

## ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's  
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DATCHET  
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## OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON



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## NEWSLETTER

**Sunday 6th December 2020**

**Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)**

### MASS TIMES

**ONLINE WEBINAR MASS:** 11am on Sundays - for further details email [office@staugustines.org.uk](mailto:office@staugustines.org.uk)

**ST. AUGUSTINE'S HALL:** Saturdays at 6pm, Sundays at 9.30am and Tuesdays at 9.30am

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

### MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 5th Dec. 6pm	Luceta Shaw RIP	Tue. 8th Dec. 9.30am	The Anderson Family
Sun. 6th Dec. 9.30am	Frank Collins RIP	Wed. 9th Dec.	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun. 6th Dec. 11am	People of the Parish	Thu. 10th Dec.	Luceta Shaw RIP
Mon. 7th Dec.	Alex RIP	Fri. 11th Dec.	Private Intention

**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.

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:** **Tuesday 8th December** is the Feast of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We will have Mass in the Hall on that day at **9.30am**.

Bishop David will celebrate a special Mass in Northampton Cathedral at **7.30pm on Monday 7th December** to honour the Feast (Patronal Feast of the Diocese). The Mass will be streamed online: [www.northamptondiocese.org](http://www.northamptondiocese.org)

**ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE:** We will have our special Advent Penitential Service in the Hall at **7pm on Wednesday 16th December**.

**MASSES AT CHRISTMAS:** We have not yet finalised the times for Masses at Christmas. The times we set will depend largely on the number of Stewards who are available. We would kindly ask Stewards who have not yet confirmed their availability to please contact Pamela as soon as possible.

**CORONAVIRUS:** We remember those in our parish who may be suffering acutely from the effects of Covid. We think especially for those who are ill, those living alone - far from relatives, those whose jobs are at risk, those in Care Homes, those in difficult home environments.

And let's not forget to thank God for the progress being made towards a vaccination programme for COVID. We pray for the scientists and the medical personnel who have worked so hard towards its discovery, and we pray that it will be very soon available to all.

St. Augustine's Church is open every day for private prayer. (See days and times above). As the days and evenings are distinctly chilly now, rest assured that the Church is being heated.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS FROM THE ST. PATRICK'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY:** Most Parishioners will be aware that Fr. Frank was ordained for the St. Patrick's Missionary Society.

The Society has produced a set of **Christmas Cards** and pocket **2021 diaries**, which are available to buy now. This is an important source of fundraising for the Society. They suggest a minimum donation of £5 per pack of 10 differently designed Christmas Cards and a minimum donation of £5 per 2021 pocket diary, which is available with covers in either red, black or navy blue.

Please order by telephoning 0208 979 1890, or alternatively by sending a cheque with your order to St. Patrick's Missionary Society, 20 Beauchamp Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 0PA.

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: PENANCE SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER**

The word ADVENT means coming. In Jesus, God came into the world 2,000 years ago to save us from the consequences of sin and evil in our world and bring us back to the ways of God. Jesus – and his commandments – is the way that leads us to peace and happiness in this world. But God has made us as free human beings. This means we are free to either accept or reject his offer of happiness and wholeness. The choice is ours; no one can make it for us – not even God. We have only to look around us to see the devastating consequences – which appear in so many forms – of rejecting Jesus.

In embracing the Catholic Faith, we have chosen the pathway of acceptance. However, the influence of evil is very strong – both in our own hearts and in our environment. Because of this, we have often fallen.

**ADVENT and LENT** are the special times in the year when the Church asks us to reflect on our lives and on return to the pathway of virtue and holiness. These are times when we say 'sorry' to God for our past failings and, with his help, renew our resolve to get back to a way of living that is more faithful to the ideals and values of Jesus. Perhaps the turmoil of this past year has made us more acutely aware of our need of God as the One who can 'deliver us from evil'. He can also consolidate those positive values of generosity and neighbourliness that have emerged in our community because of the pandemic.

On Wednesday 16th December we have our special Advent Penitential Service in the Hall. It is an opportunity for us, as a community, to acknowledge that we have failed God in many ways, and to ask for forgiveness. It is also a time to renew our resolve to let Jesus be more central in our lives. It is only in doing this that we really celebrate Christmas. For Jesus in the One whom we call our Saviour. He is the one who can bring blessing and wholeness to our families, our community and our world.

**Fr. Frank**