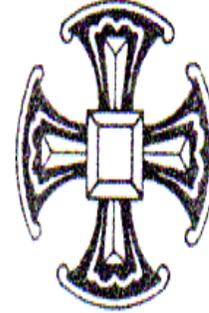


The Catholic Parish of Springfield

The Augustinian

St Augustine of Canterbury - Springfield
New Hall Chapel - Boreham
Church of Our Saviour - Chelmer Village
<http://www.staugustine-springfield.com/>



May 2010

Cost 50p – Suggested Donation

All proceeds in aid of World Challenge Uganda

Father Frank Writes

My dear friends,

It gives me great pleasure to present another edition of The Augustinian. Many thanks to all our contributors and especially to our capable and enthusiastic editor, Nigel Gardener.

This is a particularly lively edition – and thought-provoking too. Even the funny pages carry a serious message. Read them and let me know what you think. I would also welcome comments on the summary of our parish statistics from 1999 to 2008 as analysed on page 8 (thanks to Tony Cornish for this).

The magazine begins with a Franciscan feast, goes on to a discussion of ‘our lawless society’, and then presents some interesting (and humorous) extracts from the OLI Log Book for the period 1890 to 1918. Many thanks to William Redfern for his contribution to ‘Parish Peoples Pastimes’ – a regular feature and to our parish historian, Liam Fitzgerald, for his piece on Beeleigh Abbey.

This edition also carries the recipe for my favourite carrot cake (but I would say that, wouldn’t I?) and finishes with an interesting cross word and some more funnies.

So much for so little (and notice that the little you pay is going to support Katie Wiseman’s World Challenge to Uganda). So what is there to complain about?

But, as always, if you see a gap and can do something to fill it, do let us know. It is, after all, your magazine.

Happy reading!

With my blessing.

Father Frank

St. Francis of Assisi

Francis was born in 1182, the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. His early years were frivolous, but an experience of sickness and another of military service were instrumental in leading him to reflect on the purpose of life. One day, in the church of San Damiano, he seemed to hear Christ saying to him, "Francis, repair my falling house." He took the words literally, and sold a bale of silk from his father's warehouse to pay for repairs to the church of San Damiano. His father was outraged, and there was a public confrontation at which his father disinherited and disowned him, and he in turn renounced his father's wealth--one account says that he not only handed his father his purse, but also took off his expensive clothes, laid them at his father's feet, and walked away naked. He declared himself "wedded to Lady Poverty", renounced all material possessions, and devoted himself to serving the poor. In his



day the most dreaded of all diseases was something known as leprosy. (It is probably not the same as either the modern or the Biblical disease of that name.) Lepers were kept at a distance and regarded with fear and disgust. Francis cared for them, fed them, bathed their sores, and kissed them. Since he could not pay for repairs to the Church of San Damiano, he undertook to repair it by his own labours. He moved in with the priest, and begged stones lying useless in fields, shaping them for use in repairing the church. He got his meals, not by asking for money so that he might live at the expense of others, but by scrounging crusts and discarded vegetable from trash-bins, and by working as a day labourer, insisting on being paid in bread, milk, eggs, or vegetables rather than in money. Soon a few companions joined him. Dante in his *Paradiso* has Aquinas say of him:

“Let me tell you of a youth whose aristocratic father disowned Him because of his love for a beautiful lady. She had been married before, to Christ, and was so faithful a spouse to Him that, while Mary only stood at the foot of the Cross, she leaped up to be with Him on the Cross. These two of whom I speak are Francis and the Lady Poverty. As they walked along together, the sight of their mutual love drew men's hearts after them. Bernard saw them and ran after them, kicking off his shoes to run faster to so great a peace. Giles and Sylvester saw them, kicked off their shoes and ran to join them...”

After three years, in 1210, the Pope authorized the forming of the Order of Friars Minor, commonly called the Franciscans. ("Friar" means "brother," as in "fraternity", and "minor" means "lesser" or "younger." I take the meaning to be that a Franciscan, meeting another Christian, is to think, "I am your brother in Christ, and your younger brother at that, bound to defer to you and to give you precedence over myself."

Francis and his companions took literally the words of Christ when he sent his disciples out to preach (*M 10:7-10*):

Preach as you go, saying, "The kingdom of Heaven is at hand." ... You have received the Gospel without payment, give it to others as freely. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, no spare garment, nor sandals, nor staff.

They would have no money, and no property, individually or collectively. Their task was to preach, "using words if necessary," but declaring by word and action the love of God in Christ. Francis was partial to a touch of the dramatic (see his parting from his father, for example), and it was probably he who set up the first Christmas manger scene, to bring home the Good News

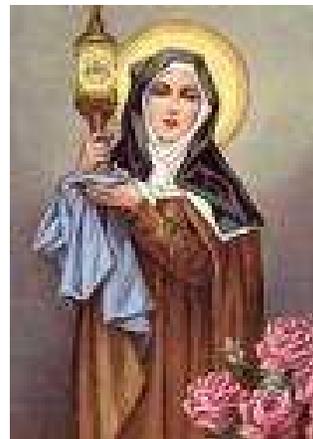
of God made man for our salvation, home to men's hearts and imaginations as well as to their intellects.

