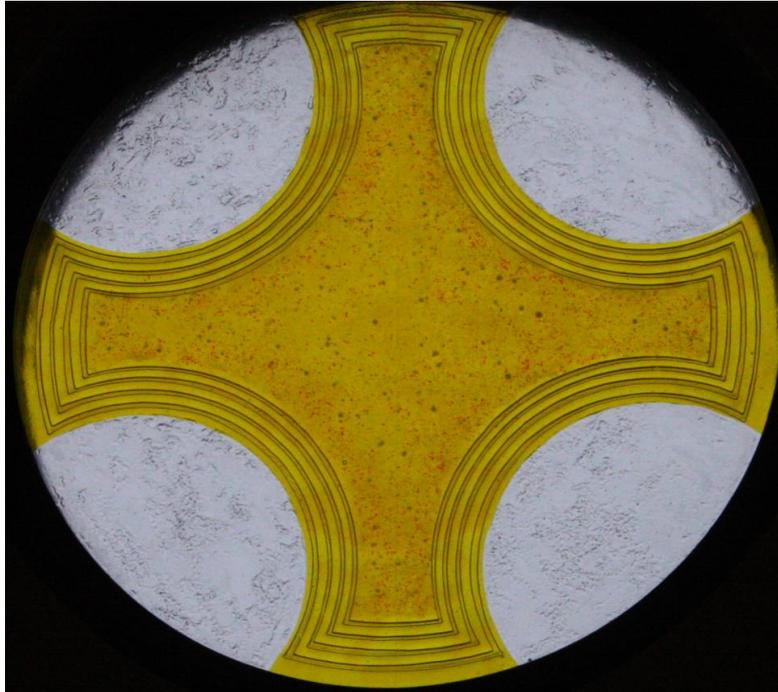


THE AUGUSTINIAN

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



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Welcome

Dear friend,

It is indeed glad that another volume of Augustinian is into your hands at the start of a new scholastic year. Obviously, it is the time where new dreams take its buds and shoots, watered and nurtured with hard work to bear its fruit. Thus I encourage everyone to start this season with full of hope to achieve and fulfill your dreams. May you all have an activity packed year ahead to keep you involved all the time.

I am sure most of you must have managed to make the best use of the summer holidays. The season must have given you an opportunity to move away from your usual pattern of life with a different time schedules and patterns of life and holidays away. This for sure fills you all with a renewed energy to cope up for the busy year ahead and the cold winter days. Summer is always said to be the time where we store up or re-charge our drained batteries of life.

I was blessed, as I managed to go on a coach trip to Lourdes and Fatima. It was a first time experience for such a long coach trip and very first experience at Lourdes. A place, as everyone says, with rich spiritual bliss surrounding you as you step in to that holy soil. I have prayed for the whole parish community and felt very much blessed to be there to be part of the various spiritual activities and relax at the foot of our lady. The spiritual blessing and experience was enriched with further visit to Fatima and managed to come home with the spirit highly blessed.

As I was reflecting on this re-charging of batteries, I just realized that at times our spiritual batteries also need to be properly re-charged to meet with the daily challenges and struggles of this world. This can often be overlooked and not taken seriously, as we fail to recognize the importance of this recharging. This spiritual energy is the internal boost that supports us in our moments of trials and tribulations, low spirits and confused moments. Therefore, our parish community, the worshipping, the prayers and activities that bring us together to support each other need to be taken seriously as a part of our normal living.

I invite all of you to be more active and get involved in the parish, contributing to it in whatever way you can and benefitting from it for you and for your faith with an active participation in the various spiritual and social gatherings of our community. No one must set themselves apart from this communion as every simple contribution into and every single benefit received is very much of importance. We have a duty to contribute to the smooth running and development of our parish community. There is a danger that at times we may end up being name sake Christians, just fulfilling the minimum requirements rather than looking deeper into it. Let us not forget that Christ lives in and through our fellow neighbors and therefore let us find the Christ in ourselves and the other.

So I wish you all a very good year ahead, most especially to all the youngsters who will pursue new streams of their life. May almighty god bless us all to gather around and support each other to be active Christians making Christ visible to each and every one of us.

Remaining one with you in prayers in the name of Christ.

Fr. Sabu Pariyadan RCJ
Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus



Parish Events

First Holy Communion

On Sunday 19th May, there was standing room only at St. Augustine's, as our young people received the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time. A big thank you to all the Catechists for all of their hard work and for making the day so special for them.



