

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 13th June 2021

11th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

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 12 th June 6pm	People of the Parish	Tue 15 th June	Private Intention
Sun 13 th June 9.30am	Tom Davern RIP	Wed 16 th June	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 13 th June 11am	Private Intention	Thu 17 th June	Private Intention
Mon 14 th June	Bill Henry RIP	Fri 18 th June	Private Intention

SICK OF THE PARISH: Please pray for the sick in the Parish, especially James Ansell, Dorrie Keating, David Mendes, Fred Oufi, Michael Torpey and Sharon Westby. 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. Please leave your items outside the priest's door as usual – at any time.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK
(continued from last week)

The Eucharist: A Call to Communion.

The aspect of the Eucharist as an action of *the community* is central to our understanding of it. Pope Benedict says that, in the Eucharist, we become one not just with Christ in the Eucharistic species; we become one with the total Body of Christ. Maurice Zundel puts this even more forcefully. He depicts Christ as saying to us:

You will be able to come to Me only when you are together. You will be entitled to call Me only if you make but one body, my Mystical Body. There is no private liturgy, or communion. We never receive communion for ourselves ... we take part in the liturgy with the others and for the others.

Zundel points out that there's nothing new about this understanding of the Eucharist. Indeed, the great wonder is how we lost sight of it, in the first place, because *it was integral to the early Church's understanding of the Eucharist*. He brings us back to the New Testament writings to show this. We'll mention only two.

Firstly, there is the most original of New Testament account of the early Christian community coming together for the Eucharist *in 1 Cor. 11:17ff*. Here we see Paul's outrage at the factions and disunity that some people cause at the Eucharist. The specific point of his outrage is that the key sign of Christ's Eucharistic presence – unity, equality, reciprocal self-giving – is so blatantly contradicted by those who come to the Eucharist to cause division and confusion. This disunity makes a mockery of the Eucharist.

Then there is *Acts 2: 42-47*, which gives a description of the Eucharist shortly after Christ's resurrection. It was an act of thankful remembrance for Christ's death and resurrection, and of his presence among them. It was seen as *essential* that the Eucharist take place only within the setting of communion. This communion is not limited to those present at the Eucharist; it extends to all, and especially the poor. Stressing the latter, Benedict writes:

love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to [the Church] as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching the Gospel. The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word. (27). He points to the First Letter of John to emphasize this truth:

If a man who was rich enough in this world's goods
Saw that one of this brothers were in need,
But closed his heart to him,
How could the love of God be living in him? (1 John 3:17).

Have a good week. Fr Frank