

## ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's  
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## OUR LADY OF SORROWS ETON

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# NEWSLETTER

**Sunday 11th December 2022**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)**

**Gaudete Sunday**

**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 10th 6pm	John Gilbert Walker RIP	Tue 13th 9.30am	Personal Intention
Sun 11th 9.30am	People of the Parish	Wed 14th 9.30am	Carolyn Ansell RIP
Sun 11th 11am	Personal Intention	Thu 15th 9.30am	Personal Intention
Mon 12th	NO MASS	Fri 16th 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, Agnes Ryan and Roger Stewart. Please pray also for those who are caring for them.

**ADORATION TIME:** There be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as usual at **St Augustines** on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** of each week from **5.30pm to 6.15pm**.

**ANNUAL ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE:** Our communal Penance Service in preparation for Christmas will be on **Wednesday December 14th at 7.00pm in St. Augustine's**. Penance is a very important sacrament in the Church, and this Penance Service offers the opportunity to celebrate this Sacrament communally. We have booklets for this Service (available at rear of Church) and the many who have attended this Service in previous years have found it very fruitful. We strongly encourage you to avail of this opportunity to receive the Sacrament.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE AT ST. MARY'S (Church of England), DATCHET. Sunday December 11th at 6.30pm.** All welcome. This is one of the few opportunities to show our willingness to be involved with other Christian Churches in the parish and we would like our Church to be well represented.

**TEA/COFFEE AFTER MASS:** This weekend, this we will be held after the 9.30am Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows.

**SECOND COLLECTION for SHOC (SLOUGH HOMELESS OUR CONCERN)** will be taken this weekend.

**OFFERTORY:** 4th December: £371 cash and £120 standing orders.

**OUR CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Our very sincere thanks to Danny Mendes and his group for the lovely concert they gave us last Sunday. We enjoyed it very much. This was the third year that Danny has organized this concert, which is a lovely expression of the fond memories he has of the Parish in which he was raised. Thanks also to all who attended the concert. Little occasions like this do much towards forming a strong community sense in the parish, which is one of the main aims of the Synod.

CHRISTMAS MASSES		Our Lady of Sorrows	St. Augustine's
Sat 24 Dec	Nativity of the Lord		8.30pm Carols 9pm Mass
Sun 25 Dec	Nativity of the Lord	9am Carols / 9.30 Mass	11am
Mon 26 Dec	NO MASS	--	--
Tue, Wed, Thu			9.30am
Fri 30 Dec	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph		9.30am
Sat 31 Dec	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God		6pm
Sun 1 Jan	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	9.30am	11am

**CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** In keeping with tradition, the collection in Churches at Christmas is offered by Parishioners as a sincere and personal thank you for the dedication and service of their Parish Priest. This Parish has been greatly blessed by having Fr. Frank come and serve us as our Priest. Those who will not be attending Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day in our Parish, may wish to place their donation in an envelope marked Christmas Offertory for Fr. Frank in one of the Offertory collections prior to or shortly after Christmas. Or alternatively post an envelope through the Presbytery letterbox. Donations can be made in cash or by cheque made payable to **ST. AUGUSTINE'S**, (please do not make your cheque payable to Fr. Frank).

**FOODBANK – A SPECIAL APPEAL:** Because of the very difficult times we are in at present, we fear that for very many people, this time leading up to Christmas will be anything but enjoyable, as they struggle to have sufficient money to afford the essentials. We can help in some little way by being as generous as possible in relieving their anxiety and bringing some little light into their Christmas. The items that are most essential are basics items. **Food (Urgent):** Soup, Long-life Fruit Juice, Tinned Meat (stewed steak, mince, chicken in sauce), Sponge Puddings, Tinned Carrots/Mixed Veg. **Toiletries and Basic Items: (Urgent):** Deodorants, Disposable Razors, Shampoo, Shower gel/soap.

#### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK "Rejoice in the Lord"

Too often in the past, Christianity has been presented as a rather grim and joyless affair, confronting us with guilt and failure. This was a distorted perception, based on the 'hell-fire' sermons of zealous but misguided preachers. Even John the Baptist, too, for all his greatness and zeal, may also have been misguided about Jesus and his message. When he heard what Jesus was doing he was disturbed and confused, so he sent some of his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the promised Messiah. The response of Jesus is to point to the incontestable evidence of his healing and life-giving ministry. His actions prove that he is the Messiah foretold by Isaiah; he is the one who embodies God's healing love.

The reality of sin and failure is not the centre-piece of the Christian story, but rather the victorious love of God who forgives and heals. And it is the experience of this love that is the source of our joy. But what is this joy? Joy radiates goodness and blessedness. People who are joyful transform those around them. In the presence of joyful people, our hearts become lighter and the world around us seems so much brighter.

However, Christian joy must not be confused with the false hilarity of those who choose to ignore the reality of suffering in the world around them, or avoid pain in their own lives. In the words of John Catoir, 'Joy is not the absence of pain. It is the awareness of God's loving presence within you'. The joy that Christ brings us is a joy that is often found in the midst of pain and suffering. An Irish Lay missionary, Barbara McNulty, worked among the poor in Brazil and she wrote a memorable account of her experience, describing how she found joy in the heart of suffering. 'It is the paradox of joy that it is at its most significant in association with suffering. I worked for many years with the sick and the dying in a place where one would expect to find despair and depression. Yet because of the warmth of the love of all around me I found laughter and hope'.