

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's
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DATCHET
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Parish Priest: Fr. Frank McAuliffe
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OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON



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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 8th November 2020

32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)

MASS TIMES

ONLINE WEBINAR MASS: 11am on Sundays - for further details email office@staugustines.org.uk

ST. AUGUSTINE'S HALL: During the *lockdown* it is not permitted to hold public Masses.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH PRIVATE PRAYER: Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 12noon and 12.30pm. Tuesday and Thursday between 5.30pm and 6.30pm

SICK OF THE PARISH: Please pray for the sick in the Parish, especially James Ansell, Dorrie Keating, David Mendes, Walter Stanley and Michael Torpey. Please pray also for those who are caring for them.

MASS INTENTIONS

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|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Sat. 7th Nov. | Special Intention | Tue. 10th Nov. | Mass for Deceased |
| Sun. 8th Nov. | John Casey RIP | Wed. 11th Nov. | Carolyn Ansell |
| Sun. 8th Nov. 11am | People of the Parish | Thu. 12th Nov. | De Mello Family RIP |
| Mon. 9th Nov. | John Burchell RIP | Fri. 13th Nov. | Private Intention |

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES DURING NOVEMBER. Each Tuesday during the month, Mass will be offered for the Intentions of those whose names are in the Intention Box. The box will be in front of the Altar in the Church. (See above, for times when the Church will be open).

Because **PUBLIC MASSES are not allowed** at this time, we would hope that as many as possible will join to our Online Mass. It is a great opportunity that technology has given us at this time to worship as a community, and make us aware that we are praying for one another in these difficult times. Our very special thanks to Anthony for his willingness to make online Mass possible, and also to Pamela for sending out the Invitations.

Joining the **ONLINE MASS** is very easy, but if you have any difficulty you can call Anthony at 10.20am before the Mass and he will help you. (Email office@staugustines.org.uk for details).

THANKS TO STEWARDS. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to those who volunteered to act as Stewards over the past number of weeks. Your generosity has made it possible for us to have Mass during that time.

THE SLOUGH FOODBANK has written to thank everyone involved with our recent donations. Please continue to donate, as the need is still great. Bring your donations for the Foodbank to the parish house on either Monday or Wednesday between 10am and 1pm. The items which are on their shopping list and which are in great demand currently are: sponge puddings, tinned fruit, jam, instant mash, washing-up liquid, laundry tablets, shaving gel and nappies size 3 & 4.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK - LOVE IS PATIENT (cont. from last week)

God's will for me is to become *all* I can be, but *only* who I can be. Herein lies the profound wisdom of the Serenity Prayer which tells us to accept the things we cannot change and change only the things we can. It tells us that it's ok not to be ok; it teaches us to accept – indeed love – ourselves as the fragile, limited creatures that we are. There's great reassurance for us all in the spirituality of that great lover of Jesus, St. Therese. Therese's famous "little way" to God "finds joy in the present moment, in being pleased to be the person you are, whoever you are. It is a school of self-acceptance, which goes beyond *accepting* who you are to *wanting* to be who you are. It's a way of coming to terms with life not as it might be but as it is".

This is the way suggested by Jesus in his parable of the wheat and the weeds. Jesus tells us that it is part of the human condition that the weeds grow with the wheat in our lives. Only at our death are they separated - and they are separated not by our own efforts. They are separated by a God who understands only too well the tangled undergrowth of personality and temptation in which our lives have been lived. At the end of our lives our merciful God will consume the weeds in the blazing fire of his all-powerful love, leaving a harvest that is wholesome and plentiful.

This same Gospel message is also hinted at in that other medium of God's communication with us – Creation. Have you ever noticed that, in its natural, original state Nature's is not a tidy, flawless arrangement of flowers and shrubs? It's a wild proliferation of weeds and undergrowth, which forms a natural backdrop to the beauty of the landscape that surrounds us. Could it be that God views beauty in us as he views it in Nature? What especially delights the heart of God are not those qualities associated with flawless observance of the law. Yes, he wants our efforts to keep his law, but what he wants *especially* is the *humility* that emerges from our struggles with temptation and weakness, from the messy undergrowth of temperament and upbringing that we, in our fallen state, continually battle with. The true saints are not those who, like the Pharisees, were proud of their virtue and paraded themselves as models of holiness. They were those who, like Mary Magdalene, struggled against adversity, and were humble enough to know that they were saved not by their own merits, but because God's mercy was infinitely greater than their sinfulness. These were the kind of people Jesus loved.

Fr. Frank

**Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales,
and the Vice-President, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon
issued a statement on Wednesday 4th November about the National Lockdown.**

"Today, Parliament passed into law the Regulations governing many aspects of activity in the whole of England until 2nd December. These Regulations prohibit the gathering of people for communal worship in churches and other religious buildings.

Churches remain open and in use for activities other than communal worship, including personal prayer and support for those in need. Funeral Masses and funeral services may be held. Please refer to the Regulations and associated Guidance.

Despite profound misgivings it is important that we, as responsible citizens, observe these Regulations, which have the force of law: '*Remind them to be obedient to the officials in authority; to be ready to do good at every opportunity*' (Titus 3:1). We do this in solidarity with so many others on whom are being imposed restrictions which impact severely on their lives and livelihoods.

It is also important to recognize that these Regulations are not an attack on religious belief. However, they do demonstrate a fundamental lack of understanding of the essential contribution made by faith communities to the well-being, resilience and health of our society.

At this difficult moment, we ask that as a Catholic community, we make full use of our churches as places of individual prayer and sources of solace and help. We must sustain each other in our patterns of prayer, joining a national shared moment of prayer each day at 6pm, and observing the Vigil of Christ the King (21st November) as a day of prayer for the ending of this pandemic. And we encourage you all in your practical service and support of each other and those around you in need.

This pathway of prayer and service is the royal road we are to take as a gracious witness in our society today."