

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's
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OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON



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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 7th March 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

NO LIVE MASS THIS WEEKEND

There will be no live Masses this weekend. But **we will begin live Masses again as from next week**, beginning with Mass, as usual, at **6.00pm on Saturday March 13th and Sunday at 9.30am**. Masses will be in the Hall.

No one should feel under pressure or obligation to come to a live Mass – please come if you wish.

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

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 6 th Mar.	People of the Parish	Tue 9 th Mar.	Walter Stanley RIP
Sun 7 th Mar. 11am Online	People of the Parish	Wed 10 th Mar.	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Mon 8 th Mar.	Penny Ramsey	Thu 11 th Mar.	Frank Stack RIP
		Fri 12 th Mar.	Michael Cadwallader RIP

CAFOD COLLECTION: We continue to hold the CAFOD collection throughout the weeks of Lent. This year, CAFOD is focussing on helping the vast numbers of people throughout the world, and especially in Ethiopia, for whom such a basic necessity as clean drinking water is extremely difficult to come by. 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.

Those who wish to donate can put their donation in the CAFOD envelope which is available near the entrance to the Hall. Those who do not come to a live Mass can put it in an envelope and drop it in the letter box in the priest's house. If you wish, you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/lent. Donations can also be made by phoning 0303 303 3030.

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.

A LIFELINE FOR MARRIAGES: Is your Marriage stressed, unloving, cold? Do you want to improve communication? Have you separated, divorced or are you thinking of doing so? Do you want to try again?

The RETROUVAILLE PROGRAMME may be just what you need!

For Information tel. or text 0788-729-6983 or 0797-338-0433

Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com www. retrouvaille.org.uk

100 CLUB WINNERS: Congratulations to Elizabeth Forsyth and Monaliza Cadwallader who have each won £100 in the draw for January and February 2021. We have some vacancies in the 100 Club, so if you would like to join, the subscription is £1 per week, that is £52 per year, please email Pamela Bailey via office@staugstines.org.uk.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

We continue during Lent to look at the key notion of ‘detachment’ as a means of coming closer to Christ. We look today at another area of our lives where we need detachment – the area of our feelings or emotions.

For most of us, our Christian upbringing taught us that law and reason were the key elements in determining how we should act. Our feelings were seen as a source of temptation and sin. This view was common in devotional piety, but it was never the orthodox Christian view. The Christian view is that feelings are good; they are gifts from God and part of our nature. However, we know from experience how easily we can let feelings become little dictators and control our lives. This is where the problem lies. If we let this happen, our lives will become undisciplined, irresponsible, and morally unstable. We’ll be like a house built on sand, lacking the solid moral foundation to protect us against the attacks of the evil influences around us.

We need to be especially aware of this in our post-modernist age where there’s little censorship of feelings, where ‘wants’ or preferences can easily become ‘needs’. We must be on our guard against what Pope Benedict calls a ‘culture of relativism’ that dulls our conscience and encourages a subtle slide into a lax and morally irresponsible way of life. To counteract this, we need firm resolve and discipline, as well, of course, as prayer. We must be ready to resist much of what our contemporary culture is suggesting and let the values of the Gospel constantly challenge our way of life. It’s only then that I’m free – free to be the person that, as a Christian, I’ve chosen to be.

However, as we’ve said, feelings are good and if we constantly suppress them, our lives will become dour and will fail to radiate the joy of the Gospel. This distinction between controlling feelings and suppressing them is a fine one and asks for what Pope Francis calls discernment. This discernment process might lead us to ask questions like: ‘over a period of time do I sense a creeping tendency to lower my moral standards? Am I becoming more undisciplined in my work? Am I becoming more reluctant to put myself out for others? Am I letting my feelings get in the way of my responsibilities, of my wish to do the most loving thing in every situation?’

Have a good week, Fr Frank.