

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 2nd August 2020

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come!
(from today's First Reading from Isaiah).

Gratitude is one of the most fundamental Christian sentiments. God's gifts to me are so basic that I easily take them for granted. And the most wonderful thing about these basic gifts – like sun and air, and even life itself – is that they are not just gifts given in the past; they are *ever-present*; I'm *receiving in the here-and-now* moment. I must let their richness and beauty continue to unfold and fill me with gratitude. As I do this, my sense of unworthiness deepens. This feeling leads me to ask of God: 'but why did you create me, and give me the priceless gift of *existing*? Why did you give me this magnificent Earth that is so finely-tuned to my basic needs for survival and well-being? And, above all, why did you involve yourself with me, a mere creature, and go to the extremes of Calvary to show how much I mean to you?

I don't ask these questions in expectation of an answer – for I know there is no answer. I ask them because the very asking keeps alive in my heart the sheer *giftedness* of all I am and have. It nourishes in me what is perhaps the key sentiment in Christian prayer – *gratitude*. Eckhart's touching words come to mind: '*if people had no other communication with God than that of giving thanks, it would be sufficient*'.

Fr. Frank

Foodbank

Please continue to donate to the Foodbank by bringing your donation to the parish house on either Monday or Wednesday between 10am and 1pm. Many thanks to those who contribute to our collection each week. We would urge you to continue to donate, as the need is still great.

Fr. Frank

Parish Finances

When the *lock-down* started and we were stopped from holding Mass in our Churches, most of our Parishioners were prevented from making their regular Offertory contributions. This has had a marked impact on our Parish finances.

	April	May	June	July	Total
2019	£1,644	£2,079	£2,385	£1,762	£7,870
2020	£670	£100	£475	£790	£2,035 (26%)

The table shows that the Offertory for the past four months has been just over a quarter of what it was for the comparable period last year.

We wish to appeal to Parishioners who are in a position to contribute to Offertory and if possible, make-up for contributions they have not been able to make over the past four months to do so.

Ways to pay Offertory:

Tuesday & Friday Mass in St. Augustine's Hall: Buckets are placed by the two exit doors at St. Augustine's for Offertory (cash, cheques or envelopes)

St. Augustine's Presbytery: Offertory can be placed in a plain or offertory envelope and posted through the Presbytery letterbox. Cheques, made payable to St Augustine's can be posted to the St. Augustine's Presbytery, 70 Eton Road, Datchet SL3 9AY

Standing Order: If you wish to contribute to the Offertory by regular STANDING ORDER it would be very much appreciated. In order that the Diocese can reclaim from HMRC any gift aid on Offertory, they need to process the Standing Order form. Michael Reynolds, the Treasurer, can send you the form to complete, which then needs to be returned to him. He will forward the form to the Diocese. A STANDING ORDER will be established, not a Direct Debit. The Standing Order can be amended or cancelled directly by you whenever you wish. To receive a Standing Order form, please email office@staugustines.org.uk Thank you.

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

- Please wear a **face mask** when you attend Mass. The Diocese strongly recommend that you do so, and as of 8th August it will become a legal requirement.
- 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.
- **The doors to the Hall will open at 9.20am.** We have to minimize the amount of time spent in the Hall.

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