



# INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

*In the Diocese of Plymouth*

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

28<sup>th</sup> of August 2022

## St Augustine of Hippo (354 - 430)



Augustine was born in 354 AD to a pagan father and a devout Catholic mother at Thagaste in northern Africa. Even as a young child, he excelled in his studies, and in a short time surpassed all his companions in learning, especially in the liberal arts of rhetoric and grammar.

As a young man, with the promise of further studies, he moved to the bustling and cosmopolitan city of Carthage. It was there that the impressionable young Augustine soon fell prey to the Manichees. Manicheism was a gnostic sect that regarded all creation as part of a dualistic struggle between a good, spiritual world of light and an evil, material world of darkness. Although never fully initiated into this cult, Augustine nevertheless found himself persuaded by some of

their ideas, searching as he was for some kind of truth. It was in Carthage that Augustine also discovered Cicero's now-lost work, *Hortensius*, which kindled his interest in ancient philosophy, leaving a lasting impression on the young man.

After Carthage, where he had established a reputation as a fine and respected teacher of grammar, and where the young Augustine had also had a son out of wedlock, he travelled to Rome and was soon sent from there to Milan to teach rhetoric. It was in Milan that he was convinced by his mother, Monica, to attend the sermons of the renowned Bishop Ambrose, who regularly preached at the cathedral. Soon, Augustine and Ambrose became close friends and the bishop adopted him as his 'spiritual son', slowly guiding and nurturing Augustine's nascent faith. The young man admired how the bishop was able to unite rhetorical excellence with philosophical and catechetical rigour, unlike the heretics and gnostics of his time, whose words were sweet, but whose ideas were rotten.

It was on hearing that his friends had started reading the life of St Anthony the Great, the first of the desert fathers and one of the earliest Christian hermits, that Augustine converted to Christianity. As he himself recounted in his spiritual autobiography, the *Confessions*, he heard a child's voice saying, 'Tolle, lege' - take up and read, at which point he opened a book of St Paul's writings, falling upon the Epistle to the Romans.

At the Easter Vigil in 387, Augustine and his son, Adeodatus, were baptised by St Ambrose in Milan. He was thirty-three years old. After his conversion, Augustine turned his back on his glittering career as a professor of rhetoric and made plans to return to Africa. His mother, Monica, died in the port city of Ostia shortly before they were to depart, and she was later canonised by the Church and, for

her great labours in bringing her son to the Catholic faith, is venerated as the patron saint of the conversion of relatives.

Upon returning to Africa, Augustine led a life governed by religion and personal sanctity, but tragedy struck once again when his beloved son, Adeodatus, died not long after their arrival. Augustine sold his patrimony, distributing the money to the poor, but kept his house, which he converted into a monastic foundation for himself and several friends. They lead a common life of contemplative prayer and study, a model which Augustine was later to codify in his famous *Rule*. This rule of common life was to play, with that of St Benedict, an influential role in the foundation and growth of Western monasticism. Indeed, St Francis de Sales and St Jane de Chantal were to choose the *Rule of St Augustine* when they established the Visitation Sisters in 1610.



Fra Angelico's *Conversion of St Augustine*, c.1430-1435

In 391, Augustine was ordained a priest by Valerius, the saintly Bishop of Hippo. Combining his love of rhetoric with his greater love of Christian truth, Augustine quickly became a celebrated preacher, delivering between 6,000 - 10,000 sermons throughout his life, of which unfortunately only around 500 survive today.

Augustine's apostolic zeal, his piety, and his administrative abilities soon impressed Valerius who made him his coadjutor bishop (an assistant bishop with rights of succession). As Bishop of Hippo, Augustine surrounded himself with priests who lived with him in a small community but did not take religious vows. They supported him through prayer and administration, and became

responsible for much of the public liturgical life of the cathedral and diocese. They were among the earliest examples of 'secular canons'.

Augustine wrote many theological and apologetic works remarkable for their devotion, subtlety and diffuseness, to combat heresies and throw light on Christian teaching. His most famous treatises include *The City of God* and *On the Trinity*. Augustine's writings on the nature and operation of divine grace, original sin and salvation earned him the title of *Doctor gratiae* and he is revered as one of the pre-eminent doctors of the Latin Church. Augustine defended the perpetual virginity of Our Lady, and wrote widely on music and the importance of Christian education.

When the Vandals were laying waste to northern Africa and Hippo had been besieged for three months, Augustine was taken ill with a fever. He surrounded his bed with extracts from the penitential Psalms, regularly reciting them during his final days. He died on the 28 August 430, aged 75. His body was buried first in Sardinia and then in Pavia, where it is still venerated with honour.

## Wedding Banns

Aaron Paul O'Shaughnessy and Mary-Sophia Louise Oliver intend to marry at Holy Angels Church, Torquay on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

If any of you know cause or just impediment why these persons should not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, you are to declare it. This is for the first time of asking.

## Volunteer Days at Lanherne Updated!

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of September

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of October (Apple Harvest)

If these days do not work for you, please consider giving some of your time on another day.

**The Sisters of Lanherne** are grateful to the Providence of God who supplies their needs through the generous support of the faithful.

**Lanherne Nuns**

Sort code: 30-98-76

Account: 45742568

**Holy Angels**

Collection: £125.97

**Torquay**

Account Name: ICKSP

Account Details: 40-03-33

Account Number: 12333902

Date	At Lanherne	Canon Tanner
	Mass Offered For:	
28	<b>Brian Capstick Benefactors</b>	Rayments
29	Harper Powell Family	Cassian Miles Brooks
30	Jerffery Pickering RIP	Confraternity of St Peter
31	Diana Hilliard	ICKSP in Plymouth Diocese
1	Holy Souls	Mgr Wach
2	Holy Souls	Private Intention
3	Holy Souls	Micklewright Family

Rev. Canon Scott Smith  
 Chaplain of Lanherne Convent  
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[lanherne@icksp.org.uk](mailto:lanherne@icksp.org.uk)  
 Safeguarding Reps:  
 Christina Hunt  
 Sarah Checkley

**At Lanherne Convent**

Sundays:

8.30am Low Mass

10am Sung Mass

Monday through Saturday:

8am Mass

Thursdays:

8am and 6.15pm Mass

Confession: Saturdays at 3pm

Rev. Canon Scott Tanner, Prior  
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[torquay@icksp.org.uk](mailto:torquay@icksp.org.uk)  
 Safeguarding Rep: Katarzyna Adamiak

**At Holy Angels**

Sundays:

9.45 -10.15am Confessions

10.30am Mass

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays:

5pm Adoration (with Confession available)

6pm Mass

Tuesdays & Saturdays:

8.30am Mass

**Exception: Canon Tanner is away this week: no Masses or services Mon-Sat.**

**Plymouth:** Sundays at 3pm

**From Sunday 11 September: 8.30am**