

St Joseph & St Etheldreda

Lichfield Street, Rugeley WS15 2EH
Archdiocese of Birmingham – Reg'd Charity No:
234216

www.rugeleycatholicchurch.co.uk

Parish Priest Fr Peter Stonier 01889 802531

Deacon Rev Peter Kilgallon

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil Mass 24 Aug

7.00 pm Mamie Bailey RIP (Edel & Conor)
& Sister Ita Kean RIP (Haynes)

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY 25 Aug

11.00 am Bill Jones RIP (Fierro)
4.00 pm Sung Vespers
6.30 pm Kath Webb RIP

Monday Blessed Dominic Barberi 26 Aug

12.00 noon Claire Folland (Jenkins)

Tuesday St Monica 27 Aug

7.00 pm Stephen Owen Intentions (GO)

Wednesday St Augustine 28 Aug

12.00 noon Peter Farley RIP (JP)

Thursday Beheading of St John Baptist 29 Aug

9.00 am Eva Langley RIP

Friday Feria 30 Aug

7.00 pm Bill Jones RIP (Hinks)

Saturday St Aidan 31 Aug

9.00 am Mary & Joe Prendergast (Mobberley)
1.30 pm Nuptial Mass
Adrienne Maguire & James Tetlow

Saturday Vigil Mass 31 Aug

7.00 pm John Harvey

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY 1 Sept

11.00 am Charles Rooke RIP
4.00 pm Sung Vespers
6.30 pm Phil Russell RIP (Rowe)

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp
is lit in prayer for **Les Till** RIP

Welcome to Mass on the

21st Sunday of the Year

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Please pray for the departed

Recently: Bridget Colley

Anniversaries:

Sat: Pat Mullins

Sun: Stephen McCormick, Denis O'Toole

Mon: Mary McFarlane, Kath Webb

Tues: John Pugh, Lilian Deakin,
George Anderson, Vera Birt,
Deacon David McCarroll

Thurs: Tony Hughes

Fri: Mary Wallis, Horace Williscroft

Sat John Harvey, Molly Dacre

Adoration Mon 12.30pm Tue 6pm

Wed 12.30pm Fri 6pm

Confession Tue 6pm Wed 12.30pm

Fri 6pm

300 Club Winners

134 M Coleman 277 D Williscroft

143 P Pickstock

Annual Subs now due

Events

Friendship Group Mondays 11am -1pm

Rosary Group Tuesdays 7.30 pm

Mothers' Prayers Weds pm Lounge Bar

Soup Lunch Thurs 11.45 in the Hall

MASE group 3rd Wednesday

M F & F 2nd Wednesday 6.30pm

Next meeting September

Saint Monica's Story

The circumstances of Saint Monica's life could have made her a nagging wife, a bitter daughter-in-law, and a despairing parent, yet she did not give way to any of these temptations. Although she was a Christian, her parents gave her in marriage to a pagan, Patricius, who lived in her hometown of Tagaste in North Africa. Patricius had some redeeming features, but he had a violent temper and was licentious. Monica also had to bear with a cantankerous mother-in-law who lived in her home. Patricius criticized his wife because of her charity and piety, but always respected her. Monica's prayers and example finally won her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Her husband died in 371, one year after his baptism.

Monica had three children; Augustine, is the most famous. Monica was distressed to learn that her son at 17 had accepted the Manichean heresy—"all flesh is evil"—and was living an immoral life. For a while, she refused to let him eat or sleep in her house. Then one night she had a vision that assured her Augustine would return to the faith. From that time on, she stayed close to her son, praying and fasting for him. In fact she often stayed much closer than Augustine wanted.

When he was 29, Augustine decided to go to Rome to teach rhetoric. Monica was determined to go along. One night he told his mother that he was going to the dock to say goodbye to a friend. Instead he set sail for Rome. Monica was heartbroken when she learned of Augustine's trick, but she still followed him. She arrived in Rome only to find that he had left for Milan. Although travel was difficult, Monica pursued him to Milan.

In Milan, Augustine came under the influence of the bishop, Saint Ambrose, who also became Monica's spiritual director. She accepted his advice in everything and had the humility to give up some practices that had become second nature to her. Monica became a leader of the devout women in Milan as she had been in Tagaste.

She continued her prayers for Augustine during his years of instruction. At Easter 387, Saint Ambrose baptized Augustine and several of his friends. Soon after, he left for Africa. Although no one else was aware of it, Monica knew her life was near the end. She told Augustine, "Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled." She became ill shortly after and suffered severely for nine days before her death. Almost all we know about St. Monica is in the writings of Saint Augustine, especially his *Confessions*.

Today, with Google searches, online shopping, text messages, tweets, and instant credit, we have little patience for things that take time. Likewise, we want instant answers to our prayers. Monica is a model of patience. Her long years of prayer, coupled with a strong, well-disciplined character, finally led to the conversion of her hot-tempered husband, her cantankerous mother-in-law and her brilliant but