

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's
70 Eton Road
DATCHET
SL3 9AY



Parish Priest: Fr. Frank McAuliffe
Telephone: 01753 917030

OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON

Our Lady of Sorrows
1 Eton Court
Eton, WINDSOR
SL4 6BY



Email: office@staugustines.org.uk
Website: www.staugustines.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 3rd January 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS (B, Year of Mark)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are sorry that there will be no weekday Mass until further notice.

We hope to continue with Saturday/Sunday Mass as usual.

St. Augustine's will be open for private prayer at the usual times:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12.00 noon – 12.30pm

Online Webinar Mass. Contact office@staugustines.org.uk for details

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 2 nd Jan 6pm	John Lipscomb's Intention	Wed. 6 th Jan	Carolyn Ansell, R.I.P
Sun. 3 rd Jan 9.30am	People of the Parish	Thu. 7 th Jan	Personal Intention
Sun. 3 rd Jan 11am	Private Intention	Fri. 8 th Jan	Personal Intention
Mon. 4 th Jan	Private Intention		
Tue. 5 th Jan	Fr. Hugo Vanni, R.I.P		

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.

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 OFFERTORY COLLECTION

In keeping with tradition, the collection in Churches at Christmas and Easter is offered by Parishioners as a sincere and personal thank you for the dedication and service of their Parish Priest. There was a period, after Fr. Séan retired, when it was looking unlikely that we would again have our own Parish Priest, but this Parish has been greatly blessed by having Fr. Frank come and serve us as our Priest.

During Easter of this year, when we were experiencing the first lock-down, our Churches were closed and despite the alternative arrangements which were made, it was not possible for all to be able to contribute to the Easter collection. Currently our Church (St. Augustine's Hall) is open for Masses, but we have strict restrictions as to the number who can attend; therefore, we are putting in place arrangements to ensure it is as straight forward as possible to make your Christmas Offertory over a period of a couple of weeks.

- 1. ST. AUGUSTINE'S HALL:** There will be buckets in the Hall clearly marked **CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY**. Donations can be made in cash or by cheque made payable to **ST. AUGUSTINE'S**, (please do not make your cheque payable to Fr. Frank). The Christmas Offertory buckets will be in the Church Hall for donations until Mass on Sunday 3rd January 2021. Please note *any envelopes* placed in the general offertory buckets in the Hall, marked with the words CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY, will be treated as your personal donation to our Priest.
- 2. PRESBYTERY:** By posting an envelope through the letterbox of the Presbytery. The envelope does not have to be a special parish envelope. Any envelope will do! The **ENVELOPE** is to be clearly **MARKED CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY**. Fr. Frank will give the envelope directly to Michael Reynolds our Parish Treasurer to process.
- 3. Via MICHAEL REYNOLDS:** Either post an envelope through his letterbox or send it via Royal Mail. (Please only send cheques through the post). (Michael's address has been included in the website version of the Newsletter. Please contact office@staugustines.org.uk)

If you have any queries or concerns about this process, please contact me via the office@staugustines.org.uk email address. Thank you.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In his new book, 'Let us Dream', Pope Francis shares a very personal vision of a fairer world in the aftermath of Covid. The following is an extract from the book.

The world is God's gift to us. The biblical story of Creation has a constant refrain: 'And God saw that it was good'. Good means bountiful, life-giving, and beautiful. Beauty, like Creation itself, is a pure gift; a sign of the God who overflows with love for us.

If someone who loves you gives you a beautiful and valuable gift, how do you handle it? To treat it with contempt is to treat the giver with contempt. If you value it, you admire it, look after it; you respect it and are grateful. The damage to our planet stems from the loss of this awareness and gratitude. *We have grown used to owning, but too little to thanking.*

A humanity that fails to respect nature is a humanity that has failed to tame the power of technology. In other words, technology has ceased to be our instrument and has become our master. It has changed our mind-set. How? We become more intolerant of limits; if it can be done, and it is profitable, we see no reason why it shouldn't be done. We begin to believe in power, confusing it with progress, such that whatever boosts our control is seen as beneficial.

Our sin lies in wanting to possess and exploit that which we do not value as a gift. Sin always has this same root of possessiveness, of enrichment at the expense of other people and Creation itself. The sin is in exploiting what must not be exploited, in extracting wealth (power or satisfaction) from where it should not be taken. *Sin is a rejection of the limits that love requires.*

Fr. Frank

New Year Message and Prayer from Fr Frank

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful 2021.

We ask the Lord to protect us and our loved ones, and that the vaccines may be soon available to all, so as to dispel the fear and anxiety that is in our hearts at this time.

And may the memory of this past year remind us all of the fragility of life, and of how much our life is a gift from God.