

## ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

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## OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON

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## NEWSLETTER

Sunday 4th July 2021

### 14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

Live Masses this weekend will be at 6pm on Saturday, and 9.30am and 11am on Sunday. The Masses will be held in St Augustine's Hall. There will not be an online Mass.

**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 3rd July 6pm	Private Intention	Tue 6th July	Private Intention
Sun 4th July 9.30am	People of the Parish	Wed 7th July	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 4th July 11am	Pat Mulvihill RIP	Thu 8th July	Private Intention
Mon 5th July	Private Intention	Fri 9th July	Private Intention

**SICK OF THE PARISH:** Please pray for the sick in the Parish, especially James Ansell, John Blades, Dorrie Keating, David Mendes, Judy de Monte, Fred Oufi, Michael Torpey, and Sharon Westby. Please pray also for those who are caring for them.

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

**SLOUGH FOODBANK:** 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. Please continue to support the Foodbank with your donations. The Foodbank asks that you kindly donate only the items specified on their 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.

**CAFOD'S WALK FOR WATER:** CAFOD wishes to thank those 2,000 people who walked 500,000 miles in the 'Walk for Water' during Lent. They raised over £640,000 in aid of Water Poverty in the world.

**LIVE & ONLINE MASSES:** We have now ceased holding an online streaming of Mass each Sunday. From this weekend forward we will hold Masses at 6pm on a Saturday and at 9.30am and 11am on a Sunday. These Masses will be held in St. Augustine's Hall until such time as the social distancing restrictions are lifted and we can return to holding Masses in our Churches of Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Augustine's.

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, produced the Prayers of the Faithful, and looked after the distribution list. May God reward you both for their generosity.

#### ***THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK***

In today's Gospel reading we are told that 'most of the people in the synagogue were astonished'. 'Astonished' is an understatement. The Greek verb is *scandalon* which is the English equivalent of scandalised. It is suggested that it was not so his humble upbringing as the message Jesus was preaching that scandalised the people.

Jesus is a source of scandal because his message is very different from the legalism of the pharisees, because it is challenging and unsettling to whatever is narrow, self-centred and greedy in humanity. Today it would be fair to say that Jesus is no longer a source of scandal for unbelievers because most people ignore him and see his message as outdated and irrelevant for the so-called 'liberated society' that we are seeking today.

We cannot ignore that the fact that the Church has become a stumbling block to Faith. Scandals of all kinds, whether they are about money or sex or whatever, are plain to see. One of the sad consequences of this is that we have come to identify Christ with the Church. But Christ is not the institutional Church. True, he has founded the Church, but often we, its leaders and members, have failed lamentably in our lifestyle to show the true face of Christ and his true Church to the world.

This is indeed the sad reality. But often people today use the scandals as an excuse for abandoning their relationship with Christ, and the huge challenges to their lifestyle this brings. One feels they leave Christ not primarily because of the scandals, but because they are scandalised by the message of Christ which they find unsettling – because it portrays the ideal society that most of us secretly admire, but few are ready to follow.

**Fr. Frank**

***Have a good week. Fr Frank***