In 1219, Francis went to the Holy Land to preach to the Moslems. He was given a pass through the enemy lines, and spoke to the Sultan, Melek-al-Kamil. Francis proclaimed the Gospel to the Sultan, who replied that he had his own beliefs, and that Moslems were as firmly convinced of the truth of Islam as Francis was of the truth of Christianity. Francis proposed that a fire be built, and that he and a Moslem volunteer would walk side by side into the fire to show whose faith was stronger. The Sultan said he was not sure that a Moslem volunteer could be found. Francis then offered to walk into the fire alone. The Sultan who was deeply impressed but remained unconverted. Francis proposed an armistice between the two warring sides, and drew up terms for one; the Sultan agreed, but, to Francis's deep disappointment, the Christian leaders would not. Francis returned to Italy, but a permanent result was that the Franciscans were given custody of the Christian shrines then in Moslem hands.

Back in Italy and neighbouring countries, the Order was suffering from its own success. Then, as now, many persons were deeply attracted by Francis and his air of joy, abandonment, and freedom. What is overlooked is that these were made possible only by his willingness to accept total poverty, not picturesque poverty but real dirt, rags, cold, and hunger, and lepers with real pus oozing from their sores and a real danger of infection. Many idealistic young men were joining the Order in a burst of enthusiasm and then finding themselves not so sure that such extremes of poverty were really necessary. When there were only a few friars, they were all known to Francis personally, and the force of his personality kept the original ideals of the Order alive in them. Now that the Order was larger, this was no longer enough. In 1220 Francis resigned as minister-general of the Order, and in 1221 he agreed to a new and modified rule, which he did not approve, but could not resist. He died on 4 October 1226.

St. Clare http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=215

Clare was a beautiful Italian noblewoman who became the Foundress of an order of nuns now called "Poor Clares." When she heard St. Francis of Assisi preach, her heart burned with a great desire to imitate Francis and to live a poor humble life for Jesus. So one evening, she ran away from home, and in a little chapel outside Assisi, gave herself to God. St. Francis cut off her hair and gave her a rough brown habit to wear, tied with a plain cord around her waist. Her parents tried in every way to make her return home, but Clare would not.



Soon her sister, St. Agnes joined her, as well as other young women who wanted to be brides of Jesus, and live without any money. St. Clare and her sisters wore no shoes, ate no meat, lived in a poor house, and kept silent most of the time. Yet they were very happy, because Our Lord was close to them all the time. Once, He saved them from a great danger in answer to St. Clare's prayer. An army of rough soldiers came to attack Assisi and they planned to raid the convent first. Although very sick, St. Clare had herself carried to the wall and right there, where the enemies could see it, she had the Blessed Sacrament placed. Then on her knees, she begged God to save the Sisters.

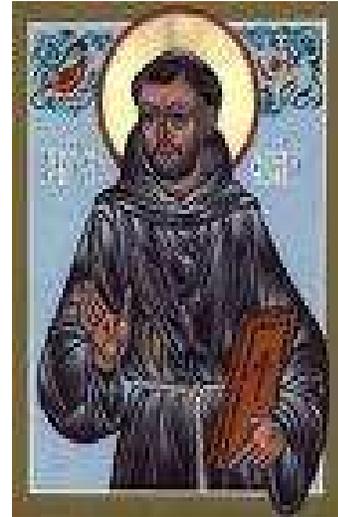
"O Lord, protect these Sisters whom I cannot protect now," she prayed. A voice seemed to answer: "I will keep them always in My care." At the same time a sudden fright struck the attackers and they fled as fast as they could. St. Clare was sick and suffered great pains for many years, but she said that no pain could trouble her. So great was her joy in serving the Lord that she once exclaimed: "They say that we are too poor, but can a heart which possesses

the infinite God be truly called poor?" We should remember this miracle of the Blessed Sacrament when in Church. Then we will pray with great Faith to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist: "Save me, O Lord, from every evil - of soul and body." Her feast day is August 11.

The Franciscans

By the time of St. Francis' death in 1226 the order he established was growing at a rapid rate and expanding throughout Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. It was refreshing the Church and gaining converts wherever it went.

The Friars Minor – the brothers who first gathered around Francis quickly gained the name the First Order of the Franciscans. In a similar vein St. Clare founded the Poor Clares communities of Sisters following Francis' Rule. These came to be known as the Second Order. Lastly, because of the success of the Franciscan Mission, many lay people came to the Franciscans to follow their way of life while remaining in their homes and families. A Rule was created for them to follow and they became known as the Brothers and Sisters of Penance, or the Third Order of Franciscans. All three of these Orders exist today, although their unity has, at times, come under threat.



The story of the early Franciscans is not one of pure success. Very soon after the death of St. Francis internal disputes began to surface about the right way to live a Franciscan life. The early centuries of the Franciscan movement were peppered with disagreements as factions and micro-politics split the Franciscan groups. The Rules of the Order were altered and re-written and, at various times through the years a succession of Popes had to arbitrate over differences.

As well as many smaller divisions two large distinct camps emerged: those who embraced total poverty, (known as the Observants) and those who felt that it was not incompatible to own land and possessions communally and to live in a more settled way. This group became known as Conventuals. By the mid-fifteenth century the two camps had become so distinct and had disagreed so much and so often that they effectively split into two separate Orders.

