

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's
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OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON

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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 26th July 2020

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

It seems so strange that when we're looking for miracles to prove God's existence, we always look for what is *exceptional* in the workings of nature! But Chesterton is right when he says: 'the world is not lacking in wonders, but in *wonderment*'. If only we'd look deeply at what is *ordinary* in nature, we'd see how truly *extraordinary* the ordinary really is. For 'those who have eyes to see', surely the real miracle is not the sensational event that interrupts the workings of nature. The miracle is in nature's unassuming fidelity to the marvellous laws given it by its Creator.

We only take notice only of what is visible, novel, sensational. But God's laws for the earth are humble and unseen; they function silently and predictably. Their very ordinariness kills our sense of wonder at their awesomeness, harmony and precision. Chesterton has a lovely way of expressing this:

Perhaps God is strong enough to exult in monotony [whereas we are not]. It is possible that God says every morning, "Do it again" to the sun; and every evening "Do it again" to the moon. It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately and has never grown tired of making them. It may be that he has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we. Let's remember the words of Jesus: 'unless you become like little children you shall not enter the Kingdom of God'.

Fr. Frank

Opening of St. Augustine's Hall for Mass

It was wonderful to be able to open St. Augustine's Hall on Tuesday and Friday of this week to celebrate Mass with many Parishioners in person. In order to hold a Mass, it is mandatory that we have two Stewards in attendance. At the moment Kathleen, Lorette, Margaret and Pamela have volunteered to be Stewards. However there are going to be some occasions when one or more of them will not be available and then we will not be able to hold a Mass.

I appeal for others to come forward to be a Steward. The Diocese has stated that all Stewards have to be under the age of 70. Please contact me. **Fr. Frank**

Information about the opening of St. Augustine's Hall for Mass: 9.30am on Tuesday and Friday

- 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 is subsequently tested positive for the Coronavirus, all others who attended the Mass can be alerted. All information provided will be kept for 21 days in a sealed bag marked with the date of the Mass, after which it will be destroyed.
- 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.
- 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 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**

Foodbank

Many thanks to those who contributed to our collection 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. **Fr. Frank**