

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's
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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 16th May 2021

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Live Masses this weekend will be at **6.00pm on Saturday** and **9.30am on Sunday**.
Masses will be held in St. Augustine's 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.

Private Prayer: St. Augustine's Church will be open for Private Prayer each weekday, **Monday to Friday from 12.00 noon to 12.30pm.**

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY: This weekend we mark the occasion of World Communications Day. The theme for 2021, chosen by Pope Francis, echoes the words of the Apostle Philip, recognising that authentic communications leads to "encountering people as and where they are". A second collection will be taken for World Communication this weekend.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 15th May 6pm	Rosie d'Mello	Tue 18th May	John William Burchell RIP
Sun 16th May 9.30am	People of the Parish	Wed 19th May	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 16th May 11am	Private Intention	Thu 20th May	Society Intention
Mon 17th May	Basil d'Mello RIP	Fri 21st May	Private Intention

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

MONTH OF MARY: During this month of Mary, Pope Francis wants us to join with the Marian Shrines throughout the world in honouring Mary and asking her intervention on behalf of all those who have been affected, in one way or another, by the pandemic. Let us pray especially for the work of the scientists that God will bless their work towards discovering vaccines that will eventually eliminate the threat of the virus.

We pray particularly for the people of India. We ask God that there will be a more equitable distribution of the vaccines throughout the world, and that the poor, especially, will see the benefits of it.

FOODBANK: The Foodbank has sent the Parish a letter of thanks for all the donations we have made to the foodbank. This is on the last page of this Newsletter. It still has an urgent need for donations, as the need is still very great, and we would ask you to be as generous as you can. The food items they need are: Long Life Milk, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Meat, Tinned Vegetables (but NOT sweetcorn), Long Life Fruit Juice, Long Life Sponge Puddings, Long Life Rice Pudding and Tinned Spaghetti. Toiletries required are Razors and Deodorant. Also Strong Carrier Bags.

Please DO NOT DONATE PASTA OR BAKED BEANS, as they have 12 months' supply. Please leave your items outside the priest's door as usual – at any time.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY – LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS: The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) is part of an international Christian voluntary network dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms by providing practical assistance to people in need. Members, motivated by their faith, visit vulnerable or isolated people across England and Wales and offer them friendship and practical support. The essence of their work is person-to-person contact and spending time with people is their greatest gift. During this time of pandemic, their work has been more valuable than ever. Despite not being able to carry out personal visits, they have continued to contact people by phone and have been particularly concerned for the mental wellbeing of those in need.

We have merged the existing SVP Groups from each Parish within the Slough Pastoral Area to create one Slough Conference and are looking for volunteers who would be interested in joining to help those in need in our Parish and the surrounding areas. If you feel you could help with this very worthy cause or would like some more information, please contact the Parish office by email: office@staugustines.org.uk.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Fr. Damien: Martyr of Charity (continued from last week)

During his life on Molokai, Fr. Damian never flinched in his determination to help the outcasts of his day, and he single-handedly brought world-wide attention to the plight of leprosy patients, stirring up a renewed focus on finding a cure. Today, leprosy is a curable disease, but unfortunately many in our world, mainly in Africa and Asia still suffer from it. Indeed, my own cousin, Sr. Mairead, spent her entire missionary life in West Africa setting up leprosy clinics and hospitals. At his canonization in 2009, Pope Benedict said that Damien's heroism invites us all to open our eyes to the leprosy that disfigure the humanity of our brothers and sisters and that today still call not only for our generosity, but also for the charity of our saving presence. Damien gives example and inspiration to all of us today who are caught up in a worldwide pandemic. When he realised he had leprosy, Damien wrote 'I do not want to be cured if the price is my departure and the abandonment of my labours, and I will die in the same way and of the same sickness as my afflicted sheep'

St. Damien has much to teach us about reaching out, especially in a time of great crisis and uncertainty. He teaches us of trust in Divine providence, of devotion to the hearts of Jesus and Mary, of centring our life in the Eucharist and in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Mahatma Gandhi wrote 'the political and journalistic world can boast of few heroes who compare with Fr. Damien of Molokai'.



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6th May

THANK YOU!

St Augustine's and Our Lady of Sorrows Church

Dear Friends,

We would like to thank for your kind support and recent donation to Slough Foodbank. We received your donation during April which weighed a total of **130.1kg**. Each gift makes an enormous difference to families and individuals who are most in need in our local community.

To explain how your donation will help, approximately 10kg of essential food items and 1kg of toiletry items provide a single person with three days of emergency supplies.

Our prime function is to supply a three-day emergency food parcel to those who suddenly find themselves in an unexpected crisis. In addition to food, we also supply basic toiletries and household products, as well as nappies, baby wipes and pet food if required. However, our support does not stop there. Slough Foodbank also provides useful information to our clients about relevant specialist organisations that are able to help resolve any longer term problems our clients may have. By providing this package of support, we endeavour to offer a lasting hand-up to help our clients make a positive move into the future.

Your support is needed now more than ever. Slough Foodbank statistics for 2020 show a shocking increase in the number of people needing help, with 37% more food parcels distributed versus 2019. A total of 6,533 food parcels.

We hope that you will continue to support Slough Foodbank. Should you wish to make another donation, please visit our website at www.slough.foodbank.org.uk/give-help where you will find our "shopping list" which includes all the items that we need most at this time. **We ask if you could kindly only donate the items specified on our shopping list.** It is also most helpful to receive small packs rather than in bulk.

With our gratitude and warm wishes

Becks Ford
Communications Officer
Slough Foodbank