is not useable because it will go off if it is not taken quickly. Fresh milk can also not be taken but UHT or long-life milk will be welcome.

George McNamara RIP



Sadly, during the autumn, we lost a well-known parishioner.

George McNamara died at the beginning of November. Both he and his wife, Maura, came from County Kerry in the early 1950s. He moved to Springfield in 2006 but before that had been an active (an understatement) parishioner in Stanford-le-Hope for 50 years and received a Bene Merenti medal. He was active in both Stanford-le-Hope and Chelmsford Councils of the Knights of St. Columba, serving as Grand Knight at Stanford. George's funeral was at the Church of Our Lady and St. Joseph, Stanford-le-Hope, on 1 December, and he is buried in Stanford-le-Hope Cemetery.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Parish trip to North Wales and Yorkshire

This year our group visited North Wales and Yorkshire. They may seem a long way apart, but it was actually a slow day's journey. We had a bit of an engineering theme this year. On the way up, we visited the famous Pontcysyllte aqueduct, the tallest in the world and the longest in the UK. The structure was designed by Thomas Telford, who also designed two bridges that we saw while we were away, the Menai Suspension Bridge and the bridge across the River Conwy at Conwy. The latter is not in use but we used the former to go to Anglesey.



Pontcysyllte aqueduct



Menai Suspension Bridge



Conwy Bridge

North Wales is well known for its Heritage and narrow-gauge railways. Two of them meet at Porthmadog and we stopped at the station café for lunch. From the station trains go to Caernarvon or Blaenau Ffestiniog, but they are separate lines so they don't go straight through. Yorkshire also has several heritage railways, but we only saw one in passing



Ffestiniog Railway at Porthmadog



Embsay and Bolton Abbey Railway

On the way to Yorkshire, we found another of the Tiny Churches. This one, St. Trillo in Rhos on Sea, is truly tiny, seating only six people and is the smallest church in the UK (and quite possibly the world, to still have regular services. It was so small that it was difficult to find despite being on the seafront. At the opposite end of the scale we passed through Liverpool and visited the (Catholic) Cathedral. See if you can guess which picture is which.



From the sublime to the ridiculous, we also passed by Anfield and the Liverpool Pierhead, with its three iconic buildings, the Liver Building, the Cunard Building and the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (now the Port of Liverpool).



In Yorkshire, we were based near Skipton but travelled north into the Yorkshire Dales and South Durham. We visited Barnard Castle (with plenty of references to sight tests) and called at Richmond on the way. Both have formidable castles, though we did not have time to visit either, and there were scenic journeys on the way.



Richmond Castle



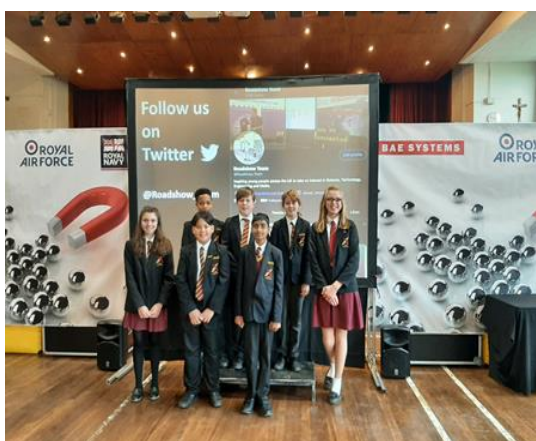
Barnard Castle

Our trip to the Dales took us past the Ribbleshead viaduct, via Wensleydale and Swaledale, to the famous Tan Hill Inn. Not resting on its laurels as the highest pub in the UK, the beer is well kept and it was full for lunch when we visited. They must keep their larder well stocked because they are regularly snowed in.

