

St Augustine's
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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 31st January 2021 Fourth 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 on Tuesdays and Thursdays 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 30 th Jan	Private Intention	Wed 3 rd Feb	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 31 st Jan 11 am online	Walter Stanley RIP	Thurs 4 th Feb	Donor
Mon 1 st Feb	Fr. Emilio Lobo RIP	Fri 5 th Feb	Staff at Eton House
Tues 2 nd Feb	Fr. Joe Flynn RIP		

FUNERAL MASS: The funeral Mass for Walter Stanley will take place at St. Augustine's on Monday, Feb. 8th at 10.30am, with committal immediately afterwards at Slough Crematorium. Due to COVID restrictions, we regret we must limit attendance to the family only.

Please continue to pray for Walter and for his family.

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.

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 with online classes. They will celebrate the Sacrament, along with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, later this year. Would you please keep the children in your prayers as they progress through the Course, gaining a deeper knowledge and understanding of their Faith.

FOODBANK: We are very grateful for your generous contributions to the Foodbank and We would ask you to please continue donating to the Foodbank as the need is still great. Please bring donations to the parish house at any time and leave them in the basket outside the door. Items in most demand are: sponge puddings, tinned fruit, jam, instant mash, washing-up liquid, laundry tablets, shaving gel and nappies – size 3&4.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Nature: A Testimony to God's Generosity

God's Generosity

If we'd just spend time with Nature, we'd hear it speak of the *limitless generosity* of God. It would say: 'come and see the prolific array of flowers and shrubs and trees I want to show you, as well as the marvelous variety in their size and colour and shape. See also the lavishness of God's creation in the chaotic proliferation of growth and colour and wildness that's all round you. Look closely, too, at the simple beauty in the multiple shades of green that form a backdrop to Nature's display.

And take time to marvel at that most common-place, yet most beautiful, feature in Creation – *water*. See the superabundance of it in the oceans and lakes and rivers of the world. See all the lovely improvisations it makes as it strives to show itself to us in all its elegance and splendour – either flowing as a gentle stream through wooded countryside on its way to the sea, or leaping triumphantly in clouds of spray as it crashes against a tall cliff, or thundering over the Victoria Falls into a ravine nearly 400 feet below, or tranquilly running back and forth in little wavelets as it plays on the seashore.'

As Wordsworth says, 'Nature is never spent'; it never tires of wanting to please us. Its innate growth-process shows it as ever changing, ever-striving to renew itself, so that it can show itself to us in endlessly new ways. We may ignore or abuse it or use it for our own selfish interests, but it doesn't seem to mind – it just keeps on giving. And like its Creator, it never seems to take offence; it's always straining to express itself in ever more profuse and imaginative ways.

Nature, then, tells us of a God who just *can't stop giving*; his very being is reckless, uncontrollable self-givingness. And God's giving is not just to the worthy and the deserving; it's without preference or discrimination. It's a love that causes the rain and sun to come down 'on good and bad alike'.

Nature's indiscriminating generosity gives a clear hint of what our human world can be, and is meant to be. And if we'd take its message into our hearts and let it dwell there, it would, in time, bring about a radical change in us. It would take us way beyond our puny, calculating way of loving into the lavish self-givingness of God himself. It would lead us to the practice of a love that can never say 'enough', a love that is wholly unstinting, without measure or limit.

Have a good week Fr Frank.