

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's
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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 30th May 2021

THE MOSY HOLY TRINITY 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 29th May 6pm	Private Intention	Tue 1st June	Private Intention
Sun 30th May 9.30am	People of the Parish	Wed 2nd June	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 30th May 11am	Private Intention	Thu 3rd June	Society Intention
Mon 31st May	Private Intention	Fri 4th June	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 and Michael Torpey. Please pray also for those who are caring for them.

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.

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.

100 CLUB: Congratulations to Monica Taylor and Michael Torpey who each won £100 in the 100 Club draw for the months of April and May. There are currently vacancies in the 100 Club. If you wish to join, please email office@staugustines.org.uk The subscription is £1 per week.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: We held our first Parish Council Meeting in over a year on Tuesday. We had many issues to discuss, the main one being the re-opening of St. Augustine's and Our Lady of Sorrows and getting back to our pre-Covid schedule. All are very anxious that this would happen as soon as possible. While we remain hopeful, the re-opening date obviously depends on advice from the Government and the Diocese. We have called another meeting for June 22nd when we hope to have some clarity on the matter.

On other issues, we congratulate Anne Cannon for the way she has prepared four children from the parish for their First Confessions which we had at St. Augustine's on Saturday last. We plan that they will receive First Holy Communion in July. We also hope to baptise one from Eton around that time. The financial situation in the parish is sound, and we thank Michael Reynolds for the efficient manner in which he looks after our finances. There are many others – too numerous to mention- who make an important contribution to the running of the parish, especially over the past year – and to these we offer our sincere thanks.

Finally, a very special word of thanks to Pamela Bailey. She has asked to resign as chairperson, as her many other commitments were making her workload too heavy. But she has agreed to remain on as a member of the Parish Council and will continue with some of the many tasks she already has. These include looking after our website, our Office email, editing and distributing the newsletter, Civic Registrar of Marriages in the parish, organising the online Masses.

Ros Nockles will be our new chairperson, having been unanimously elected by the Parish Council. We thank her for generously accepting the post, despite her many other commitments. She will be in our prayers. We thank also the other members of the Parish Council and we do not forget Anthony Dias who has generously given of his time to continue facilitating our online Mass.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

If the doctrine of the Trinity is central to Christian faith, why has it had so little impact on our everyday lives. The reason lies in the language in which we learned, from our earliest years, to think and speak of God. Traditionally, God was seen as immutable being, far removed from the world of creaturely imperfection. God, we learned in catechism class, could not be affected by anything that happens in the world.

This kind of thinking can make God appear remote or distant from us. But this is not the God revealed in the Bible – the birthing God of Creation; the Spirit God drawing life out of chaos and enabling a universe of creatures to evolve and flourish; God the Word incarnate, taking on and reshaping our human history. God's closeness to us is particularly manifest in the life and ministry of Jesus. In Jesus, we meet a God who goes in search of men and women and rejoices when a lost son finds his way back to the house of his Father. The parable of the Prodigal Son portrays God as a loving Father who responds to human decisions and is affected by them. He is a passionate and compassionate God, capable of being deeply moved by the sufferings of his creatures.

If God is like this, then we are challenged to imitate this way of living in the way we related to others and to Creation. This means living in relationships of love and respect, not only for our fellow humans, but for all God's creatures with whom we share the gift of life. We are called to participate fully in the Trinitarian communion of Father, Son and Spirit through our loving communion with one another and, indeed, with all Creation. And, as members of the Church, we are called to be witnesses of this awesome destiny in a world thirsting for love.

Have a good week. Fr Frank