SVP Party

On Saturday 22nd June, the SVP hosted an afternoon tea party at St. Augustine's for some of our elderly residents. A lot of effort was put in preparing the church, food and offering lifts and the guests had a great time.



Deacon Kevin's 30th Anniversary of Ordination

On Saturday 15th June, we gathered as a parish family to congratulate Kevin on his 30th anniversary of being ordained a Deacon. His family and closest friends also helped themselves to a wonderful buffet thanks to the many parishoners that prepared food. We are incredibly lucky to have a longstanding Deacon in our parish and thank him for all his hard work.



Upcoming events

- Parish barbeque - Sunday 8th September from 1pm - *Parish Presbytery*
- Knights of St. Columba annual lecture - Wednesday 2nd October from 8.15pm - *St. Augustine's*
- Knights of St. Columba songs of praise - Friday 4th October from 8.15pm - *OLI*

Brentwood Diocese Day for Marriage

On the 6th of July, the Diocese organised a Day for Marriage at the Cathedral. The Day was hosted by Fr. Matthew Bumend-Qureshi, Director of the Diocese's Marriage and Family Life Department. The morning and early afternoon were spent in a conference on marriage that lead up to Mass. After Mass, there was a reception and several of the organisations who were represented during the day had stalls and answered questions about their work.

It opened with an introduction of the work of the Department by Fr. Matthew, supported by the Department's Project Officer. This lead into a discussion on ways in which married couples and groups of which they are members, can support the Diocese's commitment to renewed Evangelism. A number of interesting ideas were put forward but everyone saw living our married lives as well as we could as being our personal vocations and the way that we would show our Faith.



The second morning session was lead by Brendan and Laura Thompson. They work for Catholic Voices, an organisation which prepares "ordinary" Catholics to represent the Faith in the media. Their focus was on reframing

discussions in the media from defending our position and attacking questioners and instead bringing the discussion onto areas of agreement. In the case of Marriage, this meant concentrating on the promotion of strong relationships and personal commitment and the place of Marriage as a caring and nurturing framework for family life. As aspects which most people wish to promote, these can be a meeting point for discussion, which can make progress in presenting Marriage as a choice with continuing vitality.

After a break for lunch, some of the Marriage related groups gave short presentations on their work (some details are shown opposite). The conference finished with an open session to exchange views on what had been learnt during the day and give an opportunity to ask questions. We finished in time to settle in the Cathedral for a special Mass celebrating Marriage. Bishop Alan was joined in celebrating by several priests and representatives from Parishes who had something special to celebrate (from newlyweds to Diamond Weddings) as well as those with an interest in supporting Marriage in Parishes. At the end, we gave a short presentation on the work and nature of Teams of Our Lady.

The day finished with a reception with a wedding style cake and a small liquid refreshment. Some of the participants at the conference had stalls with literature and publicity material for those attending. The Teams stall had a number of interested visitors and we hope that it has sown some seeds for the development of the movement in Essex.

Marriage Care



Marriage Care works with couples to support the Marriage relationship. They provide services in three principle areas. They work with engaged couples to prepare for Marriage. They also offer relationship counselling for couples given by trained counsellors. From their experience in these areas they also offer support for Marriage in providing materials for relationship education or for assisting parishes in planning to celebrate Marriage.

Equipes Notre-Dame

Equipes Notre-Dame (or Teams of Our Lady) are a movement that provides support for married couples in small local based groups. A Team, of 4 – 6 couples, meet monthly over a meal (appropriate to the Team) where they share news, consider a Bible meditation and pray together and then discuss a topic. Each Team is part of a national and international movement, which meets less frequently to support and promote the movement nationally and help with recruitment locally.



Association of Interchurch Families



This is an organisation for families where the partners are active members of different Christian Churches. They do this both by acting as a support network for the families themselves but also act as a representative voice with the Churches to present their spiritual and pastoral needs. They also promote a view of interchurch families as a way of helping to find ways towards a closer unity. In the words of their website (www.interchurchfamilies.org.uk/about-us/) "all these activities are rooted in prayer and worship".

Two in One Flesh

Two in One Flesh is a looser movement which focusses on supporting individual couples in their relationships, particularly in their spiritual lives. This is done partly by producing weekly reflections on the Mass readings which are posted on-line. They also promote and support diocesan and parish celebrations of Marriage and produce a booklet which can be used for personal development, RCIA and Marriage preparation.



