

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 20th June 2021

12th 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 19 th June 6pm	Leslie Ann Goodson RIP	Tue 22 nd June	Sharon Westby
Sun 20 th June 9.30am	Walter Stanley RIP	Wed 23 rd June	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 20 th June 11am	People of the Parish	Thu 24 th June	Estriana Drummond RIP
Mon 21 st June	Private Intention	Fri 25 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, Sharon Westby, John Blades. Please pray also for those who are caring for them.

Please remember especially in your prayers Fr. Sean Rynn. He had a stroke some time ago and seemed at first to be responding to treatment, but now finds that his left leg is paralysed, and he is unable to walk. If you wish to send greetings to Fr. Sean you can address your card to ST. PATRICK'S, KILTEGAN, CO. WICKLOW, IRELAND.

SLOUGH FOODBANK: Our Parish received a lovely 'Thank You' letter from Slough Foodbank. It is rather long, and the following is a summary.

"We would like to thank you for your support and recent donation to Slough Foodbank. We received your donation during May which weighed a total of 70kg. Each gift makes an enormous difference to families and individuals who are most in need.

Our prime function is to supply a 3-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."

Your support is needed now more than ever. Statistics for 2020 show a shocking increase in the number of people needing help – up 37% from 2019. So we hope you will continue to support us. We would ask that you kindly donate only the items specified on our shopping list. These items are: LONG-LIFE MILK, TINNED FRUIT, TINNED MEAT, TINNED VEGETABLES (NOT SWEETCORN), LONG-LIFE FRUIT JUICE, LONG-LIFE SPONGE PUDDINGS, LONG-LIFE RICE PUDDING, TINNED SPAGHETTI, TOILETRIES AND BASIC ITEMS SUCH AS RAZORS, DEODORANT, STRONG CARRIER BAGS’.

ONLINE MASSES: We will be ending our online streaming of Mass as from Sunday June 27th. There will be an online Mass on the 27th.

We would like to offer a very special word of thanks to Anthony Dias who has, for over a year, has generously given of his time and expertise to facilitate the online Mass. The Mass has been of great benefit to our parish, especially during the time when Masses were not allowed in parishes.

And special thanks also to Pamela Bailey who, during that time, took on the task of organising Readers for the Masses, composed the Prayers of the Faithful, and looked after the distribution list. May God reward you both for their generosity.

**THOUGHT OF THE WEEK
(THE Eucharist - continued)**

Eucharist as a Challenge

The Mass is still seen by many as a kind of ‘spiritual exercise’ that Catholics must regularly attend so as to avoid sin. The phrase ‘attending Mass’ is significant; it suggests a kind of mechanical ritual, the attendance at which will automatically keep us in good standing with God.

It is certainly good that people come to Mass, but gradually we must be brought to understand that the Eucharist *challenges us to a conversion of heart and life-style* – especially, how it calls us to an ever-deepening level of charity in our lives. We remember Jesus’s words: ‘if you are bringing your gift to the altar and then remember your brother (sister) has something against you, go and first be reconciled with your brother/sister’ (Matthew 5: 23-24). It is not possible to participate authentically in the Eucharist unless, in our lives, there is a serious effort to move away from a self-centered life-style towards an ever-deepening level of loving

As to the specifics of loving, Christian charity calls us to much more than common decency in our dealings with others. It asks for a radically uprooting of selfishness. It also asks that we be ready to reach out to the wounded and marginalized *in our own communities* – more sensitive to the loneliness, the fears, the anxieties of those we are living with. It involves what that great Anglican theologian, Evelyn Underhill, calls:

the immense expansion of personality effected by the love of God in us. Overflowing the barriers of preference, passing beyond all judgments of whether the other is likeable or worthy of our love, agape mediates the divine pity and generosity to good and bad alike, to every mesh and corner of creation’.

Underhill goes on to say:

The fully Christian life is a Eucharistic life; that is, a natural life conformed to the pattern of Jesus ... laid on His altar as a sacrifice of love, and consequently transformed by His inpouring life, to be used to give life and food to other souls ... ‘You are the body of Christ,’ said St. Augustine to his communicants. That is to say, in you and through you the work of the Incarnation must go forward. You are to be taken, consecrated, broken and made ... vehicles of the Eternal Charity.

Have a good week. Fr Frank