

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's
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DATCHET
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OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON

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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 17th October 2021

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

WEEKEND MASSES: St. Augustine's Church: 6pm on Saturdays and 11am on Sundays.
Our Lady of Sorrows: 9.30am on Sundays.

WEEKDAY MASSES: 9.30am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

We would ask those attending to observe the usual protocol regarding wearing of masks, social distancing, and hand sanitising, track and trace (for those who do not come regularly).

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 16 th 6.00pm	Martin Frank McMahon RIP	Tue 19 th 9.30am	Private Intention
Sun 17 th 9.30am	People of the Parish	Wed 20 th 9.30am	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 17 th 11.00am	Private Intention	Thu 21 st 9.30am	Society Intention
Mon 18 th	NO SERVICE	Fri 22 nd 9.30am	Private Intention

SICK OF THE PARISH: Please pray for the sick in the Parish, especially James Ansell, Maria Cordosa, Dorrie Keating, David Mendes, Judy de Monte, Fred Oufi, Nino Puma, Michael Torpey and Roger Stewart. Please pray also for those who are caring for them.

VOLUNTEERS FOR READINGS: We have a shortage of readers for the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses at St Augustine's. We would be very grateful if you would agree to volunteer. We will commission the new volunteers as soon as possible.

ALTAR SERVERS: We hope to begin shortly a few training sessions for the new Altar Servers, both for St Augustine's and Our Lady of Sorrows. Would anyone who wishes to join the list, please give their names as soon as possible.

MISSIO BOXES: If you have Red Missio Boxes in your home would you please bring them to Church this weekend. Many thanks for your generosity towards this valuable work over the years.

WEDDING: Congratulations to Jenna Houlth and David Boot-Handford who celebrated their wedding at Our Lady of Sorrows on Friday October 8th. We in the Parish wish them God's blessing and many years of happiness in their married life.

SLOUGH FOODBANK The CURRENT WISH LIST IS:

FOOD. Long Life Milk, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Meat (stewed steak, mince, chicken in sauce), Jam, Long life Fruit Juice, Long Life sponge puddings, Coffee (small jars), Pasta Sauce.

TOILETRIES AND BASIC ITEMS: Razors, deodorants, washing up liquid, Strong Carrier bags, Shampoo

THE FORTHCOMING SYNOD OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH: The Church of God is convoking a Synod. The opening ceremony took place last Sunday in the Vatican. The opening of the Synod in our Diocese takes place today (this Sunday), with a livestreamed service at 3.00pm. Each diocese and parish is asked to play its part in this very important initiative of Pope Francis. A principal aim of the Synod is to get the parish together and listen to each other, so that we can, collectively, discover what the Spirit is asking of us in our mission to renew and strengthen the Faith in our parish/diocese. Bishop David has asked that a special prayer be said before the final blessing at each Mass for the success of the Synod. We will prepare a copy of this prayer for each parishioner and will distribute it next weekend.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

DETACHMENT FROM FEELINGS (continued)

We continue this week with our theme of detachment, examining certain instinctual modes of behaviour that draw us away from our commitment to Christ. Having looked at how material possessions and selfish ambition can cause this, we will look now at how our *feelings or emotions* can alienate us from God.

In the past, Christian teaching told us that feelings were to be mistrusted; they were seen as a source of temptation and sin, and must be suppressed if we want to live a life of virtue. This view was common in devotional piety but it was never the orthodox Christian view. Feelings are gifts from God and should be refined and developed. Presenting feelings as sinful is a fertile breeding ground for scrupulosity, some of us may know from experience

However, while this is true, experience tells us how easily we can let our lives be *controlled* by our feelings. This is especially the case in our present-day culture. Society today tells us that if we *feel* like doing something, it is right to do it. Neither God nor religion nor tradition have any right to tell us how we should live. We must rid ourselves of the legacy of an outdated past and learn to *be free*. This is a dangerous trend; it gives birth to a society that is selfish and irresponsible.

To counteract this, we need to be people of principle, of strong and independent character. We must reject much of what contemporary society is telling us, and let the noble values of the Gospel dictate our way of life. It's only then that we'll be *truly free*, – free to be the people that, as followers of Christ, we have chosen to be.

But, at the same time, we mustn't become scrupulous, and deny the legitimacy of acting, at times, according to our feelings. If we always suppress our feelings our lives will be overly-driven by duty. They will become dour and stoical; they won't radiate the joy of the Gospel. The issue here is a delicate one and calls for honest discernment. This discernment process might lead me to ask questions like: 'over a period of time do I sense a creeping tendency to lower my standards? Am I becoming more undisciplined in my work? Am I becoming more and more fond of my comfort zone? Am I letting my feelings get in the way of my responsibilities, or of my free choice to do the most loving thing in every situation?

Fr. Frank

Have a good week. Fr Frank