Beginning Experience



Beginning Experience offer a Ministry to divorced and bereaved people. Originating in the United States, the movement is now worldwide. It is based round a weekend retreat where a programme of presentations, small group sharing and time for reflection lead by a trained team of peer ministers. The programme is supported by an individual minister who will help participants to prepare for and benefit from the weekend and take the learning away into their lives.

Knights Centenary

The Knights of St. Columba are 100 years old (as an Order: many of us individually are younger than that). We have been having a national programme of events and local support has come from a Provincial and Council programmes as well. Our last edition included mention of the Provincial Centenary Dinner, at the County Hotel in November. As part of the national celebration, Brentwood Province hosted the Fraternal Cross in February and March: this a Cross which is passed from Council to Council and tours the country as a focus for thinking about the Order's mission. Chelmsford received it from the Colchester Council in February (pictured) and passed it on to Chingford at our February Council.



Our Council's celebrations have been based on our Spirituality and Welfare Committee, as befits our focus on men's spirituality. We are having a series of Parish Sunday Masses said for our intentions. We began with one at Blessed Sacrament at the end of February and have had on at St. Augustine's at the beginning of June, and will arrange for Masses at Our Lady Immaculate, Holy Name and in Maldon before the end of the year. Though not a publicity activity, the Masses will bring the work of the Knights to the attention of the congregation.

Our most "high profile" spiritual event was our three day pilgrimage to Knock, in Ireland, in the week after Easter. We flew to the Knock airport on the Tuesday after Easter and had the first day in the Shrine, on the site of an apparition of Our Lady, St. Joseph, St. John and the Lamb to a number of local people in the 1879, with Mass in the afternoon. On Wednesday, we went to Ballintubber Abbey for Mass in the Church with a record of continuous use since the time of St. Patrick, and spent time in the grounds. An open air Stations of the Cross, using the natural features of the site is also the location for an annual Passion Play during Holy Week. We went to the foot of Croagh Patrick and walked up to the statue of St. Patrick, but time and weather prevented us from trying to climb the mountain. On Thursday we visited the Fr. Patrick Peyton Centre in Attymas for Mass and an introduction to Fr. Peyton's work. He was born in Attymas but immigrated to America as a boy and became a priest. He is famous for his work promoting the Family Rosary Crusade, particularly in the USA, and the Centre is dedicated to continuing this. We finished with a musical and dancing evening, arranged by our remarkable guide Patricia. Although this was a pilgrimage, we had a congenial company and plenty of opportunity for rest and relaxation.

Our celebrations will continue in October with a Songs of Praise at Our Lady Immaculate on 4 October, celebrating our links with Catholic groups and the broader community in Chelmsford. Notices will be published nearer to the time, but everyone will be welcome. Then, on 5 October we have a celebration dinner at Ingatestone Hall, with Lord Petre as the guest of honour.



In addition, we have continued with our usual round of activities. We had a morning of reflection leading up to Easter, and the Province arranged marshalling at the Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham, with which we helped. We hosted (and won) the Provincial Quiz in May and our popular Knights at Leisure continues, though the incidence of holidays and other events has meant that it has been a little less regular so far this year. Every year we invite our widows to a Knights at Leisure, which, this year was kindly sponsored by one of our Brothers.

A regular event is our Annual Lecture (though last year, we used it to promote the Chelmsford Community Sponsorship project). This year, we have a special guest in celebration of our Centenary. On Wednesday, October 2, our Lecture will be given by Helen O'Shea, National president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society: it will be at St. Augustine's at 20.15. The title is yet to be finalised but we will be hearing about SVP's national work as well as their local action.

HCPT Group 26

I am a member of HCPT Group 26 (who are a part of the wider charity HCPT) and along with ten other volunteers in my group, we take disabled and disadvantaged children to Lourdes for a week every Easter. I have travelled to Lourdes every year since 2012 (eight trips now!) and you may remember that in February this year, I held a raffle at church to raise funds, as the children that we take go cost-free. I hope by reading this article, you will see that the money that you gave enables the children that we take to have a great week's pilgrimage.

The week in Lourdes is an incredibly rewarding and uplifting for me personally. Although I have been going for a long time now, no year is the same because we take different children every year. All of the children bring their own unique personality to Lourdes and we get to know them very well. You become very used to having them around and enjoying their mannerisms so that you don't want to give them back to their parents and carers by the end of the week!