This was not the end of the cycle of reforms, disagreements and separation. A further group, the Capuchins – known for their brown habits with white hoods, (cappuccino coffee and capuchin monkeys are named after their brown and white habits), officially became a separate Order in the early sixteenth century.

Each of these groups was trying to follow the spirit of how St. Francis had lived his life, yet each group found a different way to express it. Later centuries saw further groups seeking reform within the Order, with further smaller splits.

Looking back, perhaps the sadness is not that there are three branches in St. Francis' First Order, but that the path leading to this variety was, at times, so heated and full of intolerance of the others' ideas.

However, these divisions did not halt the spread of the Franciscan movement. From the three thousand or some members at the time of St. Francis' death, the Order grew to number tens of thousands within a hundred years. No exact numbers are known but their presence in almost every part of the known world attests to their great numbers. They have played many important roles in mission, teaching, preaching and charitable works.

Today the Franciscans are reconciled with one another and consider themselves all members of the one family recognising the values of one another yet retaining their distinct characteristics. The Friars, the Sisters and the Lay Franciscans all continue to act as witnesses to Christ following in the spirit of St. Francis and also St. Clare.

Readers may wish to take the opportunity to watch the Academy Award nominated “Brother Son, Sister Moon” directed by Franco Zeffirelli which focuses on the early years of St. Francis of Assisi “who sought communion with the natural world by renouncing his family’s riches to seek his own destiny unencumbered by material possessions.”

Hardened Criminals

Two grumpy old men were sitting chewing the fat and one said to the other “you know we are living in a lawless society.” It got me thinking. Few would recognise themselves as part of that society but you know the grumpy old man was far from being wrong. If a rule or law doesn’t suit we do ignore it. We do take the view that particular laws apply to the rest of the world and not us. We litter; we use our mobile phones while negotiating roundabouts in our cars, our vans, and buses and trucks; we cycle the wrong way up one way streets or ignore traffic lights. We complain when we see these infringements and yet ignore the times we break the law and we are all guilty.



In our approach to the mass we have become equally self-centred. We ignore common courtesy by turning up late and disturbing others by not waiting until a reading is over before we take our seats. We sit slouched with hands in pockets chewing gum and chatting and joking. We are oblivious of others. How often do we actually abstain prior to going to mass and then taking Communion? We leave the mass and then begin berating and bullying our fellow man as we charge off to the other Sunday temple, the local shopping centre or supermarket. We all do it. In our community we have some fantastic children and teenagers and young adults but in our abuse of the rules of the society to which we all belong we are quick to berate this up and coming generation oblivious to our own shortcomings. As with any community the young learn from their elders.

It doesn’t matter how you dress it up but if you break any law of the land you have committed a criminal act. It may not be of the same magnitude as murder, assault, burglary or mugging but it is still a criminal act to ignore the law of the land and doing so habitually makes you and I hardened criminals. It is no less important to hold to the law of the church.

We cannot change the laws we do not like overnight but we put the government and opposition into Westminster and if we don’t like legislation we lobby the law-makers to bring about change but until that happens we need to change ourselves. What may seem insignificant to us can send a wrong signal to the generation following. We can change our own behaviour and send the right message and eventually get society back on track and the good example sets those who follow on the right road. So too in our spiritual lives we need to observe the laws of the church as well as the protocols of mass and the observance of our faith and we can cease to be hardened and habitual criminals.

The Lord Jesus inaugurated His Church by preaching the Good News of the coming of the Kingdom of God, promised over the ages in the Scriptures. The Kingdom shines out before humanity in the words, the works and the presence of Christ. (Lumen Gentium)

Isn't It Funny?

Funny how a £20.00 note looks so big when you take it to church, but so small when you take it to the shop

Funny how big an hour serving God looks and how small 60 minutes are when spent watching television, playing sports, sleeping or taking a lunch break.

Funny how long a couple of hours spent at church are but how short they are when watching a good movie.

Funny how we get thrilled when a football game goes into overtime, but we complain when a sermon is longer than the regular time.

Funny how laborious it is to read a chapter in the Bible and how easy it is to read 200 300 pages of a bestselling novel.

Funny how we believe what newspapers say, but question what the Bible says.

Funny how people scramble to get a front seat at a concert, but scramble to get a back seat at the church service.

Funny how we cannot fit a gospel meeting into our schedule with our yearly planner but we can schedule for other events at a moment's notice.

Funny how we look forward to that big date on Friday night, but complain about getting up for church on Sunday morning.

Funny how we are rarely late to work, but always late to church.

Funny how we call God our Father and Jesus our brother, but find it hard to introduce them to our family.

Funny how small our sins seem, but how big the sins of others are.

Funny how we demand justice for others, but expect mercy from God.

Funny how much difficulty some have learning the gospel well enough to tell others, but how simple it is to understand and explain the latest gossip about someone else.

Funny how we can't think of anything to say when we pray, but don't have any difficulty thinking of things to talk about to a friend.

Funny how we are so quick to take directions from a total stranger when we are lost, but are hesitant to take God's direction for our lives.

Funny how so many church goers sing "Standing on the promises" but all they do is sit on the premises.

Funny how people want God to answer their prayers, but refuse to listen to His counsel.

