

Parish of St Augustine of Hippo

ADVENT 2019



‘The people living in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.’

Isaiah 9:1

Dear Parishioner,

We all need to lay hold of hope, to see a light in the darkness, to be rescued from the relentless trivialisation inherent in our modern way of living.

Welcome to Advent, to the coming of the Lord, to that faint glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel, to a sense of otherness and mystery!

One of the turning points in the life of St Augustine of Hippo was when he heard a voice say to him, ‘Take and read.’ We all need Holy Scripture, to immerse ourselves in that living stream of spiritual awareness, to take time to be still, to listen and to pay attention.

Welcome to 2020 Year of the Word, celebrating, living and sharing the Word of God, an invitation from the Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales.

At Christmas all these things come together. The Lord really does come among us. The light really does shine in our darkness. A sense of mystery goes centre stage in crib and nativity play. We hear some of our favourite scripture readings. And best of all the Word of God becomes very flesh and blood in the bread and wine of the Eucharist.

God bless you all,
Fr Michael



'In the beginning was the Word; the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came into being, not one thing came into being except through him. What has come into being was life, life that was the light of men; and the light shines in darkness, and the darkness could not overpower it.'

John 1:1-5



'The Word was the real light that gives light to everyone; he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had come into being through him, and the world did not recognise him. He came to his own people and his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.'

John 1:9-12

ADVENT

Advent Penitential Service

Saturday 21st December - 4.00pm

followed by

Sacrament of Reconciliation : 4.15pm - 5.45pm

Fr Michael will also be available to hear individual confessions by appointment during Advent

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 21st December

Blessing of Expectant Mothers

Masses

Saturday: 6.00 p.m.

Sunday: 8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.



CHRISTMAS EVE

Children's Crib Service - 4.00pm

Mass in the Night - 9.00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Masses: 8.30am & 10.30am

