

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 6th June 2021

FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI

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 5 th June 6pm	Private Intention	Tue 8 th June	Private Intention
Sun 6 th June 9.30am	People of the Parish	Wed 9 th June	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 6 th June 11am	Private Intention	Thu 10 th June	Society Intention
Mon 7 th June	Private Intention	Fri 11 th 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, Michael Torpey and Sharon Westby. Please pray also for those who are caring for them.

FIRST CONFESSIONS (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION): We warmly congratulate the boys and girls who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday May 22nd. They are Ava de Freitas Gordinho, Brandon Smillie, Ben Petri-Woods, and Harry Petri-Woods. We congratulate their parents also who accompanied them during their preparations.

And a very special word of gratitude to Anne Cannon who has again this year used her vast experience and expertise to prepare them thoroughly for the Sacrament.

Let us keep them in our prayers as they prepare for the First Holy Communion which, we hope, will be in the not-too-distant future.

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. Please leave your items outside the priest's door as usual – at any time.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

The Mass and Calvary.

As we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi (The Body of Christ) we will, for the next few weeks, look at the meaning of the Eucharist and its significance.

The sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary is given an enduring presence through his institution of the Eucharist – ‘do this in memory of me’. In the Eucharist ‘we are drawn into the Jesus’ act of self-oblation’ (Pope Benedict). When we participate in the Mass we are participating in *the dynamic of Christ’s self-giving’* love. Our participation, then, challenges us to make our own the disposition of Christ on Calvary, as he gives himself for the salvation of the world.

As Risen, Christ is now with his Father, in an *eternally actual state of self-givingness* for the world. Fully authentic participation in the Eucharist, then, is both an act of thanks to God for his love *and* an entering into Risen Christ’s on-going work of bringing the world together in love. It is both a *privilege* and *responsibility*. It is the *privilege* of participating, as a member of the ‘Body of Christ’, in the action of Christ on Calvary. But this privilege presents us with the *responsibility* of perpetuating this action of self-givingness in our own lives.

Since the Mass is an act of public worship, it is important to prepare well for the different rituals of the Mass e.g. readings, singing, preparation of the Church and altar etc. A well-rehearsed liturgy can make the Mass beautiful and uplifting, and to be casual about it would be disrespectful both to God and to the community. But ritual is not the key factor in the celebration. No matter how organized it is, if there is little evidence of self-sacrificing love among the participants, or if there is no real effort towards harmony and reconciliation, the Eucharist is merely an external affair that may edify but lacks the essential requirement for genuine Christian worship which is essentially an affair of the heart - love of God and of neighbour.

Have a good week. Fr Frank