

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's
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DATCHET
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OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON

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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 4th September 2022

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (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.

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 3rd 6pm	Personal Intention	Mon 5th	NO MASS
Sun 4th 9.30am	Michael Cadwallader & Tony Rice (James's brother) RIP	Tue 6th 9.30am	Ray Murtagh RIP
		Wed 7th 9.30am	Carolyn Ansell RIP
		Thu 8th 9.30am	Dorrie Keating RIP
Sun 4th 11am	People of the Parish	Fri 9th 9.30am	Personal Intention

SICK OF THE PARISH: Please pray for the sick in the Parish, especially James Ansell, Maria Cordosa, Terri Nicoll, Fred Oufi, Nino Puma, and Roger Stewart. Please pray also for those who are caring for them.

RESUMPTION OF ADORATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

We have resumed Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which we had before lockdown. We will have it on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays of each week from 5.30pm to 6.15pm at St. Augustine's.**

OFFERTORY: 27/28 August: £252 cash and £120 (estimated) standing orders.

TEA / COFFEE AFTER MASS AT OUR LADY OF SORROWS AND ST. AUGUSTINE'S: This Sunday we will have our usual get together immediately after the 11am Mass at St. Augustine's in the Hall.

Parish Council Meeting: We had our Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday. The following were among the items we discussed. We hope to include other items next week.

Mass Attendance. We expressed concern at the drop in Mass attendance. We invite suggestions as to what we might do to make Mass more meaningful and inviting, so that attendance might return to something like pre-Covid levels. If you have any views please contact Fr. Frank.

Nursery. We are happy with how the Nursery is going, as indeed are those who run it. We have a very good relationship with them.

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.

Food (Urgent): Soup, Long-life Fruit Juice, Tinned Meat, Sponge Puddings, Tinned Carrots/Mixed Veg. **Toiletries and Basic Items (Urgent):** Deodorants, Disposable Razors, Shampoo, Shower gel/Soap. **Always Required:** Tinned Fruit, Instant Mash, Instant Coffee (small jars), Tinned fish, Toothpaste, Washing up Liquid, Shaving foam/gel, Baby wipes, Strong carrier bags.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Praying in the Darkness of Faith

Very often in our prayer we don't feel any closeness of God. Therefore, we think our prayer is a failure. This is a common experience, but it shows a wrong understanding of what genuine prayer is. We go to pray in order to please God, not ourselves. To remain faithful to prayer when we don't have a felt experience of God is the hallmark of faithfulness, the acid test of love. A great modern spiritual writer, Henri Nouwen, writes powerfully on this.

My daily hour with God is not a time of deep prayer in which I feel a special closeness to God. On the contrary, it is full of distractions, inner restlessness, confusion and boredom. Even though I don't hear a voice as I hear human words of consolation, even though I don't see a human face, still the Lord speaks to me, looks at me and embraces me. The way I become aware of God's presence is in that remarkable desire to return to that quiet place and be there, without any real satisfaction.

We find a variation of the same theme in Evelyn Underhill's image of that most loyal of God's creatures – the sheep dog.

We offer ourselves, in one way or another, to try to (do God's Will). We want, is it were, to be among the sheep-dogs employed by the Good Shepherd. Have you ever watched a good sheep-dog at work? He is not an emotional animal. He goes on with his work quite steadily, takes no notice of bad weather, rough ground or of his own comfort. He seldom or never stops to be stroked. Yet his faithfulness and intimate communion with his master are of the loveliest things in the world. Now and then he looks up at the shepherd and when the time comes for rest, they are generally found to be together.

Let this be your model of love.

Steadfast, unconditional fidelity is the hallmark of love in its purest form. It echoes the faithful, unremitting love of God himself for us. God himself assures us of this:

*For the mountains may depart, the hills be shaken, but my love for you will never end;
I will keep forever my promise of love (Isaiah 54:10)*

Fr. Frank