

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

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OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON

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NEWSLETTER

Sunday 26th June 2022

THIRTEENTH 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): 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 25th 6pm	Crowley Family	Wed 29th 9.30am	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 26th 9.30am	Murphy Family	Wed 29th 6.30pm	Tom Stack Family
Sun 26th 11am	Dan O'Mahony RIP	Thur 30th 9.30am	Special Intention
Mon 27th	NO MASS	Fri 1st July 9.30am	Desmond William
Tues 28th 9.30am	O'Dea Family		Sehestedt RIP

SAINTS PETER and PAUL, APOSTLES – HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION: WEDNESDAY 29th JUNE. MASS AT 6.30pm in OUR LADY OF SORROWS, ETON. This is in addition to the usual 9.30am Mass that day.

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 (AGM) is being held this **Sunday 26th June at 12.15pm in St. Augustine's Hall**. This is the first AGM since 2019. It is an important event in the life of the Parish, so we would hope that a large number will come along. Please bring up any suggestions or criticisms you may have. They will be very welcome. There will be light refreshments at 12 noon, and we hope to begin the meeting at 12.15pm.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection taken next weekend (2/3 July) for Peter's Pence.

OFFERTORY: 18/19 June: £345 cash and £120 (estimated) standing orders.
2nd Collection for Day for Life: £187

An interesting pamphlet:

I have received some pamphlets during the week 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:

As we have the AGM this Sunday, there will not be a get-together for tea/coffee at Eton this weekend. Instead, it will be held next Sunday, July 3rd after the 9.30am Mass as usual.

Slough Foodbank:

Due to the rapid rise in the cost of living, the foodbank is becoming more and more a very valuable support for an increasing number of people. We would encourage you to be as generous as you can in giving to it.

God's Unconditional Love

Believing in my heart that I'm loved unconditionally – this is the crucial test of how deeply Christianity has touched my life. One of the reasons we find it so difficult to believe this is rooted in our Christian upbringing. Its roots were in the Old Testament. Central to the Old Testament understanding of religion was the covenant on Mount Sinai. The covenant was an agreement between God and his people – that God would bring blessing and prosperity on his people if his people obeyed his law. If they didn't obey they would be punished.

The New Testament is also based on a covenant – but a very different kind of covenant. It is a 'new and eternal covenant', sealed by the blood of Jesus on Calvary. Because of Jesus' death and Resurrection we are now children of God. A child doesn't need to give reasons to his/her parents for being loved, nor does it need to prove its loveableness by actions. It is loved simply because it is – because it is the child of these particular parents. Later on, it can reject that love. It can run away and disown its parents, but it never, ever ceases to be loved.

If this is so with human parents, how much more so with our heavenly Father! He is our infinitely loving Father. He can never abandon us; we're 'engraved on the palms of his hands'. All we need do is receive that love, or, as Jesus says: 'remain in my love'. And yet we find it so very hard to do this - to trust in the wholly gratuitous nature of God's love. I wonder why.

There would seem to be two main reasons for this. Firstly, our Old Testament formation has given us the wrong image of God; he is a God who is just and fair, but his very justice demands that his love must be deserved and earned. In other words, it is not gratuitous, as it the love of a mother for her child. The second reason has to do with our human understanding of love. This tells us that love must be mutual – that both parties have to work to keep love alive. This is the notion of love we're familiar with. But God's love can't be measured by our human standards. We may reject God, run away from him, even forget that he exists. But God can never forget us - 'can a mother forget the baby at her breast, yet even if she should forget, I will never forget you' (Isaiah 49:15). This is the recklessness of love, as God understands it.

(continued next week).

Fr. Frank