

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's
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OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON

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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 27th February 2022

EIGHTH 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).

ASH WEDNESDAY: Wednesday 2nd March, 9.30am at St. Augustine's and 6.30pm at Our Lady of Sorrows.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Friday 4th March 2.30pm at St. Augustine's.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday during Lent immediately after the 9.30am Mass in St. Augustine's.

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 26th 6.00pm	Special Intention	Tue 1st 9.30am	Special Intention
Sun 27th 9.30am	Sr. Josephine Mary RIP	Ash Wed 2nd 9.30am	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 27th 11am	People Of The Parish	Ash Wed 2nd 6.30pm	Special Intention
Mon 28th	No Mass	Thu 3rd 9.30am	Special Intention
		Fri 4th 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.

MARRIAGE: Warm congratulations to Colm Queenan and Amanda Queenan from Datchet who had their marriage convalidated at St. Augustine's on Thursday, February 24th.

LENT: Next Wednesday, March 2nd is **Ash Wednesday** and the first day of Lent. We will have Masses on that day in **St. Augustines at 9.30am and at Our Lady of Sorrows at 6.30pm**. Ashes will be blessed and imposed at both Masses.

Wednesday is a day of Fast and Abstinence. All are encouraged to make this Lent a special one and to intensify our prayers for World Peace at this critical time.

DEATH: Let us continue to pray for the happy repose of the soul of David Mendes who died recently in Wexham Park Hospital. 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. David's funeral will take place on Wednesday, March 16th in St. Augustine's at 1.00pm, followed by Service and burial at Slough Crematorium at 2.30pm.

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.

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: This year, it is the turn of our parish to host the ecumenical World Day of Prayer in our parish. It will take place on Friday next, March 4th at 2.30pm in St. Augustine's. 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. We hope that many Parishioners will be able to attend.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Today's Gospel warns us against the temptation to be judgmental – 'why do you observe the splinter in the eye of your brother or sister and never notice the plank in your own. Take the plank out of your own eye first and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye'. This warning against hasty judgment of others may seem to be just common sense. However, it is far from easy to follow it in practice. Indeed, very often, common sense is not at all that common!

The Greek philosopher Socrates tells us that self-knowledge is the beginning of wisdom. Few of us are truly wise in this respect. We're so focused on the faults of others that we have little time or energy for the most important exercise of all - truly looking at ourselves and correcting our own faults. In today's Gospel Jesus challenges us to put our own house in order before trying to reform others. This is surely an appropriate invitation for all of us as we are about to begin the Holy Season of Lent.

Lent begins this coming Wednesday. The word 'Lent' comes from an old English word meaning 'springtime'. Lent reminds us of spring-cleaning in our homes, and the renewal of life in Nature that comes at this time. It is a time to tackle our blind spots, to identify our demons and recognize the illusions and deceptions we have regarding our own relationship with Christ. It should make us more aware of our weaknesses and thereby lead us to genuine self-knowledge. Here is a prayer that we might say often, especially during the season of Lent: 'Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the courage to change the person I can change, and the wisdom to know that this person is ME'