St. John Payne School update

We have been delighted to welcome Fr Martin & Fr Damian to celebrate Mass on a number of occasions, founding what we know will become long and fruitful friendships as we continue to draw the young people in our care ever closer to Christ, as well as to continue our friendships with deanery priests and our parish priest Fr Paul Cracknell, who extended a warm welcome when Year 7 joined parishioners in the community to bear witness on the Feast of All Saints.

We were pleased to welcome the BAE systems roadshow in November to present to students on the integration of magnets, magnetism and electromagnetism in our everyday life. Students commented that the roadshow was lots of fun and a fantastic way of teaching about magnets. We look forward to hosting the BAE team again next year.



Business Studies & Politics students enjoyed a fantastic visit to the Palace of Westminster. Chelmsford MP Vicky Ford guided them on a tour of the chamber, explaining the parliamentary process and offering insight into government in what continues to prove an especially significant political period.



We continued our tradition of charity fund raising with Wear It Pink for cancer research, Sixth Form Fancy Dress Friday in aid of Young Lives vs Cancer, and Red Wednesday in support of Aid to the Church in Need.



To support our careers provision and help students connect with local employers, the BBC visited in November to discuss the importance of storytelling to a range of different careers such as advertising, news & sport reporting, game design, or script writing.

Teams of Our Lady

We have written before of the international nature of the Teams movement, with Teams in 92 countries throughout the world. This was emphasised in November with the visit of Kevin and Faye Noonan to the British Isles. Kevin and Faye are the coordinating couple for the Eurasia Zone, which comprises the English speaking nations with Teams: the British Isles, North America and the Caribbean, India, Oceania and, slightly curiously, the Philippines.



While they have been here they have visited Ireland, where there is a thriving Teams movement, and then came over to England. While they were here they have been round the Regions and met the Regional couples (one couple on line), attended a Teams meeting and spoken to the couples organising our quarterly Newsletter and the April re-Gathering, amongst

other things. As their visit came to an end they had lunch with the Teams GB Trustees (with two couples by Zoom) to review progress of the movement in the UK.

The covid pandemic has seriously affected the movement in the UK. We were unable to hold meetings in person during the various lockdowns and a number of Teams have ceased to meet permanently. As part of our review we looked at the difficulties couples, particularly young couples, face in taking on the membership of a Team. One result of our discussion was that we realise that we need to think about how we present the movement and how future new Teams arrange to meet. For many young couples, hosting a meal in their own home is challenging and we need to think about how to respond to this. This will give us considerable food for thought in future meetings.

In the meantime, the rest of our work has continued. The major project of the next year will be the re-Gathering at Swanick in April. Bookings are coming in and the animating Team has drafted a programme and arranged the key speakers for the weekend. The next step is to put the details of all the different sessions, plus the prayer aspect of the weekend, including Mass, and the social programme



HCPT Group 26 update

After the last three pilgrimages being cancelled because of Covid-19, I am delighted to tell you that our Easter 2023 trip to Lourdes is going ahead! I am really looking forward to being back in Lourdes with my group and being back in a place full of joy, colour and spirituality!

Our preparation for our jam-packed week away is in full swing. We have already conducted home visits and completed the paperwork for three disabled children to travel with our group. We are raising funds through carol singing at Epping tube station and holding a race night next year. We have also our training day, meet & greet and further home visits to come and the excitement is very much building!

Ben Hitchen
HCPT Group 26 member

The Pilgrim's way... Walking the Camino

The Pilgrim route is that of St James who went as a disciple to Spain and preached in the Basque region and other parts of Spain for a few years. He then had a dream that Our Lady appeared to him saying that she was soon to depart this world. St James made the journey to see Our Lady before she passed away and in so doing was captured and taken to Rome where he died a martyr's death. His body was transported to Santiago and he is buried under the cathedral. With the Silk Road being attacked by the Moors and the Templar's destruction, Pilgrim's found the route to Santiago safer. It was initially guarded by the Knights Templars as were the beautiful churches that mark its route. Whether this is fact or fiction I do not know but such events are listed in different books.

