

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's
70 Eton Road
DATCHET
SL3 9AY



Parish Priest: Fr. Frank McAuliffe
Telephone: 01753 917030

Safeguarding: Jan Fredrickson

OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON

Our Lady of Sorrows
1 Eton Court, Eton,
WINDSOR
SL4 6BY



Email: office@staugustines.org.uk
Website: www.staugustines.org.uk

Email: safeguarding@staugustines.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 16th January 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Year C)

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).

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION): Saturdays 12.30pm to 1pm, St. Augustine's.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 15th 6.00pm	Pamela Weston RIP	Tue 18th 9.30am	Special Intention
Sun 16th 9.30am	Walter Stanley RIP	Wed 19th 9.30am	Fernandes Family
Sun 16th 11am	Fr Leo Flynn RIP	Thu 20th 9.30am	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Mon 17th	No Mass	Fri 21st 9.30am	Jim Fitzpatrick RIP

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

VISIT OF BISHOP OAKLEY

We welcome Bishop David to the parish this coming weekend (January 22/23). The bishop will speak at all the Masses and I am sure he would like to meet as many parishioners as possible during his short visit.

With this in mind, we will have a small reception for him in the Parish Hall after the 11.00am Mass on Sunday, 23rd. We will have light refreshments and we hope that many will come to give him a warm welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Would anyone who wishes to have their child enrolled please get in touch with the Parish as soon as possible.

THE SYNOD

Many thanks to all who are willing to be involved in our Synod conversations which will begin this week. It is recommended that we meet in small groups of 6 or 7 for perhaps 3 to 4 weeks. We will begin this week with one group on Tuesday, one on Wednesday and one on Thursday. The meetings will be in the Parish Hall at 7pm. A good number have said they will attend, and an email has been sent to each person informing them whether they have been allocated a place in the Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday group. We warmly welcome anyone who has not yet decided whether they wish to participate. **Should you wish to join, please let us know either by phone or email and mention the evening that would best suit you.**

Our Synod conversations will be concerned with Parish matters and also with matters concerning the Universal Church.

We recognise the importance of this Synod. We wish and pray that it will bring about a much-needed renewal in order to make our Church more attractive and more relevant to the needs of the present time.

SLOUGH FOODBANK: Because of the worsening economic situation in the country many families are experiencing serious financial problems. We make a special appeal to you again today to be as generous as you can towards our Foodbank. We thank the Foodbank and its volunteers for the valuable service they are giving to those who are in dire need at this time.

The CURRENT WISH LIST for the Slough Foodbank 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.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Synodal Dialogue

We reflected last week on the art of listening graciously. We will continue with our reflection this week.

A crucial element in listening is respecting the other person. Just because she/he has not the same views as I have, he/she is often seen as a rival. But she/he is not – she/he is just different. And we must give him/her permission to be different. We must try to enter his/her world and see the issue from her/his point of view.

In responding, this respect must be uppermost in our minds. If I have a different view I should, in the interest of truth, express it – but not in an arrogant and overly-assertive way, but humbly - as just my opinion. On this point, St. Paul gives very good advice; he tells us to ‘speak the truth in love’. Yes, speak the truth, but not in an angry or confrontational way or in a way that demeans the other. Often what causes friction or misunderstanding in a conversation is not what is said, but the way it is said.

Real synodal dialogue will happen only when we acknowledge that we are all different individuals, with different views, personalities, temperaments, backgrounds etc. Because of this, differences and tensions are inevitable. Growth towards being a genuine community depends on how we manage these. They are not necessarily barriers to a fruitful dialogue; on the contrary, they can be catalysts towards real community growth. What we seek in a genuine community is unity, not uniformity. The real test of a community is the way it manages diversity - not just tolerating it, but encouraging it. If we suppress diversity and insist only a bland unanimity, our community will lose its dynamism. And ever worse, we are opening the way to a subtle form of dictatorship. If that happens, members will experience only fear and apathy. They will either become alienated and leave, or become disillusioned and hostile.

This is why Pope Francis is so opposed to clericalism, and one feels that the main purpose of his calling of the Synod is the elimination of what he calls the ‘cancer of clericalism’. He is setting the framework for the emergence of a Church that is creative and fruitful, that is truly a community in the Spirit.