

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 20th March 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (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.

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 19th 6.00pm	Yvonne Byerley RIP	Tue 22nd 9.30am	Special Intention
Sun 20th 9.30am	People of the Parish	Wed 23rd 9.30am	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 20th 11am	Roy Niffikeer RIP	Thu 24th 9.30am	Special Intention
Mon 21st	No Mass	Fri 25th 9.30am	David Mendes RIP Feast of Annunciation

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.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE: Our Lenten Penance Service will take place in St. Augustine's on Wednesday, March 30th at 7.00pm.

As our 'Thought for the Week' this week points out, Lent is a time for repentance, for examining our way of life and moving more resolutely towards a more Christ-like way of living. The Penance Service offers us a special opportunity for this, as well as the opportunity to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession, as it used to be called).

UKRAINE: The Bishops of England and Wales have made an urgent appeal for prayers this Lent for a speedy end to the war in Ukraine. We must also pray for the people in Ukraine at this time, and the very many who are leaving their homes and relatives for sanctuary in neighboring countries. Their plight must surely speak deeply to our hearts. If you have not yet contributed to CAFOD we would ask you to do so this week, as we will be sending our collection to CAFOD very shortly.

CAFOD: Thank you so much for your support of CAFOD's Lent Family Fast Day, the Walk Against Hunger and the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Your support means we can respond in crises such as Ukraine where our Caritas aid workers and volunteers could quickly help families fleeing conflict. It also means we're there in the long-term and can continue to respond to crises around the world, including in Afghanistan, Syria, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. We work alongside communities as they rebuild their lives once the conflict is over, as in Sierra Leone. For more details on how your donations are being used, please go to the CAFOD website cafod.org.uk

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. Given the acute crisis in Ukraine there is a danger that we may forget there are many who are very needy in our own country. The 'Thank You' letter from the Foodbank for February is at the rear of the Church.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Boxes for those who contribute to Offertory using envelopes, are available for collection at the back of the Church. If your box is missing, please contact Michael Reynolds via office@staugustines.org.uk

STELLA MARIS: On the one-year anniversary of the Ever Given ship getting stuck in the Suez Canal, Catholic charity Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) is hosting a webinar about modernisation in the shipping industry. It will look at the history of the container ship, and explore what impact modernisation of the shipping industry has had on seafarers around the world. Please register now at www.stellamaris.org.uk/modernisation to join online on **23 March at 7.30pm** to hear the impact this is having on seafarers today, and the important role Stella Maris has in supporting them.

LOST GLOVES: A lady who attended David Mendes's Funeral last Wednesday lost her black fur lined gloves (St. Augustine's or the car park). If anyone has found a pair of gloves, please contact Fr. Frank.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

True Repentance

A fig tree planted in a vineyard should have ideal soil conditions to produce abundant fruit, certainly after three years. Sadly, the tree in the parable today has remained fruitless. Initially, the owner of the vineyard wants the gardener to cut it down as it is taking up precious ground. However, the gardener appeals to his master to let it be for another year, during which time he will dig round and manure it.

The point of the story is that, just as the gardener was patient with the fig tree, so God is patient with us and gives us ample chances to bear fruit. For our part, we must not squander these chances. We must repent.

But what is repentance? It is not regret or remorse or guilt feelings over something we did in the past. Such feelings can tend to lock us into the past rather than lead us towards a future God wants us to embrace. The focus of true repentance is not on the past but on the future. It is a *decision* – a decision to change direction, to turn away from where we were heading and move more resolutely towards God. It is a turning away from darkness towards light. It is a joyous journey towards home, not a sad departure from where we were. It is allowing God to draw us towards himself and transform us into 'children of light'.

For this to happen we must be willing to let go of the past and open our hearts to the 'new person' God wants us to be.