

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's
70 Eton Road
DATCHET
SL3 9AY



OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON

Our Lady of Sorrows
1 Eton Court
Eton, WINDSOR
SL4 6BY



Parish Priest: Fr. Frank McAuliffe
Telephone: 01753 917030
Email: office@staugustines.org.uk

Website: www.staugustines.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 28th June 2020

Saints Peter and Paul

Thought for the week

Some Personal Musings on Covid

I pray that God may be with you, and keep you healthy and contented during these troubling times. Our hearts are full of gratitude to those who have helped us in any way through this lockdown period and we pray for the many who are finding life very difficult.

This time of quiet has given us time to reflect on Covid, and I think God has many lessons to teach us all through this experience. I'd like to share some of my reflections with you.

As you've probably guessed, I never cease to be fascinated by the environment and the truly miraculous way its very diverse elements conspire towards our survival and well-being on this planet.

We are all aware of social distancing and how important it is in preventing the spread of coronavirus. In reflecting on this, my thoughts turn to the air we breathe and how pure it must remain if it is to be our friend. If it is invaded by a foreign element, the God-given harmony between our body and the atmosphere is disturbed and we have the Covid problem.

This may seem just a basic description of an ordinary medical fact, and in some ways, it is. But very often, facts have a revelatory intent. If only we'd listen, we'd see how truly extraordinary the ordinary really is. In this instance, I wonder at the remarkable alliance that exists between our body and the air we breathe. It is truly awesome that our respiratory system should be

so perfectly attuned to the oxygen level in the atmosphere (20.9%) – and how constant and harmonious this marriage has been since the origin of human life. What could any scientist do towards creating this level of attunement, and what could he/she do towards repairing it if anything should go wrong with it?

We need to remember that in the human psyche there are zones of consciousness other than those that operate at the level of science and technology. One of these is the religious/poetic zone, and this is so neglected in today's culture. Its function is to awaken our sense of WONDER at the routine, everyday harmony between us and our environment – a harmony we take so much for granted. Spending some time in this way of thinking can greatly enrich our lives, and fill them with awe and gratitude.

Fr. Frank

Notices

Reopening of our Churches

As you probably know, officially we can open for public worship as from July 4th. However, in a letter, the Bishop has expressed reservations about opening so soon, and he has asked us to be cautious in making the decision to do so. We are expecting more detailed information about the matter from the Diocese in the near future and when we receive it we will have a Parish Council meeting to discuss the situation. In the meantime, we will continue with online streaming of Mass.

Online streaming of Mass every Sunday at 11am

We continue to hold Online Masses every Sunday at 11am and will be doing so for the foreseeable future. Invitations are sent out by email on the Thursday / Friday giving the details to log into the Mass. We understand that some who used to receive the invitations, have not been receiving them recently. In this situation it is highly likely that the emails are being diverted into the spam email folder. If you cannot find the invitations please email the Parish: office@staugustines.org.uk

Foodbank

Many thanks to those who contributed this week. We would urge you to continue, as the need is still great. If you can, bring your donation to parish house on either Monday or Wednesday between 10.00am and 1pm.