

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

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OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON

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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 19th July 2020

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

A word about having Mass live again – Beginning this coming Tuesday 21st

While it is great to have had an online Mass for the past number of weeks, it is important to realise that it is only a substitute for a real participation in the Eucharist.

There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, Jesus tell us explicitly: 'unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you shall not have life within you' (John 6: 53). Just as we need food to stay strong in our physical life, we also need the 'Bread of Life' in Holy Communion if we are to remain healthy in our spiritual life.

The second reason is based on St. Paul telling us that we, collectively, are the 'Body of Christ'. In other words, 'it is not as individuals but only in each other and with each other that we belong to God'. God wants us to be together, so that we can celebrate, as a community, our oneness with God and with one another. We do this when we come to celebrate Mass, which was the very act that made us the family of God

Our prayer must be that shortly we will be in a position to have our Sunday Mass together.

In the meantime, we are commencing to have a 9.30am Mass on a Tuesday and a Friday in St. Augustine's Hall

Fr. Frank

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.

Further information about the opening of St. Augustine's Hall for Mass

Commencing Tuesday 21st July, we will be holding a Mass in St. Augustine's Hall each week at 9.30am on Tuesday and Friday.

This is far from "getting back to normal", but it is a start. There are a number of points about the use of the Hall for the resumption of Mass that I need to bring to your attention:

- St. Augustine's Hall has been selected (as opposed to either of our Churches).
- There will be two Stewards at each Mass.
- All the windows and the two fire doors will be open throughout the Mass in order to assist with air circulation in the Hall.
- The seats have been laid-out to ensure that those attending Mass are distanced from each other. We have approximately 21 places available.
- There is a one-way "flow" around the Hall. Parishioners will enter via the front door to the Hall but will exit via the two fire exits. Parishioners who cannot manage the walk around the building or the steps down to ground level via the fire exits, need to tell a Steward. They will be guided by a Steward to leave via the front door once other Parishioners have left the Hall.
- **The doors to the Hall will open at 9.20am.** We have to minimize the amount of time spent in the Hall.
- Although not a legal requirement, we would prefer if EACH time someone attends Mass they bring with them a piece of paper on which they have written their **name and telephone number**. In the event someone attending that Mass subsequently is tested positive for the Coronavirus, all others who attended the Mass can be alerted. This information will be kept for 21 days in a sealed bag marked with the date of the Mass, after which it will be destroyed.
- Once doors open, a steward will show those attending Mass to their seat.
- For communion, a steward will indicate to each seated row of Parishioners when they can go and receive Communion.
- After Mass please leave via one of the Fire Exits, as indicated by the Steward. A steward will tell each row in turn when they can leave.
- Please do not linger in the Hall to have a chat with others. Please exit as soon as you are told to do so by the Steward. It will be possible to have a socially distanced chat with others in the gardens in front of the Presbytery.

Online webinar 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. In order to help prevent emails being diverted into the spam folder, please save the parish email address in the list of contacts in your email system.

Pamela Bailey

Collection of Baby Clothes and Toys for Charity

Would anyone who may have items in good condition – clothes, toys, equipment – suitable for babies please contact the Parish Office via office@staugustines.org.uk and your message will be passed onto Teresa Flynn, a Parishioner. Please include your telephone number and address in your email. Teresa will be happy to collect items and to deliver them to a deserving charity. Anything you can give will be greatly appreciated.