

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 17th January 2021

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Members of the Parish Council and I have decided that I will stop holding Masses in St. Augustine's Hall for a period, whilst the Coronavirus is at such high levels in our area.

We will continue to hold an online Mass every Sunday at 11am. For details of how to join the Mass, please email office@staugustines.org.uk

St. Augustine's Church will be open for Private Prayer each day Monday to Friday from 12.00 noon to 12.30pm. It will **NOT** be open for Prayer in the Evening.

I would like to remind those who do not already know that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been suspended during this pandemic. We are really lucky that, through the hard work of Anthony and Pamela, we will still continue with our online Mass and I would urge you to log in to it if you are able. It is a particularly good substitute at this time in helping us keep together as a Parish.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 16th Jan.	Private Intention	Wed. 20th Jan.	Carolyn Ansell R.I.P.
Sun. 17th Jan. 11am	People of the Parish	Thu. 21st Jan.	Srs. Amy, Noreen, Betty Intentions
Mon. 18th Jan.	Sr. Patricia's Intentions		
Tue. 19th Jan.	Donor Intentions	Fri. 22nd Jan.	Fr Emilio Lobo RIP

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

Please pray especially for **Walter Stanley**, who died on Saturday 16th January in 'Eton House Care Home'. May he rest in peace. Let us pray also for his wife Christine, his daughter and sons, and all friends and family members, that God will give them comfort and strength at this difficult time.

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 us 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 its distribution throughout the country will be speedy and efficient.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Four children from the Parish started their First Holy Communion preparations last Sunday, January 10th, with online classes. They will celebrate the Sacrament, along with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, later this year.

At St. Augustine's Parish, we use 'God's Greatest Gift' programme by Bernadette Wilson, supplemented by other sources.

Would you please keep the children in your prayers as they progress through the Course, gaining a deeper knowledge and understanding of their Faith.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to Anne Cannon for all the work and effort she puts into the programme each year.

THE UNIVERSE: A COMPELLING INVITATION TO ADORATION

NATURE'S INVITATION TO A RICHER AND FULLER LIFE (continued from last week)

Nature asks us to ponder not just at the immensity of the Universe but also the Love that prompted God to give us this beautiful planet we are living in. God must be very saddened when he looks at our failure to recognise him in the order and harmony and beauty of his Creation. He must look with dismay at how our incessant quest for novelty and enjoyment has killed our capacity to be still, to wonder, to admire. We have become so busy in manipulating the world for our own needs and comforts that we have failed to heed Nature's invitation to the vastly richer and more fulfilling vision of life to which God is calling us.

We – even religious people - are sorely in need of redemption. In the widest sense, being redeemed is not just about believing certain truths and practicing religious rituals. It means being delivered from a wholly secularized way of looking at the world. It means seeing the world as a mystery to be explored, not a commodity to be exploited. It means recovering God's way of seeing the world and behaving in it.

It's so sad that the enormous potential of Nature to testify to God's Omnipotence and Love has not been appreciated in our programmes of evangelization. In our teaching, we have been so intent of forming people's minds with orthodox truths about God that we have ignored God's revelation of himself in the beautiful world around us. Nature and the Universe can tell us secrets about God that would deepen our appreciation of Him in a way that no amount of theological books and studies could ever hint at. It would be a knowledge that would touch our hearts and our emotions, as well as our minds. It would tell us, in particular, about two of the most appealing aspects God's love – his generosity and his faithfulness.

(continued next week)

Have a good week, Fr Frank