Funny how we sing about heaven, but live only for today.



Funny how it is okay to blame God for evil and suffering in the world, but it is not necessary to thank Him for what is good and pleasant.

Funny how when something goes wrong, we cry, "Lord, why me?" but when something goes right, we think, "Hey, it must be me!"

Or wait...maybe all this isn't so "funny" after all.

We cannot live without love. If we do not encounter love, if we do not experience it and make it our own, and if we do not participate intimately in it, our life is meaningless. Without love we remain incomprehensible to ourselves.

Pope John Paul II - Washington 1979

Our Lady Immaculate School

The following items are Log Book entries from Our Lady Immaculate School. They provide a fascinating social insight into the history of Chelmsford and into the activities of the teachers and pupils who worked and attended the school. The Log Book covers random entries from 1890 through to 1959

From the HMI Report February 11th 1890 – “the school is in fair condition as regard order, but there is still a disposition to talk and in matters of class drill and discipline there are obvious defects. The work generally is characterised this year by want of careful finish and by dullness! In these subjects which are tests of intelligent teaching”

November 16th 1897 – “all children belonging to the Chelmsford R.C. Public Elementary School are forbidden to climb walls or window sills or palisades or railings”

February 1st 1915 – “no fires, difficulty in getting coal.”

April 13th 1916 – “school closed today by order of the Education Committee it being required for soldiers. I resign charge of this school.” K. Nolan

October 5th 1917 – on Tuesday afternoon rolls could not be marked as “air raid” upset the time and number of attendance.”

January 25th 1918 – this week attendance again was very poor especially among the girls, some of whom are kept away to obtain food by standing in the queues and therefore cannot get to school in time.”

March 8th 1918 – “the “raid” caused a fall as usual in numbers.”

December 13th 1918 – “9.00 am Infant room temperature 30. Other room 38. Ink frozen. The fire place in the infant room is always inadequate and the cleaner cannot get into the school before 7 to light the fires as the outer gate is kept locked until then.”

In the next issue of the Augustinian we'll look at some of the entries from 1920-1930!

Parish Statistics

Each year, the Brentwood Diocesan Directory publishes a table showing statistics for all the parishes in the Diocese. In the table below, I have reproduced the statistics for the last 10 years for our parish, St Augustine of Canterbury. The statistics for 2009 will be published at the end of this year.

Year	Estimated Population	Mass Attendance	Marriages	Baptisms	Reception	Deaths
1999	3,000	427	1	16	1	7
2000	3,000	419	5	12	5	7
2001	2,000	432	0	10	3	9
2002	2,100	461	1	10	2	11
2003	2,200	483	1	10	1	7
2004	2,200	471	3	23	1	8
2005	2,200	467	0	21	3	13
2006	2,200	457	2	14	3	15
2007	2,200	448	1	21	3	10
2008	2,200	463	2	19	1	6

For comparison, the numbers for the other Catholic churches in Chelmsford for 2008 are:-

OLI	N/A	645	19	81	11	34
Blessed Sacrament	2,200	413	3	32	4	26
Holy Name	N/A	369	0	1	0	6

Notes:

1. The estimated population is significantly understated if one looks at the official government statistics available from the most recent census (2001) and applying approximate criteria. One of these concerns our parish boundary which does not precisely coincide with the boundaries of the secular parishes or the political wards for which the official statistics are applicable. Another is the proportion of the national population assumed to be Roman Catholic i.e. 10%. Even after taking these aspects into account, the estimated Catholic population of our parish will almost certainly exceed 3,000. Does this matter one might ask? Well one use could be in education planning particularly for the Diocese.
2. Mass attendance is the average of a head-count at all Masses on the four Sundays in October.
3. The statistics for Marriages etc., are self explanatory.

There has been recent coverage in the local press regarding the development plans for Springfield. The figure of 4,000 more dwellings which will presumably all be built within our parish boundaries suggests that eventually there could be another 10,000 added to the population. Applying the 10% criterion, this could mean another 1,000 Catholics and therefore another 250 Mass attendees (applying another “historic” factor of 25%!). Of course, building won’t start before 2012 (and that assumes that the planning application is approved) and will take many years to complete.

If you have any old photographs that you think might help to illustrate life in Chelmsford and the Springfield Parish please let us know.

Tony Cornish
tonycornish@talktalk.net

Parish People Pastimes

In each edition of the Augustinian we will be asking our contributors to pick 5 favourite pieces of music, 2 books and, in response to our technological age, 1 DVD/video film. An optional “luxury” item can also be included in their luggage. Instead of the Complete Works of Shakespeare we will be providing each stranded traveller with a Bible and The Catholic Prayer Book edited by Michael Buckley.

This edition’s contributor is William Redfern. William has been a familiar face at St. Augustine’s as an active alter server for nearly twelve years between a hectic stint at University in Cambridge. He currently works as a Parliamentary Intern at Westminster. His deep interest in politics now sees him heavily engaged in the run up to the Election in May. In addition to Politics William is also interested in History and Law and enjoys watching and playing both football and cricket. We are grateful to William for his contribution at a time when he has so many other demands placed upon him.