For centuries people have been walking the Camino starting from Rome, France, Spain, Portugal and even further. Buses of people daily do the route and thousands of people daily walk this route. So my friend and I were two such people from our local parish of St Augustine to do so. My decision to walk the Camino started over 20 years ago when I heard about it from a retiring Deputy Head.

I was at Lourdes and the Camino came up, and this wonderful friend stated her interest to walk the Camino. We agreed to do so together. When the time came for the Camino and we were both focused and committed. I focused on getting fit to walk the Camino and addressed, having not only good walking shoes, but a holistic approach to enabling me to walk every day for 2 weeks doing around 15 to 29 kilometres per day (9.3 to 18 miles). We averaged 18 to 24 kilometres daily and more. We both decided to walk for different charities. I have always walked with a Chelmsford walking/cycling group for over 25 years and it was the weekends away having fun doing this that prepared me for the Camino challenge. I had new walking boots that and I went to a shop in town that specialises in Chiropody and they made insoles for me to ensure my gait was balanced. This was invaluable as the knee pains I used to get from walking did not manifest at all!

We did have long discussions about those people who have told us they have completed the Camino, by "bus"! These were the discussions we had as we ached along through our day; those open Churches, and magnificent frescos and statues which we could not see as the Churches were all closed apart from a Sunday or late evening Mass. Did we do this the right way? Should we have taken the bus? You can decide. I would not want to do this any other way than how I did it, on foot.



Roncesvalles day 2: 790 kms to Santiago to go...

Our first day, 4 October 2022:

All day yesterday we were talking about whether to take the high route or the low route to cross the Pyrenees to Spain. Being sensible we chose the low route. Our destination, Roncesvalles!! Coming from Essex everything is flat. Here we were in the mountains and our journey that day involved hanging onto the mountain itself, with a rocky footpath that enabled one foot in front of the other and a sheer drop to the right with a raging river below. No supports on the right, no health and safety here, just faith and keep walking. Now I know why the Camino is so persuasive in renewing ones faith! We saw a magnificent Heron follow us for a while. We do not know at what point we cross from France to Spain, but on asking at a remote place with 2 houses and a 4x4 car into which a man was climbing he told us this was Espania! We had made it!!

At about 7.15 pm we fell into our hotel at Roncesvalles and we stayed in an old hotel

monastery with the most gorgeous floor tiling that was centuries old.

5 October 2022:

Today the challenge was greeting people with Buen Camino and being hugged by a passionate South American or Spanish man who was filled with Buen Camino every time he saw us several times that day! We slithered down sheer steep rock descents with huge loose boulders dropping into a valley. We were accompanied by cow bells from the mountain sides on either the cattle or the wild horses.

7 October 2022:

A hard days walking to Pamplona but oh my goodness what a wonderful sight the old city was with its high ancient walls and portcullis and views over the city and country afar! We were doing what century old pilgrims before us and those who continue to do so were doing, taking refuge within the old city.



The Camino markers that line the route and the yellow arrow were our pointers along the way...

8 October 2022:

Leaving Peunte la reina the village is magnificent with narrow streets, flower boxes and cobbled stones. Huge old wooden doors: homes and shops line the route out the village. Nothing open as we leave early morning. On the pilgrim route we immediately start to climb up a steep 90% slope for about 1 km. The view is magnificent!! The climb exhausting... the heat overwhelming.

Estella is another ancient town sprawling on the bottom of a valley with a river that runs through it and a quirky stone bridge that leads us to our hotel. 21 kms walked today.

9 October 2022:

Having done our research we know there are no food stops along the way so my pack was heavy. Today did bring surprises as we passed a beautiful forge with many handmade shells, pendants and feathers made by a lovely old weathered man. He had magnificent choices for passing pilgrims. Not far along we came to the long awaited wine factory Irache where any pilgrim can drink as much wine as they want from a fountain. I could only manage a sip and to me it tasted of balsamic vinegar!!

