

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's
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DATCHET
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OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON

Our Lady of Sorrows
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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 16th August 2020

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thought for the Week – In Praise of Mary

Mary, what did God find so attractive in you that he chose you to be the mother of His Son?

What was so special about you? I believe it must have been your humility.

You were created by God; you belonged entirely to Him.

You knew that everything, even your very existence, was gift.

Your heart was so completely empty of self-importance
that it could be filled with the fullness of God.

Yes, Mary - emptiness was your only 'possession';
it was the only gift you could give to God.

But how precious was that gift, and how much God loved it!

For it was this gift that gave him room to do

what he had always longed to do – to be fully at home in a creature

Because of this 'emptiness' God was at last free to emerge from the aloofness of his Godhead
assured in the knowledge that in you his divinity would not be usurped or compromised.

He could entrust to you the fullness of His divinity and know that in you it was completely safe.

For you never tried to possess God, or use him to your own advantage.

The closer the bond grew between you and your Son, the more bewildered you became.

Never a thought of greatness or self-importance

- just a continual advance into adoration and gratitude,

as you pondered the bewilderingly great thing that 'He who is mighty' had done in you.

Congratulations to Harriet Costelloe and Lewis Jones who were married today (Saturday 15th August) in St. Augustine's. Harriet and Lewis's wedding, which was planned for a few months ago, had to be postponed due to the "lock-down". The current guidance issued by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales states that ceremonies should be concluded in the shortest reasonable time, and so all Marriages at this time should be outside of the Celebration of Mass. Fr. Frank conducted a short service in line with guidelines. Despite the significant changes they have had to make to their plans, we hope they have had a special day. We send Harriet and Lewis our congratulations and blessings for their future together.

Foodbank

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. Please continue to donate to the Foodbank by bringing your donation to the parish house on either Monday or Wednesday between 10am and 1pm.

Parish Finances

Thank you very much to those who have responded to our appeal and have recently contributed to Offertory. For those who have recently been away, we wish to repeat our appeal. 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. It is now a legal requirement to do so.
- EACH time you attend Mass, please bring a piece of paper on which they have written your **name and telephone number**. 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.**
- The fire alarms are tested immediately after each Mass.

Invitations to Online webinar Mass every Sunday at 11am

The invitations are emailed from the Parish on Thursday evening or Friday morning. If you have not received your invitation by Friday afternoon, please email office@staugustines.org.uk and give your phone number. Please check your "spam" email folders before emailing the Parish just in case the invitation has been diverted into that folder. Thank you.