This year, our group took six disabled children, who all come from East London and Essex, to Lourdes. The children that come with us need support washing, eating and cleaning and the volunteers have a specific child to look after. As a group, our collective goal is to treat them as VIPs and give them an incredible week's holiday. They are at the centre of everything that we do and we only do something if we think that the VIPs will enjoy it. While we are in Lourdes enjoying our week away, the parents and carers at home are able to have some respite from their 24/7 care they provide.

I looked after a young man in Lourdes this year who was 10 years old. He was small for his age and had cerebral palsy. He could not talk or walk and I had to push him around Lourdes in a wheelchair, but he had a smile that would light up a room. As he requires heavy care, myself and another helper looked after him together. Taking VIPs who require a greater deal of care and cannot communicate with you easily can be challenging at times but it is a unique opportunity for him to develop as a person. We are proud to be a charity that can offer children with complicated needs a week's holiday.

Our week is packed full of activities. We went to the zoo, played on prairie, had an Easter Egg Hunt, played mini golf and even celebrated Christmas! One of my highlights every year is a mini-group talent show that I host in the nearby town of Bartres. Some of the talents that the VIPs have are astounding and throughout the course of the week they give us magic moments where they do something extraordinary. For example, in my second year travelling to Lourdes, I looked after a young man with autism. He did not speak much, but when I tucked him into bed on the last night, he looked at me and said "Goodnight. I'm going to miss you Ben." In our group, these are incredibly special moments for the helpers and small things like this keep me going back year after year.

We also attend three different masses that are full of singing and dancing so that the VIPs can make use of all of their senses. At Easter, hundreds of HCPT groups descend on Lourdes and take over the town with colour. Each group has their own coloured clothing and my group is renowned for wearing pink. This is why you may have seen me wearing my pink hoody at the raffle in church! One of the highlights of the week is the Trust mass, where all HCPT groups come together for one mass celebration. Thousands of pilgrims and disabled children all come together and it is absolutely amazing to be a part of. Another spectacle is the Torchlight Procession, although it rained heavily this year, which meant it was not as stunning as usually is!

Lourdes is a truly special place with even more special atmosphere. It was recently described to me as a place where "the first are last and the last first". Every year, we stay in the same hotel, have the same food and do the same activities with the VIPs. This may be a mad concept to people who love to travel the world and see different sights, but Lourdes to me feels more like a home away from home. I know the town almost like the back of my hand now. When the kids are sleeping a few of the helpers will go out for a drink to relax, while others babysit. We even have a local pub that we go to and the owner welcomes us like family! I spend one week a year staying at Hotel Paradis with Group 26, but for some reason staying in a different hotel just wouldn't feel right!

In our group, we are always on the go and playing music. We will walk around the town, blaring the latest chart music out of a speaker. I am the group's resident DJ and some songs like "Livin' On A Prayer" by Bon Jovi go down extremely well with everyone in Lourdes. In fact, on occasion, I will hear a hymn in a mass in our parish that reminds me of Lourdes. "This little light of mine" and "Rise and Shine" are two hymns that I associate with Lourdes and every time I hear them, it takes me straight back to Lourdes.

The week away comes with a great deal of preparation and planning beforehand. Every helper has to submit a form outlining all of their details and we are all DBS checked. Prior to going to Lourdes, I attended two training days, focused on how to look after young people, especially in relation to issues surrounding safeguarding. I also developed a relationship with the mother of the boy that I looked after this year. I went to his house three times to see how Mum looks after him at home and so I can soak up knowledge to provide the best care that I could. We also gathered personal details and we have to make sure that as a group he was the right type of child who would flourish in the atmosphere of Lourdes. His Mum was naturally

anxious about sending her child she loves so dearly to Lourdes with us, even more so because it was the first time away her son would be away from her. I spent time reassuring her that he would be fine and he would have incredible week away. The parents of the children we take to Lourdes are incredible people and often have to juggle work with a challenging family life. All of this preparation throughout the year just makes the week away even more special and makes our hard work worth it.

We also aim to raise over £8,000 every year and spend time fundraising. We carol sing to the commuters of Epping in the winter and host quiz, race and Irish dancing nights to help raise funds. All of the group helpers sacrifice their free time, money and those few precious holiday days from work to take the VIPs to Lourdes. The money that you gave went directly to pay for the cost of the children that my group take to Lourdes. I am incredibly grateful for all of you who donated at this year's raffle and your support of me. You were all in my prayers when I visited the grotto and I lit a candle for all of your intentions.