The walk was either steep or extreme downhill but the views were magnificent. It was a long and dusty road we trod today walking without a break from 2 pm to 6 pm. Finally, Los Arcos came into view with its church steeple and bells welcoming us.

10 October 2022:

We discussed all the different nationalities we had met thus far on our route: Netherlands (our singer) Belgium (the water drinker), French, Spanish, South American, British, Australian, Swedish, Norwegian and of course different parts of the States and Canada, Taiwan and China. People of religion and those just doing the challenging walk. The only answer is from all over the world!

Today covered vineyards and olive groves. Our war veterans walking for mental health from all over the world at times kept us company along the ancient Roman walk through barren fields of parched land and olive groves... And the red kite kept us company as they had since we arrived almost daily.

Logrono hooray!! We had a lovely meal in this city having walked through the Rioja wine region. It was a delightful restaurant off the beaten track with white table cloths and a delightful chef who read the whole menu to me in English and called me darling at the end when I forgot my receipt.

A statue of our Lady that we found at the bottom of a hill on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.



11 October 2022:

Oh what a joy! A ride/transfer from Logrono to Sarria in a Mercedes Benz estate with a panoramic view above us from the car. I fell asleep for two hours before we arrived in the City of Leon to see the Knights Templar Cathedral! Stunning! We had a meal and then travelled again for another 2 hours. Again, I slept during this time. From what I saw of the route we travelled it was very flat and boring with a view of passing pilgrims and the pilgrim route to be seen miles away! Lovely flat terrain! Nothing like what we had navigated!! Did we do this right came to mind? There were also magnificent statues along the way of pilgrims and references to the Knights with Hospitaller stops and so on along the way. Eventually we arrived at Sarria.

We were able to attend Mass at 7 pm. This church was open! This was one of the first churches that we found open. The rosary was said before Mass pre-recorded (something for us to think about? Or not?) Then father had pre-recorded music for his entrance, during and after Mass, all controlled by him. He gave us a wonderful Pilgrim blessing for our journey. We met our American pilgrims sisters here. We were all in the same hotel.

To be continued in Augustinian 16!

References and acknowledgements:

Camino de Santiago Camino Frances St. Jean Pied de Port – Santiago de Compostela by John Brierley 18th edition 2022.

Shuropody – Chelmsford High Street opposite Costa Coffee

Chelmsford Youth Hostel Association walking group.

Brentwood Catholic Children Society and the charity giving page to donate is on Just Giving:

www.justgiving.com/Louise-Geddes

Knights of St. Columba Council 302



In October, Brentwood Cathedral was the host for two days to the relics of St. Bernadette as part of the relics' tour of the UK. Knights were asked to help with stewarding the occasion and responded well. Three Knights from Chelmsford Council attended for four hours on the Sunday afternoon and contributed our part to making it a success.

Knights' activity has reduced over the summer but is picking up again. Knights at Leisure was suspended over the summer but we restarted in early October with a lunch at the Six Bells in Boreham. People were away or busy in other ways, so we only had about a dozen there, but everyone said that they had enjoyed their meal. Having restarted we can schedule a programme in the new year. However, there will only be one other before then because December is always a busy month for everyone.



A big success at the end of summer was a visit to Ingatestone Hall. It was an evening event attended by about 30 people, some Knights but many of them friends. We began with tea and then there was a guided tour of the Hall and grounds. Two groups went round with experienced guides who told us of the history of the Hall and its importance in local and national life. We finished with a buffet supper before leaving with a well satisfied group of friends. Several people have contacted us

afterwards to say how much they enjoyed the evening and we subsequently wrote to thank Lord Petre for helping us to make the arrangements.

The other big event of September was our Race Night. We have not been able to have any fund raising events for three years so we needed to restore our finances, so we arranged a Race Night in late September. We were able to get all our races sponsored (with one extra sponsor), so thanks again to all our sponsors. We finally sold the last of the horses on the night, which was also a great help. We had a decent attendance and a lively evening and made a profit of £470, which will help us to support our widows and some of the charities which we support.