Item	Brief Reason for Choice
Music	
1 Stop the Clocks- Oasis Greatest Hits	The first album I ever bought was an Oasis album, many years ago now. I saw them live at the V Festival in 2005 (and nearly again in 2009!) and I enjoy listening to their greatest hits as it really takes me back there, as well as being full of great songs!
2 1 - The Beatles	This album features all the Beatles number 1 hits and was a favourite in the car on family holidays. Although Lennon was dead long before I was born, and despite the fact that the band broke up forty years ago, they continue to have a huge impact on the music industry today and their music really does appeal across the generations.
3 Canon in D - Pachelbel	I am most certainly not a classical music buff, and I am sure that it is almost clichéd to select this as a favoured piece of classical music. Nonetheless, I still find it to be a tremendous piece to listen to and enjoy! When I needed to concentrate during revision for my finals this was one piece which I would often put on and for that reason to it has a special resonance for me!
4 Shining Light - Ash	This single came out in 2001, and was a favourite as I was growing up. Nowadays I particularly like listening to it when I’m driving. The combination of the lyrics, the music and nostalgia makes it a song which, for me at least, stands the test of time!
DVD / Film	
1 Outnumbered Season 2	This relatively new BBC comedy is a very funny take on family life, featuring some incredibly talented child actors, and is primarily improvised. The result is a comedy which is both very entertaining and endearing - characteristics which make it perfect viewing!
2 Yes Prime Minister, series 1	For any political enthusiast Yes Minister and Yes Prime Minister are compulsory viewing. The combination of sharp wit and superb satire mean that, in my view, this is one of the best comedies of all time. There are few views which I share with Margaret Thatcher, but a great admiration of Yes Minister and Yes Prime Minister is one!

Books	
1 Sharpe's Waterloo	The Sharpe series of novels charts the course of Richard Sharpe, a soldier in the Peninsular war who rises from the rank and file to the position of Colonel by the time of Waterloo. The combination of high drama and historical detail makes the Sharpe series an excellent set of books, of which Sharpe's Waterloo is the climax. In Waterloo the story of the battle is set alongside battles within the allied ranks, which creates an engrossing story!
2 To Kill a Mockingbird	This novel has quite rightly become a modern classic, and is a tremendous read despite dealing with the difficult issue of racial discrimination. It is striking that the hero, Atticus Finch, fights to defend someone who has arbitrarily been condemned by most of his community. In a world where we see people all around us being willing to condemn others on the basis of immediate and ill informed judgements, To Kill a Mockingbird reminds us of how important it is not to condemn, but rather to give a fair hearing to all, in all circumstances.
Luxury Item	
My BlackBerry	The new generation of 'Smart Phones' do really make life easier, and for travel they can be invaluable. They allow you to look anything up, anywhere, on mobile internet which makes it easy to stay on top of what's going on elsewhere in the world, which guarantees peace of mind on your travels! As such, as much as I hate to admit it, my new BlackBerry has become indispensable for me, and so would have to be my luxury item!

Pause for Thought!

The flood waters were rising fast. The passengers in a boat saw a man clinging to a roof. "Room for one more" they shouted. "Come on!"

"No thanks" replied the man, "I trust in God to save me."

The waters rose higher and a lifeboat came along. The lifeboat men called to the man to come down. He refused their help with the same answer.

By now the water was lapping round his feet, but he said the same thing to a rescue helicopter and its crew. They flew away. The waters continued to rise and the man drowned.

When he got to Heaven he complained to God. "I trusted in you and you didn't help me."

"Well", said God, "I did send two boats and a helicopter."

Reverie by Liam Fitzgerald

Soft twilight

Moon light

A memory sweet of whispering rushes

Of rustling reeds

A grass bank seat

And a small cloud at the moons feet

Forgetter Be Forgotten

My forgetters getting better,
But my rememberer is broke.
To you that may seem funny
But, to me, that is no joke.

For when I'm here I'm wondering
If I really should be there
And when I try to think it through
I haven't got a prayer

Oft times I walk into a room
Say "what am I here for?"
I wrack my brain, but all in vain!
A zero is my score.

At times I put something away
Where it is safe, but gee!

The person it is safest from
Is, generally, me!

When shopping I may see someone
Say "Hi" and have a chat
Then when the person walks away
I ask myself "who the hell was that?"

Yes, my forgetter's getting better
While my rememberer is broke
And it's driving me plumb crazy
And that isn't any joke.

Can you relate?

(Submitted by Mary & Terry Sharp)

Something To Think About!

YOU took MY parking space at Church. This should wake us up. One day a man went to visit a Church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up nearby and the driver got out and said "I always park there! You took my place."

The visitor went inside for Mass, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the Church approached him and stated, "That's my seat. You took my place." The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome but said nothing.

After Mass the visitor went into the Chapel and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said "That's where I always sit! You took my place." The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment but still he said nothing.

Later the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them. The visitor stood up and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out "What happened to you?"

The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

(Taken from the Holy Redeemer Catholic Church newsletter April 2010 and submitted by Chris and Bernice).

Reflection: St. John Chrysostom writes "Before He humbled himself, only the angels knew Him. After He humbled Himself, all human nature knew Him. You see how His humbling of Himself did not make him have less but produced countless benefits, countless deeds of virtue and made His glory shine forth with greater brightness. God wants for nothing and has need of nothing. Yet, when He humbled himself he produced such great good, increased His household and extended His Kingdom. Why then are you afraid that you will become less if you humble yourself?"