Ben Hitchen



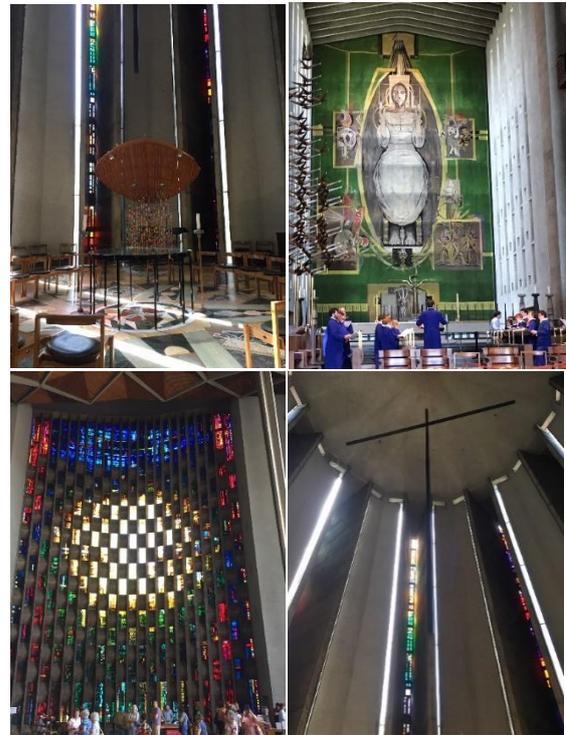
A trip to Coventry

A group of parishioners and some friends from Our Lady Immaculate and the Blessed Sacrament parishes set out on the 29th of June to visit Mount Saint Bernard Abbey. It is the only Cistercian abbey in England and its motto is "ora et labora", pray and work. The first thing we encountered was their gorgeous rose garden in front of their church and after spending some time in their lovely shop we joined the monks for midday prayer. After that, some of us had a picnic lunch; others walked throughout their extensive grounds, up to the Calvary from where we were blessed with a lovely view over the monastery. This monastery was founded in 1835 and lives by the rule of Saint Benedict and sits in lovely Leicestershire countryside.



They depend on reliable sources of income to continue their life of contemplation, to welcome guests and help those in need. The act of manual work is one part of their contemplative endeavour, an act of simple silent prayer. Members of the community work on pottery and candlemaking, others make rosaries greeting cards and more. They are self-sufficient. doing their own cooking, cleaning and laundry, brew their own beer (which is worth seeking out), make their own honey and run a guesthouse for pilgrims.

We then drove on to Coventry to visit its world-renowned Cathedral. The Cathedral Church of Saint Michael, known as Coventry Cathedral, was designed by Sir Basil Spence. A Scottish architect, he was born in Mumbai, India where he spent his early childhood and developed his love of light interplay within buildings.



The present cathedral is the third to stand on this site, the first was founded as a Benedictine community by the Earl of Mercia and his wife Godiva in 1043. In the 12th century it became the Priory Church of Saint Mary then the parish church of Saint Michael, Coventry. The decision to rebuild the cathedral after the bombings of 1940 was taken the day after its destruction, as a sign of faith trust and hope for the future of the world. The new Cathedral is situated next to the remains of the old one to present a unified look. The main entrance is in a glass wall, through which you can see the ruins of the old Cathedral, its tower and spire. However, exploration of the area shows that this is only a small part of the original (second) Cathedral, which must have been enormous. Coventry cathedral is unique in having a chapel of unity within its building, an ecumenical space where Christians of all denominations can come together to pray, worship and receive the sacraments. It is where we celebrated Mass with Father Sabu and Deacon Kevin.



