

## ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's  
70 Eton Road  
DATCHET  
SL3 9AY



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## OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON

Our Lady of Sorrows  
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## NEWSLETTER

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022

### SEVENTH 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  
*If anyone would like to chat about any issues they may be concerned with, they are welcome at this time.*

#### MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 19th 6.00pm	Gerry Spellman (ill)	Tue 22nd 9.30am	Doran Family RIP
Sun 20th 9.30am	People of The Parish	Wed 23rd 9.30am	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 20th 11am	David Mendes RIP	Thu 24th 9.30am	All who are alone or suffering
Mon 21st	No Mass	Fri 25th 9.30am	Special Intention

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

**DEATH:** Let us continue to pray for the repose of the soul of David Mendes who died peacefully in Wexham Park Hospital on Thursday 10th February. May he rest in peace. We pray also for his wife, Doris, and for his children, Danny and Deborah and their families. Let us ask God to console them, and help them draw comfort from the love and support they gave David over the last few years of his life. Funeral arrangements later.

**SLOUGH FOODBANK:** The foodbank in Slough tells us that, with the rising cost of living, our support is needed now more than ever. We would encourage you to continue being as generous as you can afford to.

**“Nourishing Our Spirits”** is the title of a seminar for Women. The Speaker is Dr. Judith Thomas. It is being held on Saturday 12th March 2022 from 9.30am until 12.30pm, at St. Joseph’s Parish Centre, St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, 36 Cookham Road, Maidenhead SL6 7EG. Car parking is available, and refreshments will be provided. The Seminar is free of charge, but registration is required. Please email Margaret Tackney, Seminar Administrator [margarettackney@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margarettackney@yahoo.co.uk)

### **SYNOD DISCUSSIONS**

We are very encouraged by the number who have come to our weekly conversations on the Synod. It is surely a sign that we have a deep interest in the future of the Church in our Parish and in the wider world. Our conversations have ended and we are now putting together the results of our conversations with a view to presenting them shortly to the Pastoral Deanery.

We greatly encourage anyone who may have his/her own suggestion to send it to the Office email within the next week and we will bring it to the deanery, together with our parish submission.

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – Friday 4th March at 2.30pm in St. Augustine’s**

This year, it is our turn to host the ecumenical World Day of Prayer in our Parish. It will take place on Friday, March 4th at 2.30pm. Using the Bible text from Jeremiah, ‘I have plans for you’, the special focus this year will be on some of the issues we are facing today – poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope in difficult situations, and encouragement in the help we can give one another. This is a Service for everyone.

As we are the hosts, we would like to see a very large turn-out of our parishioners.

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

There is a story from the ancient Desert Fathers which goes as follows: Some robbers came once to a hermitage and said: ‘we’ve come to take everything out of your cell’. The hermit said ‘take whatever you can see’. So they took what they found in the cell, and went away. But they missed a little bag that was hidden in a corner. The hermit picked it up and ran after them shouting: ‘my sons, you missed this; take it’. They were amazed at the action of the hermit and restored everything, and did penance before him. They said to each other: ‘this is truly a man of God’.

This little story exemplifies a perfect, literal fidelity to the words of Jesus. We find it delightful, and it makes us smile. We smile because although we find this hermit utterly admirable, it would never occur to us to imitate him. It is the same with other injunctions of Jesus in today’s gospel, like forgiveness of enemies. They seem utterly unreasonable, and yet our ‘better selves’, our redeemed selves, greatly admire them and find them hugely attractive. A great spiritual writer, Anthony Padovano, wrote these memorable words: ‘the most crippling heresy of our time is [not one of doctrine but] the denial of Jesus as normative in our lives’.

The purpose of reading today’s gospel is not to make us feel guilty, but to inspire us, and to re-ignite our desire for the real holiness to which Christ is calling us. We are at Mass today to express and nourish this desire by coming to Jesus and receiving him in the Eucharist. For ultimately, we will find the strength to achieve this kind of holiness only if we receive Jesus regularly in the Eucharist and learn to be deeply prayerful people.