In October the Knights' Province (Diocese) helped to steward the visit of the relics of St. Bernadette to the Cathedral. Over two days 14 Councils sent 96 Brothers to steward visitors to the relics and to help to manage the visit. Those responsible for arranging the tour of the relics round the UK praised Knights' involvement and our contribution to the smooth running of the time at Brentwood Cathedral. The relics went on to Wanstead, where Knights also supported the organisation of the visit.



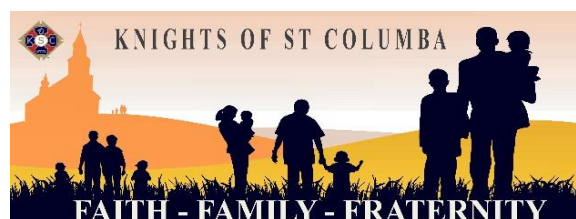
We are continuing a number of ongoing projects. At Provincial Council we handed over a bag of glasses to go to a project in South America. We also passed on another load of tools to Tools with a Mission to go to support small businesses in Africa. The new National Action project is Let the Children Live, a charity which works with organisations in Colombia supporting street children in a number of ways.

Next year is World Youth Day, in Lisbon. If any young people are intending to go and are looking to raise money to pay for it, contact the Knights of St. Columba (see below). We cannot offer a large amount of money but we can help with fund raising.

We have a number of events coming up next year which we will be advertising after Christmas. We have not been able to hold an Annual Dinner but we will be arranging one in February. Other events proposed include the return of our popular Walking Quiz, Crazy Golf and we will be rescheduling the Wine Tasting. And we will be having Knights at Leisure regularly.



Knights of St. Columba



St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) Appeal for Unwanted Banknotes

Thank you for your previous donations of unwanted foreign and old British banknotes. These have generated a steady income for us, after we converted them into legal tender.

Kindly continue to place your donations in the Offertory collection, in any sealed envelope marked "**Banknotes for the SVP**".

All funds raised through your donations will be used to help local needy individuals and families, through St Augustine's SVP Conference.

If you have an enquiry on this matter, please email Chris Pinto on

chrispinto@hotmail.co.uk

Thank You

Member – St Augustine of Canterbury Conference, Springfield
Charity Registration Number 1053992



