

ST AUGUSTINE'S DATCHET

St Augustine's
70 Eton Road
DATCHET
SL3 9AY



Parish Priest: Fr. Frank McAuliffe
Telephone: 01753 917030
Safeguarding: Judy Hill

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 29th January 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

WEEKEND MASSES: St. Augustine's Church: 6pm on Saturdays and 11am on Sunday.
Our Lady of Sorrows: 9.30am on Sundays.

THANK YOU from Fr. Frank and our Parish: We are very grateful and express our thanks to Fr. Kevin O'Driscoll and Fr. Bosco Clarke who have been able to provide cover for Fr. Frank this weekend and celebrate Masses in our Churches.

WEEKDAY MASSES: Apologies, there will **not be any morning Masses at St. Augustine's** for this coming week, (Tuesday 31st, Wednesday 1st, Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd February).

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION): Apologies, the Sacrament of Reconciliation **cannot** be held at St. Augustine's on Saturday 28th January and Saturday 4th February.

ADORATION TIME: Apologies. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament **cannot** be held at St Augustine's this coming week.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 28th 6pm	Personal Intention	Tue 31st	NO MASS
Sun 29th 9.30am	People of the Parish	Wed 1st	NO MASS
Sun 29th 11am	Personal Intention	Thu 2nd	NO MASS
Mon 30th	NO MASS	Fri 3rd	NO MASS

The Mass Intentions which had been accepted by Fr. Frank for this coming week, will be arranged for a future date.

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Our First Communion classes for this year have started. We have three from the Parish who are preparing for their First Holy Communion – George Purnell, Alexander Crichton and Nora Murray-Cusali. Let us keep them in our prayer.

TEA/COFFEE AFTER MASS: This will be held after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 29th in Eton.

OFFERTORY: 22nd January: £313 cash and £120 standing orders.

RETIREMENT

Some may already know of my wish to retire from Parish work and return to our retirement home in Ireland. My retirement was officially announced by the Bishop in his letter to Priests of the Diocese this week. It is with a heavy heart that I have made this decision, but I am well beyond retirement age and did not feel I had the energy to continue. I would like to sincerely thank you all for the friendship, support and encouragement you have given me during my stay with you.

The Bishop did not mention the precise date of my retirement, but I mentioned to him that I would like it to be around the end of February and early March. I have asked him to try to find a replacement for me and I do pray that he will succeed.

Fr. Frank

Fr. Frank sends his thanks to all Parishioners who have sent him emails wishing him a speedy recovery and who have been keeping him in their prayers. He asks that for the time being, you do *not* telephone him, whilst he is trying to rest and recover. Thank you.

FOODBANK – A SPECIAL APPEAL: Because of the very difficult times we are in at present, we know that many people are struggling as they have insufficient money to afford the essentials. We can help in some little way by being as generous as possible in relieving their anxiety by donating to the Foodbank. In general, the items that are most needed 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.

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

In the beatitudes in today's gospel Jesus is not giving his disciples a new set of commandments like the 10 commandments Moses received on Mount Sinai. The Jews in Jesus' time already had enough commandments and rules – 613 of them. So more rules would be bad news, not good news. The beatitudes are good news. They are Jesus' recipe for happiness.

What is surprising about the beatitudes are the categories of people he declares to be blessed. They are not the prosperous, powerful or famous, nor those we would consider particularly blessed or happy. Indeed his beatitudes turn upside down the values and attitudes that are dominant in our world. They propose an alternative way of life to that which most people choose freely. They articulate a vision of the good life seen from the perspective of a God who is Love. This is the vision of life Jesus himself embodied and lived.

Jesus renounced power and prestige and chose the way of powerlessness. He is truly 'poor in spirit' and identified himself with the lowly of this world, not with the high and mighty. He was merciful, meek and compassionate. He was a peacemaker who offered the violent no resistance. Yet, he was uncompromising in his commitment to all who were exploited and suffered injustice.

The beatitudes make sense only in the context of the Kingdom of God. In this Kingdom it is not the rich, the successful, and the powerful who are blessed, but the meek and lowly. These are the people through whom God works to dream of a world transformed by the power of love; a world where the weak are protected, that none go hungry; a world where the riches of creation are shared and everyone can enjoy them, a world where all peoples live in harmony and mutual respect; a world where peace is built on Justice, and Justice is guided by love.

Fr. Frank