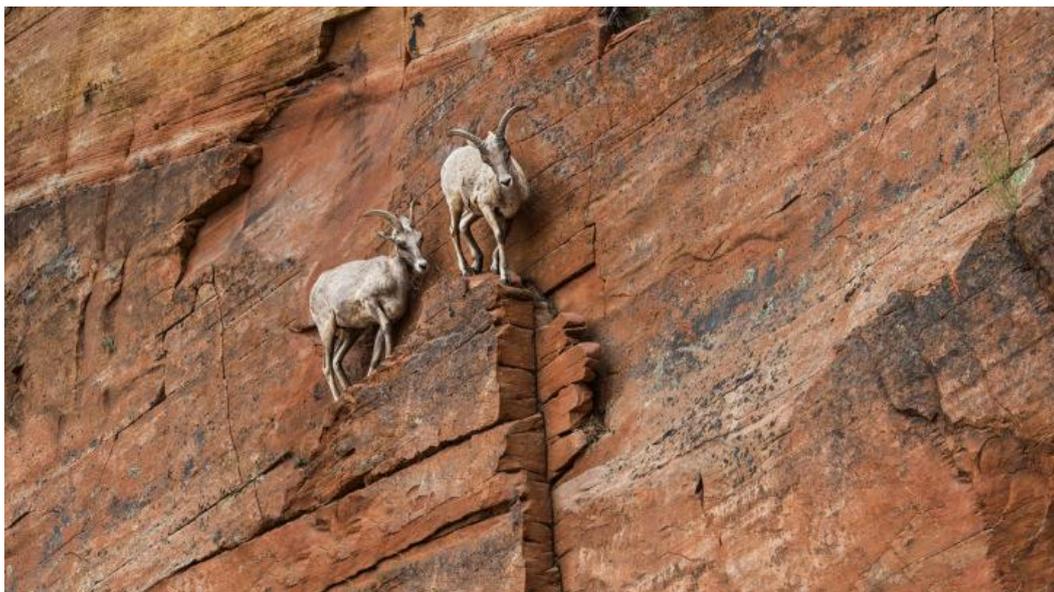
The cathedral's floor to ceiling stained glass windows direct the light towards the altar, behind which hangs Graham Sutherland's famous "Christ in Glory" tapestry, the largest in the world. Underneath this sits the Lady Chapel. We all marvelled at the baptised window, a masterpiece of abstract stained glass designed by John Piper and executed by Patrick Peyton. The font in front of it was carved out of a boulder from a hillside near Bethlehem.

Outside, at the front of the cathedral we admired the triumphant bronze figure of Archangel Michael, patron of the cathedral, vanquishing the devil. We were impressed by the beautiful glass wall engraved by John Hutton, containing saints and angels through which is the main entrance.

Coventry is twinned with a number of towns and cities throughout the world, including several other Coventries. However it is twinned with three cities with World War II associations, Caen, Arnhem and perhaps best known, Dresden. Dresden was also devastated by bombing, in 1945 and the City's twinning was an active attempt at reconciliation. The civic winning is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and throughout its history, the Cathedral has been involved in twinning activities. This has included the exchange of gifts with Faith communities in Dresden some of which are displayed or included in the fabric of the Cathedral.

Most of us managed to find the refectory for refreshments and others some pubs and cafes nearby before our journey home.

A bit of humour...



"I told you the satnav didn't know where we were"

News from The Bishops'

As you know, The Bishops' is your Catholic School and we aim to do the impossible by providing an education that is wholly Catholic and wholly Anglican and which welcomes and nurtures all those children who come from different faith backgrounds and none. It's a very special place to be.



I am writing in the last week of term, two weeks before Easter – but we are in our school's Holy Week. We take the whole school community through the last days of Jesus's life and just before we breakup, we celebrate His resurrection. Each day a different year group leads the worship and tells a different part of the story, and the children and staff reflect on this back in their classes through words and pictures. We also lead the children through the Stations of the Cross.



We are incredibly grateful to Deacon Kevin and Cathy who prepare the church for us and welcome us in each Tuesday morning, and it is great to see the church being open every Wednesday morning for our parents and carers to have a place to stop, pray and find strength from God in their busy lives.

As a school we are now full – that's 436 pupils! And so we are planning for a new hall which we hope will serve the local community as well as the school. If you are interested in joining the planning for this project, and the fundraising, please get in touch



Puzzle page

Back to school

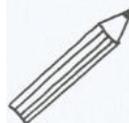
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- sharpener
- books
- pencil
- pen
- board
- uniform
- bag
- folder
- desk
- chair
- homework

Find 5 pencils in the picture.

Colour the picture.

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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 copy of "The Augustinian".

Thank you to all those who have contributed articles: We need a regular supply of items so if you have something that will interest the St. Augustine's and New Hall Community, please let me have the material on thompsoncjt01@blueyonder.co.uk. Items with pictures will be particularly welcome.

A particular thanks to Ben Hitchen for formatting the items for publication.

Chris