An Empty Church

A little church is standing all alone
 In a small coal mining town
 People had to leave their homes
 Because the coal mines shut down

The church is waiting in welcome
 But nobody goes there to pray
 It appears to be just a skeleton
 For all it's worshippers are away

The church waits with open doors
 But prayers inside will go unsaid
 People who lived and prayed there
 Had to leave and earn some bread

*(A poem about the decline in spirituality in
 the Welsh Valleys)*

God's Love

We do not see the wind,
 We only hear it sigh;
 It makes the grasses bend
 whenever it goes by.

We do not see God's love,
 But in our hearts we know
 He watches over us
 Wherever we may go.

We do not have to see
 To know the wind is here;
 We do not have to see
 To know God's love is near.

There are two things you should know about Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was a little man. And Zacchaeus was a rich man. And nobody liked him very much. Okay, that's three things.

Nobody liked Zacchaeus very much mostly because he got rich taking money from other people and giving it to the Romans. Nobody liked the Romans much either. That was because they came in from another country like a bunch of big bullies. They came with all their soldiers and swords and spears and stuff and made people do things they didn't want to do, like give them money. That's what Zacchaeus did. He collected money for the Romans. They called it "collecting taxes." Some of the money he gave to the Romans - but lots of it he kept for himself. And that's how he got rich.

Zacchaeus was a very rich man... And Zacchaeus was a little man... without a lot of friends.

Zacchaeus lived in a town called Jericho a long time ago. You might remember Jericho, if you heard the story about the walls that came tumbling down when the trumpets blew. But that was way before Zacchaeus's time.

One bright, sunny day, Zacchaeus looked down the dirt road that came into Jericho and he saw a crowd of people coming his way. Back then, everybody was talking about a guy named Jesus. Everywhere Jesus went, people who were sick got better, people who couldn't walk could walk again, people who were blind could see again. Jesus was a pretty amazing guy! And everybody wanted to see just who this Jesus guy was. Including Zacchaeus.

The only trouble was, everywhere Jesus went there were always crowds of people all around him - and remember, Zacchaeus was a little man. He knew that he'd never be able to see over a great crowd of people. Zacchaeus ran up to the edge of the crowd and stood on his tiptoes to see what the big deal was. But all he could see were the backs of people's heads. He tried jumping up and down. He bounced from one side and then to the other. But still he couldn't see. But then, on one



lucky bounce, he saw the man at the centre of the crowd. It was Jesus! Zacchaeus tried to push his way through the crowd, but everyone wanted to see Jesus, and they wouldn't let him through. What could he do? He wanted to see Jesus too! Then Zacchaeus turned around and saw a sycamore tree growing right beside the road Jesus was walking along. Zacchaeus had an idea!

"I MUST STAY
AT YOUR HOUSE
TODAY!"

He ran on ahead and climbed up the Sycamore tree. He didn't care if he looked silly or not. He wanted to see Jesus! Sure enough, Jesus stopped right under the sycamore tree. He looked up, and there was Zacchaeus peeking through the branches.

"Zacchaeus!" Jesus said to him, "Hurry down from there!"
"I must stay at your house today!"

"How does he know my name??!" Zacchaeus thought to himself. "But he does! He knows my name! And he wants to come and stay at MY house!"

Zacchaeus flew down that tree quicker than you could say "Zacchaeus, Zacchaeus sitting in a tree."

When his feet hit the ground, he was so happy he nearly did a little dance! But that's just what Jesus does to people. Jesus laughed and slapped his arm around Zacchaeus's shoulder, and together they started off towards Zacchaeus's house.

But the people in the crowd were not so happy.

They had spent all day in the hot sun following Jesus, and now he was going to stay at the house of Zacchaeus, a rich, cheating tax collector. They began to grumble about Zacchaeus...

"This man is a sinner!" one woman said.

"He cheats and steals from his own people!" said an old man.

"He isn't good enough for Jesus to come and stay at his house!"

Zacchaeus heard what the people were saying about him, and he must have known that they were right. So he said, "Listen! I will give half of everything I have to the poor! And if I cheated anyone, I will pay them back four times as much!"

Jesus was going to be a guest at his house. And what do you do when you are expecting company? You clean things up!

That's just what Zacchaeus did. Only he cleaned himself up on the inside first. Zacchaeus wanted to make things right for Jesus. He was so happy that Jesus wanted to come to his house, he wanted to make Jesus happy too.

And Jesus WAS happy!

Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come



eating with Mr. & Mrs. Zacchaeus

to this house! Your life was all wrong, but now it is all right. You were lost, but now you have been saved! That’s why I am here. I came to find and save the lost!”

Zacchaeus was a little man, but now he felt ten feet tall!

And you know what?

Jesus knows you too! Jesus knows you by name, just like he knew Zacchaeus. He wants to come and tell you how much he loves you.

He wants to tell you the good news of his home in heaven. He wants to laugh with you and cry with you, and be with you no matter what.

But Jesus can’t exactly walk up to your front door and ring the bell. It would take a LONG time for Jesus to walk up to every house in the world! You’d be all old and wrinkly by the time he finally got to yours... and he wouldn’t be able to stay very long. There are a LOT of houses in the world to get to!

