

## ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

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## OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON

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# NEWSLETTER

Sunday 3rd July 2022

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**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.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):** Each Saturday from 12.30pm to 1pm, in St. Augustine's, there is the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or for a discussion of any issue that might be on a person's mind.

### MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 2nd 6pm	People of the Parish	Tues 5th 9.30am	Special Intention
Sun 3rd 9.30am	Special Intention	Wed 6th 9.30am	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 3rd 11am	Ned Prendergast (ill)	Thur 7th 9.30am	Special Intention
Mon 4th	NO MASS	Fri 8th 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, Terri Nicoll, Fred Oufi, Nino Puma, and Roger Stewart. Please pray also for those who are caring for them.

**PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** We are grateful to God that our AGM last Sunday went well, and we are grateful to all who took the trouble to attend. Our very special thanks to Ros, Michael and Anne for their contribution in organising and presenting the agenda for the meeting, and also to those who bought and prepared the refreshments. We pray that through such get-togethers we may grow in our Faith and in our sense of community as a Parish.

The minutes of the AGM will be available in the next few weeks.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** There will be a second collection taken this weekend for **Peter's Pence**. Next weekend (9/10 July) there will be a Second Collection for the **Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris)**. Pamphlets are available at the rear of the Church.

**OFFERTORY:** 25/26 June: £601 cash and £120 (estimated) standing orders.

### **An interesting pamphlet:**

I have received some pamphlets entitled '10 Reasons to Come to the Catholic Church' and found the content very interesting. Bishop David has given permission for the pamphlet to be distributed throughout the Diocese. We have a limited number of copies, and you will find them at the rear of St. Augustine's and Our Lady of Sorrows. If more copies are needed, we will be able to get them.

### **Tea / Coffee after Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Augustine's:**

This Sunday we will have our usual get together for tea / coffee immediately after the 9.30am Mass in Our Lady of Sorrows. Next Sunday it will be held in the Hall of St. Augustine's after the 11am Mass.

### **Foodbank – A Special Appeal**

Due to the very rapid rise in the cost of living, the foodbank is becoming more and more a necessary means of support for an increasing number of people. We strongly encourage you to be as generous as possible in these very difficult times.

### **GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE (continued from last week).**

If God loves us unconditionally is there any need to worry about my sins and failings, saying God will accept us anyway? This is a very false conclusion. If our love of God is sincere it is never to be taken complacently. It is always striving towards being the perfect love we want it to be. But sadly, we see how deeply ingrained are our flaws and weaknesses. Despite all our efforts and prayer, we can't ever seem to get rid of them. The most consoling thing about our God is that all he wants is our efforts, not our achievements. He understands our flawed human condition and is wholly sympathetic. He is asking us not to be harsh with ourselves, but to be humbly patient with our inability to be the models of perfection that we want to be.

St. Therese of Lisieux (the Little Flower) was gifted with a unique understanding of God's compassion, and that is why she is recognized as one of the greatest saints of modern times. She says that if our failings cause us to feel remote from God, this remoteness is felt only *in our hearts, not in God's heart*. We have projected onto God our own petty standard of judging; we know little of the recklessly compassionate God of Jesus Christ. We imagine our weaknesses as driving a wedge between God and ourselves. This is not true. God is not a merciless judge. He is our infinitely loving Father, and he understands that, like little children, we are always failing to measure up to the promises we make to him. And so Therese will say: 'resign yourself to stumbling at every step, even to falling ... love your powerlessness' - and again: 'what a grace when, in the morning, I feel no courage, no strength to practice virtue'. As a loving mother overlooks the many little faults of her child, so does our loving Father look indulgently on our failings. A child is bold and sulky from time to time, but a mother understands this perfectly. It's the same with God and us. As God's children, our motto should be: *I'm not ok, but that's ok*. How consoling this is!

**Fr. Frank**