

**THE GATESHEAD CLUSTER OF CHURCHES  
ST ANNE, ST AUGUSTINE,  
AND ST OSWALD.**

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**PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION**

The first meeting with the candidates for Confirmation and their parents will take place on

**Thursday 9th November at 6.30 pm**

at St Augustine's Presbytery,  
Wealcroft, Leam Lane,  
NE10 8QS.

**CLERGY TRAINING FUND** remains open for the next three weeks for further donations. There is no government funding for training our future priests and deacons. It is the money given by faithful Catholics that we depend on.

**The Role of Purgatory**

With regard to turning out right, which is what we all hope for despite all our failures, purgatory plays an important part here. There will be few people whose lives are pure and fulfilled in all respects. And, we would hope, there will be few people whose lives have become an irredeemable and total 'No'. For the most part, the longing for the good has remained, despite the many breakdowns, in some sense determinative. God can pick up the broken pieces and make something of them. In any case, we need a final cleansing, a cleansing by fire, to be exact, in which the gaze of Christ, so to say, burns us free from everything, and only under this purifying gaze are we, as it were, fit to be with God and able, then, to make our home with him...I think it is something very human. I would go do far as to say that if there was no purgatory, then we would have to invent it, for who would dare say of himself that he was able to stand directly before God. And yet we don't want to be, to use an image from Scripture, "a pot that turned out wrong," that has to be thrown away; we want to be able to be put right. Purgatory basically means that God can put the pieces back together again. That he can cleanse us in such a way that we are able to be with him and can stand there in the fullness of life. Purgatory strips off from one person what is unbearable and from another the inability to bear certain things, so that in each of them a pure heart is revealed, and we can see that we all belong together in the one enormous symphony of being. **Pope Benedict.**

**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

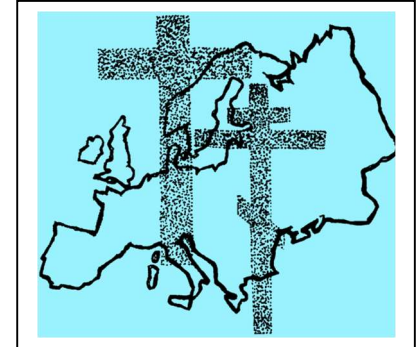
**31st Sunday of the Year**

<b>Vigil St Anne 5.30 p.m.</b>		The November Altar Lists
<b>St Augustine 9.15 a.m.</b>		The November Altar Lists
St Oswald 11.15 am		The November Altar Lists

Tuesday St Augustine	10.00 a.m.	The November Altar Lists
Wednesday St Anne	10.00 a.m.	The November Altar Lists
Thursday St Oswald	12 noon	The November Altar Lists
Friday St Oswald	10.00 a.m.	<b>KS2 school children</b>

**32nd Sunday of the Year REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

<b>Vigil St Anne's 5.30 p.m.</b>		The November Altar Lists
<b>St Augustine 9.15 a.m.</b>		The November Altar Lists
<b>St Oswald 11.15 a.m.</b>		The November Altar Lists



"We loved them in life, let us not forget them in death."  
**St Ambrose.**  
"It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead"  
**Book of Maccabees**

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation** (Confession) is always available upon request, by making an appointment, or 30 minutes before the start of Sunday Mass and weekday Masses.

**Update from the Vicariate for Faith and Mission**

As we move through this month of remembrance, we hold in prayer all those affected by loss. The Emmaus Bereavement support team are always ready to accompany people who are suffering and would like to talk. The contact number for their service is: 07732 980740. It has been a busy autumn within the Vicariate with Liturgical Formation Courses and Days of Reflection, Partnership Ministry Reflection Days, the Carlo Acutis Exhibition, the 'First Steps' meetings for those thinking of joining an RCIA course, the Workshop on Synodality and the Marriage Preparation Days to name, but a few. As we look ahead to this month, we are preparing to move into the Churches Year of Prayer beginning in Advent with our Advent prayer reflections. The Daily Reflections for Advent bring together voices and gifts from across the Diocese to encourage the Advent season to be a time of holy waiting. The Daily Reflections for Advent will be available to view on the Diocesan website from the 3 December.

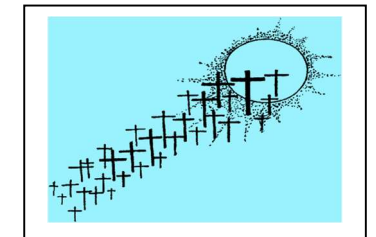
Your charitable prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Michael Stuart** who died recently after a long illness. He was a very committed member of St Augustine's Parish and a teacher at St Edmund Campion Secondary School for many years. **May he rest in peace. Amen.**

**Sunday Offertory Collections**

*"My weekly offering to God."*

St Augustine:	£420	(160-81)
St Anne:	£218-43	(72-90)
St Oswald	£458-00	(82-90)

(Inclusive of monthly standing orders)  
Clergy Training Fund collection  
in brackets.



**Christmas Raffle at St Oswald's**

St Oswald's will be holding a Christmas Raffle in aid of Church Funds. Tickets will be available to buy at £1 a strip from 5<sup>th</sup> November, and the Draw will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> December after Mass. Your generosity is needed again for donations of bottles,

**St Oswald 100 Club Winn**

<b>1st £15</b>	No.54. Patrick Burns
<b>2nd £5</b>	No 4. Dougie Ambrose
<b>3rd £5</b>	No 17. E. Nouaffo