Back when Jesus stayed at Zacchaeus’s house, all the other people grumbled because each one of them wanted Jesus to stay at THEIR house. But when Jesus was on earth, he just couldn’t stay at every house every night.

That’s why Jesus went to Heaven. Jesus went to Heaven so he could send his Spirit to live with each of us - all at the same time!

Of course, you can’t see his Spirit.

But you can’t see love either. You can’t hear it or smell it or touch it. But you know when love is there. That’s how it is with Jesus. When Jesus comes to you, you can’t see him, or hear him, or touch him. But you know that he is there.

Jesus wants to come to your house today!

All you have to do is ask him in!

Beeleigh Abbey by Liam Fitzgerald

Continuing the series on the religious houses in our area we look at Beeleigh.

Beeleigh Abbey may have been a Priory because there is a record of an Abbot. The Priory is sited on the outskirts of Maldon on the banks of the Blackwater River opposite the golf course. It was once the home of the Premostratation Canons, a reformed branch of the Augustinians. They came from France via Parndon, also in Essex, in 1180. Now they have returned to Essex at Our Lady Immaculate, London Road – Deo Gratias. You can see what is left of the original building from the lane that runs by it from Mundon Hill to Maldon. It has been extended but still houses the Chapter House, the Dormitory and the Refectory, all lovingly restored.



In 1930 it was the home of old Mr. Foyle (of the bookshop fame) who delighted in showing off the house and its wonderful library. There were fragments there from the Church whose foundations lay under the Lawns. Near Maldon centre are the well preserved ruins of a leper hospital which was in the care of Beeleigh.

Top of the Prayer Pops

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Livin' On A Prayer | Bon Jovi |
| 2. Like A Prayer | Madonna |
| 3. I Say A Little Prayer | Aretha Franklin |
| 4. Save A Prayer | Duran Duran |
| 5. Prayer For The Dying | Seal |
| 6. The Prayer | Bloc Party |
| 7. Mary's Prayer | Danny Wilson |
| 8. A Child's Prayer | Hot Chocolate |
| 9. Praying For Time | George Michael |
| 10. Pray | Take That |



Bands in the Bible: Genesis; the Magic Numbers; Kings of Leon; Tori Amos; Revelation Theory; We Came As Romans.

Recipe Page.

CARROT CAKE - a Presbytery favourite!

Ingredients:

- 6 oz carrots – grated
- 2 eggs
- 4 oz brown sugar
- 3 fl oz sunflower oil
- 4 oz wholemeal self-raising flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 oz desiccated coconut
- 2 oz raisins

Orange icing

- 1 ½ oz butter
- 3 oz icing sugar
- grated rind and juice of ½ an orange

1. whisk eggs and sugar until thick and creamy
2. whisk in oil slowly
3. mix in remaining ingredients
4. put in a 2 pound loaf tin
5. bake 350 degs/Gas 4 for 45 mins

Spread with orange icing when cold.

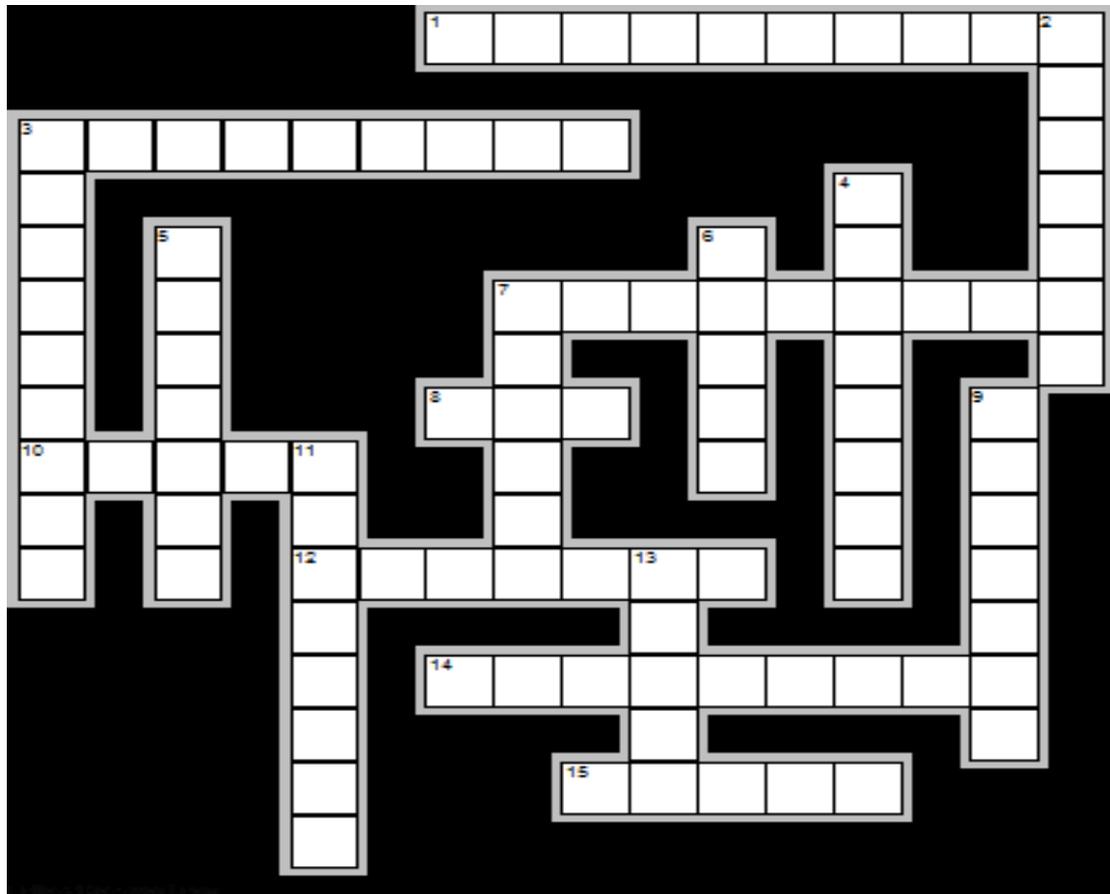
Donated by Anne Jackson, recommended by Fr Frank

