

## ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

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## NEWSLETTER

**Sunday 21st February 2021**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

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](mailto: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.

Obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been suspended during this pandemic. Through the hard work of Anthony and Pamela, we have 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 20th Feb.	Private Intention	Wed 24th Feb.	People of the Parish
Sun 21st Feb. 11am - online	Michael Cadwallader RIP	Thu 25th Feb.	Frank Stack RIP
Mon 22nd Feb.	Donor's Intention	Fri 26th Feb.	Thomas & Mary Mulvihill RIP
Tue 23rd Feb.	Fr. Michael Dillon RIP		

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

**REOPENING FOR LIVE MASS:** We will be reopening for live Mass in the Hall next weekend – February 27th/28th. Most of the other Churches in the area will have reopened by then and we feel it is right to do so. Of course, we will still have the precautions we had prior to lockdown. We will have Mass as usual at 6.00pm on Saturdays and at 9.30am on Sundays. We will be continuing with our online Mass on Sundays as usual. The obligation to attend live Sunday Mass has been dispensed with for the present.

We are especially grateful to the stewards who have agreed to continue with the stewarding. Without their cooperation reopening would not be possible.

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY:** CAFOD Family Fast Day will be on Friday, February 26th. This year, CAFOD is focussing on helping the vast numbers of people throughout the world, and especially on Ethiopia, for whom such a basic necessity as clean drinking water is extremely difficult – many must walk up to 10 miles to find it. Your prayers and donations for such people would be greatly appreciated and would be an excellent way of engaging in the Lenten spirit.

You can donate online at [cafod.org.uk/lent](http://cafod.org.uk/lent) or by using one of the CAFOD envelopes which will be available in the Hall when we open for live Masses shortly. Donations can also be made by phoning 0303 303 3030.

**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.

**LAY CHAPLAIN AT ST. JOHN'S, BEAUMONT:** St. John's, Beaumont preparatory school for boys aged between 3 and 13 is looking to appoint a Lay Chaplain who will have primary responsibility for the day-to-day Christian life of the St. John's Beaumont community. The person appointed to the post will need to have diverse skills and interests, underpinned by an active and well-articulated Faith which accords with the life and teaching of the Catholic Church.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Lent is a time for taking stock of how we are living the Christian life. Last week we said that the main obstacle is selfishness in its many forms, and that the means towards minimising the influence of selfishness is what spiritual authors call 'detachment'. Today we'll look briefly at what is probably the main area where we need to be detached – the area of money, and what money can buy.

In no way, does the New Testament say that money is evil in itself – how could it be, when we all need money for our survival and well-being and the support of our families? But the danger with money is that it can be addictive – the more I have the more I want. Very seldom do you hear a wealthy person say, 'I have enough, I don't need any more'! Indeed, with some, money can take over their lives completely, and the accumulation of it becomes their whole purpose in living.

What the Gospel asks of us is not that we renounce money, but that we renounce a possessive way of having it. In other words, we need to be detached from it. It's possible to have just a few thousand pounds and be lacking in detachment and, on the other hand, I can be a millionaire and yet be detached. What's of crucial importance is my attitude. Towards all my possessions – money included – I must cultivate an attitude of open-handedness, of generosity. If God is the source and owner of all I have, I'll see all my possessions as mine by gift, and not by right. Viewing my possessions in this light, I'll see myself as a steward, not the owner of all I have. And God wants me to be a just steward; he wants me to provide generously for my personal and domestic needs, but what I have in excess I must use not to feed my own selfish instinct but to share with my fellow human beings, so that we can all live equitable and peacefully in the family of God.

While this is a utopian ideal we can hardly expect to achieve, we must recognise it as a standard to aim at, and at the same time, be kind to ourselves - and learn to be patient with our inability ever to reach the ideal.

***Have a good week, Fr Frank.***