

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 23rd May 2021

PENTECOST SUNDAY

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.**

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 22nd May 6pm	Kathleen Wall & family	Tue 25th May	Private Intention
Sun 23rd May 9.30am	People of the Parish	Wed 26th May	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 23rd May 11am	Private Intention	Thu 27th May	Society Intention
Mon 24th May	Private Intention	Fri 28th 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. As this period draws to a close, we encourage Parishioners to join Bishop David, who will lead us in reciting the rosary, which will conclude with Benediction on **Saturday 29th May at 3pm** in the Cathedral. To join this service please go to the Diocesan webpage <https://northamptondiocese.org/> and click on the link for Live Streamed Services.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: There will be a Parish Council Meeting in the Hall on Tuesday May 25th at 10.00am. As it is a long time since our last Meeting, we have a large Agenda. We ask you to pray that the Spirit will be with us to guide us in our deliberations as to the best way forward for our Parish.

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

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 at office@staugustines.org.uk.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Persecuted, wounded by scandals, maligned, and marginalised in many places, the Church - born at Pentecost – does not cease to be the Body of Christ, whose soul and animating principle is the Holy Spirit. Made up of sinners who are saints-in-the-making, the Church continues to be a holy presence in the world, witnessing to the transforming power of God, to the ongoing divine project of renewing the face of the earth.

This is especially obvious in Mission countries, such as Africa, where the Church has, from its beginning, made a huge contribution in the fields of education, health, and development, as well as preaching the Gospel of healing, liberation, and hope – especially to the poor. As a result, we are blessed by God in seeing a great increase in the power and influence of the Church in most countries, as well as a very rapid growth in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Today's readings give us glimpses of the multi-faceted work of the Holy Spirit. The first reading highlights the Spirit's work of creating unity out of diversity, allowing a message spoken in different tongues to be understood by all hearers. The second reading focuses on the Spirit's work of empowering us, believers, to live out our new identity as God's children. And the Gospel speaks of the Spirit as our internal teacher and activator of the memory of Jesus.

Have a good week. Fr Frank