The Augustinian Crossword



The “Didache” or “Teaching of the Twelve Apostles”, written about 100, contains the following prayer about the Eucharist
“As this fragment of bread was scattered upon the mountains and was gathered to become one, so may your Church be gathered together from the ends of the Earth into your Kingdom.”

Taken from Fr Adrian Graffy’s book “The Gospel of Mark.



Across

1. The Court where men were allowed to enter but not women
3. A Priestly activity in the Temple
7. A house of worship in Jewish towns
8. Where Hebrew Scriptures were kept
10. The Empire in control of Palestine at the time of Jesus
12. Jewish nationalists who hated the Romans
14. Their name means "separated one"
15. The prayer at the heart of Judaism

Designed by a Year 8 student at
All Saints Catholic School, Dagenham

Down

2. Doctors of the Law, Rabbis or lawyers in Jesus' time
3. The Jewish Council based at the Temple
4. The Nev'im contains historical writings and the books of this group
5. King responsible for the first Temple in Jerusalem
6. A Jewish teacher
7. How the Hebrew Scriptures were recorded
9. Religion followed by Jesus
11. Where Jesus grew up
13. The first part of the Hebrew Bible.

The following are actual quiz responses taken from national and local broadcasts throughout the UK.

BBC Norfolk

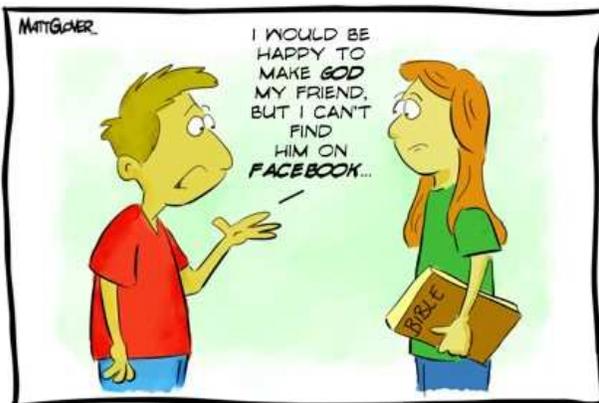
Stewart Who had a worldwide hit with What A Wonderful World?
 White:
 Contestant: I don't know.
 Stewart I'll give you some clues: what do you call the part between your hand and your
 White: elbow?
 Contestant: Arm
 Stewart Correct. And if you're not weak, you're...?
 White:
 Contestant: Strong.
 Stewart Correct - and what was Lord Mountbatten's first name?
 White:
 Contestant: Louis
 Stewart Well, there we are then. So who had a worldwide hit with the song What A
 White: Wonderful World?
 Contestant: Frank Sinatra?

GWR FM (Bristol)

Presenter: What happened in Dallas on November 22, 1963?
 Contestant: I don't know, I wasn't watching it then.

Richard And Judy

Richard: On which street did Sherlock Holmes live?
 Contestant: Er.
 Richard: He makes bread . . .
 Contestant: Er
 Richard: He makes cakes . . .
 Contestant: Kipling Street ?



“The path of human solidarity is the path of service; and true service means selfless love, open to the needs of all, without distinction of persons, with the explicit purpose of reinforcing each person’s sense of God-given dignity”
 Pope John Paul II

Crossword Solution

Across

1. ISRAELITES—The Court where men were allowed to enter but not women
3. SACRIFICE—A Priestly activity in the Temple
7. SYNAGOGUE—A house of worship in Jewish towns
8. ARK—Where Hebrew Scriptures were kept
10. ROMAN—The Empire in control of Palestine at the time of Jesus
12. ZEALOTS—Jewish nationalists who hated the Romans
14. PHARISEES—Their name means "separated one"
15. SHEMA—The prayer at the heart of Judaism

Down

2. SCRIBES—Doctors of the Law, Rabbis or lawyers in Jesus' time
3. SANHEDRIN—The Jewish Council based at the Temple
4. PROPHETS—The Nev'im contains historical writings and the books of this group
5. SOLOMON—King responsible for the first Temple in Jerusalem
6. RABBI—A Jewish teacher
7. SCROLL—How the Hebrew Scriptures were recorded
9. JUDAISM—Religion followed by Jesus
11. NAZARETH—Where Jesus grew up
13. TORAH— First part of the Hebrew Bible



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