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

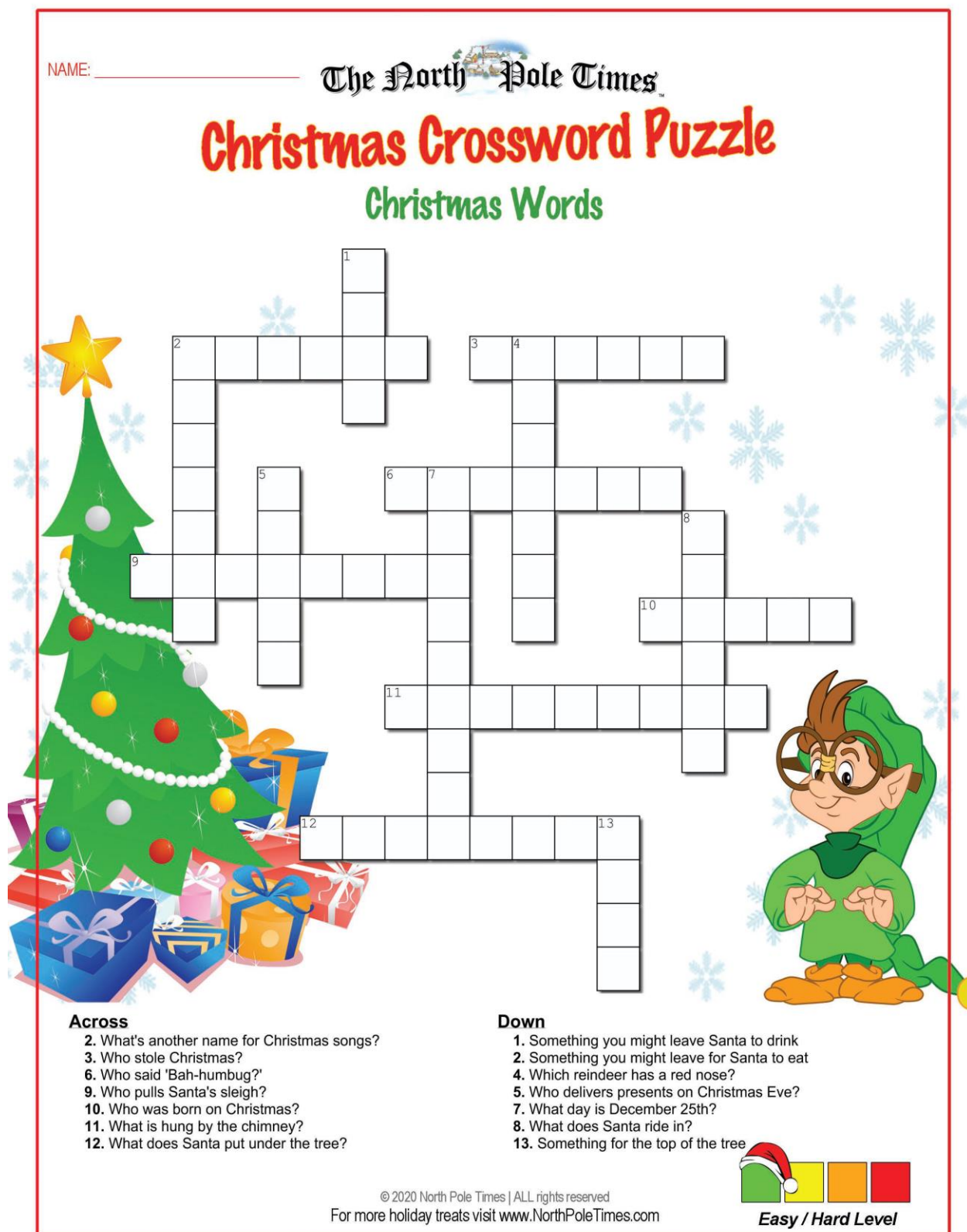
Christmas Crossword Puzzle

NAME: _____

The North Pole Times

Christmas Crossword Puzzle

Christmas Words



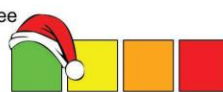
Across

2. What's another name for Christmas songs?
3. Who stole Christmas?
6. Who said 'Bah-humbug'?
9. Who pulls Santa's sleigh?
10. Who was born on Christmas?
11. What is hung by the chimney?
12. What does Santa put under the tree?

Down

1. Something you might leave Santa to drink
2. Something you might leave for Santa to eat
4. Which reindeer has a red nose?
5. Who delivers presents on Christmas Eve?
7. What day is December 25th?
8. What does Santa ride in?
13. Something for the top of the tree

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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 this edition of "The Augustinian". It is the first written as part of the group of linked parishes and thank you to Fr. Martin for the preface. We are looking for material for the next edition, but we already have the second half of Veronica and Louise's Camino story. We hope to have it available before Easter, which is quite late this year, so you have a while. Something with an Easter connection would be particularly welcome. As it is the parish's 40th anniversary, we also hope to be able to include a programme of events and some anniversary articles.

Once again, thank you to all our contributors, particularly Fr. Martin who is contributing to his first "Augustinian". Thank you also to our supporters, Birkett Long who advertise with us and New Hall who print the article. Thank you also to Ben Hitchen who has formatted the material again: Ben and New Hall combine to give "The Augustinian" a very professional look.

We wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and a New Year of joy and hope.

Chris Thompson