

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's
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Parish Priest: Fr. Frank McAuliffe
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OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON

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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 28th March 2021

PALM SUNDAY

Live Masses this weekend. Masses will: **6.00pm on Saturday** and **Sunday at 9.30am**. Masses will be in the Hall.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 27 th Mar. 6.00 pm	Sheila Green RIP	Tue 30 th Mar.	Walter Stanley RIP
Sun 28 th Mar. 9.30 am	Jack Wilson RIP	Wed 31 st Mar.	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 28 th Mar. 11 am (Online)	People of the Parish	Thurs 1 st Apr. 6.00 pm	Bishop & Priests of the Diocese
Mon 29 th Mar.	Frank Stack	Fri 2 nd Apr.	No Mass

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.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Jan Frederickson. Contact: safeguarding@staugustines.org.uk

BRITISH SUMMER TIME: Please can we remind you that this Sunday (28th March) is the start of British Summer Time, and so the **clocks will go forward one hour** on Sunday morning. Please remember, we'd be sorry not to see you at Mass.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S ONLINE SERVICES: Fr. Frank will, as usual hold an online Mass at 11am on Sundays. There will be an online Mass for Palm Sunday at 11am on Sunday 28th March, and for Easter Sunday at 11am on Sunday 4th April 2021. The invitations to join the Masses are emailed to the Parish distribution list on the Thursday afternoon before the weekend.

LIVESTREAMING OF EASTER SERVICES FROM THE DIOCESE: For those who are unable to attend Masses and the Good Friday service in person in St. Augustine's Hall this week, it is possible to watch Bishop David officiating at services at the Cathedral in Northampton. These services will be livestreamed. To watch a service please go to the Diocesan website.

www.northamptondiocese.org

and then click on the link on the home page to "*Live Streamed Mass and other Services.*"

The times of the Services are: 11am Palm Sunday, 7pm Holy Thursday, 3pm Good Friday, 7pm Holy Saturday, and 11am Easter Sunday.

HOLY WEEK

Because of Covid restrictions the Easter Ceremonies are simplified this year. Despite the subdued nature of the Celebrations this year, we should remember that Holy Week is the highlight celebration of the Church's year, when we celebrate the Death/Resurrection of Christ. So, we would encourage as many as possible to attend – either (preferably) the Live Ceremonies or, if you have reservations about this, the Online Ceremonies. The Schedule for the week is as follows:

Palm Sunday, March 28th

Live Masses on Saturday and Sunday as usual. The Blessing of Palms will take place during both Mass. Online Mass is as usual.

Holy Thursday.

Mass of the Lord's Last Supper is at 6.00pm. No procession at end of Mass. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Hall for a short period after Mass, for those who wish to remain.

Good Friday.

Stations of the Cross in the Hall at 12.00 noon.

Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord at 3.00pm. Opportunity for short adoration of the Cross during the ceremony. No online Service.

Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil Mass.

The Easter Vigil Mass is in the Hall at 7.00pm. During it we renew our Baptismal Promises and bless Easter Water.

Easter Sunday

Live Mass in the Hall at 9.30am

Online Mass at 11.00am

BOOKINGS FOR EASTER VIGIL AND EASTER SUNDAY MASSES

As there will likely be a good number for the Masses on Easter Sunday and the Easter Vigil on Saturday, we will be taking bookings for these Masses. If you wish to book for either of these Masses, please contact Monica Taylor 01784 482560 any day this coming week from Monday to Saturday from 12 noon to 2 pm.

EASTER OFFERTORY FOR FR. FRANK: By tradition, the offertory we give each Christmas and Easter Sunday is our personal donation to our Priest Fr. Frank as a thank you for his devotion and service to us in our Parish. We recognize that the current situation means that not everyone will be able to attend Mass in person on Holy Saturday for the Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday.

To enable Parishioners to be able to easily contribute to the Easter Offertory, we propose the following:

- Any offertory, whether loose or in envelopes, placed in the buckets in St. Augustine's Hall on Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday will be Easter Offertory for Fr. Frank.
- If you visit the Hall prior to, or after Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday, please place your Easter Offertory for Fr. Frank in an envelope marked "Easter Offertory", before placing it in the buckets in the Hall. If you do not have your own envelope, a supply of envelopes will be available on the tables by the entrance to the Hall.
- If you are unable to visit the Hall, please post an envelope marked "Easter Offertory" through the letterbox of Fr. Frank's home. Alternatively, you can post your envelope through the letterbox of our Treasurer, Michael Reynolds.
- All Easter Offertory, like normal offertory must be paid into the Parish Bank Account. Therefore, if you write a cheque please make it payable to **ST. AUGUSTINE'S**.

Thank you.

FOODBANK: The Foodbank has reopened for donations after a short period of closure. The need is still very great, and we would ask you to be as generous as you can. Please leave your items outside the priest's door as usual – at any time.

Note: If you handed in items during the past month, they will be brought to the Foodbank shortly.

100 CLUB: Congratulations to Helen Niffikeer who has won £100 in the March 2021 100 Club Draw. The draw was made recently by Fr. Frank in St. Augustine's Hall. There are currently some vacancies in the 100 Club. If you wish to join, please email office@staugustines.org.uk. The subscription is £1 per week, i.e., £52 per year.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – SUMMARY OF A REVIEW OF POPE FRANCIS' LATEST BOOK: *LET US DREAM*

Pope wrote his latest book, *Let us Dream*, during lockdown. During the first phase of the pandemic, the Pope wrote: 'This is a moment to think big, to rethink our priorities – what we value, what we want, what we seek – and commit to act in our daily life on what we dreamed of'.

The Covid crisis has unveiled what Pope Francis calls 'the myth of self-sufficiency' which excuses inequalities and is blind to the ties that bind societies together. The virus has shown our mutual dependence and our shared vulnerability. The focus on front-line workers was marked by applause each week in recognition of their essential service – which for so long has gone unrecognised. We realised how dependent we are as a society on people from overseas to keep essential services going. 'They are the saints next door, who have awoken something in our hearts ...the antibodies to the virus of indifference'.

The Pope keeps reminding us that our lives are a gift. We grow by giving ourselves to the poor and the lonely – which is the core theme of '*Let us Dream*'. During lockdown he saw the glimmerings of a new empathy born out of sudden isolation and restricted movements. This may awaken us to the plight of the forgotten, the excluded and the mistreated. He refers to the 'pandemics of hunger, violence and climate change'. We must let ourselves be taken out of comfort zone by these, as well as by COVID. In a memorable quote he writes: 'we have to let ourselves be touched by other's pain'.

Have a good week. Fr Frank