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SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2023 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B)

SUNDAY MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH PRIEST	WEEKEND & WEEKDAYS HOLY MASS TIMES			
This Sunday, the third of Advent, means we are very close to Christmas. How far have we moved to approach the baby Jesus? The lighting of the third candle on the Advent Wreath reminds us of the joy we have in our lives that radiates from Jesus. The prophets and John the Baptist today exhort us to "Make a straight way for the Lord". We may still have preparation to do to be ready. Let us do so by receiving the sacrament of confession. May the Joy of the World reign us.	Datchet	Sat 16	06.00pm	People of the Parish
	Eton	Sun 17	09.30am	Ward Family Int
	Datchet	Sun 17	11.00am	Perpetua Coutinho Int
	Datchet	Mon 18	09.30am	Holy Souls
	Datchet	Tue 19	05.30pm	Penitential Service follows
	Datchet	Wed 20	09.30am	Caroline Ansell RIP
	Eton	Thu 21	06.00pm	Holy Souls
	Datchet	Fri 22	09.30am	Virginia Merricks RIP
Rosary: Twenty minutes prior to the Holy Mass	Confession: Any Weekday after the Mass or by appointment			
Benediction: Every Friday after 9.30am Mass.	Eucharistic Adoration: Weekdays before Mass from 8.30am			

TEA/COFFEE: There will not be tea/coffee after the 9.30am Mass in Eton this Sunday, as the Carol Service is being held in St. Augustine's Hall after the 11am Mass in Datchet.

OFFERTORY: 09 / 10 December 2023: Cash £259 SOs £190

The second collection taken for **SHOC (Slough Homeless Our Concern)** last weekend raised £409.

SICK OF THE PARISH: Please pray for the sick in the Parish, especially James Ansell, Maria Cordosa, Maggie and Peter Darbin, Sheila Jones, Terri Nicoll, Fred Oufi, Nino Puma, Eithne Reynolds and Roger Stewart. If anyone would like to have a priest visit them or others who are sick, kindly speak to Fr. Shyju.

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF CIARÁN EOIN ENNIS who died recently. The funeral will be at St. Augustine's on Friday 22 December at 11.30am.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT will take place at **12.15pm on Sunday 17 December** in St. Augustine's Hall. Please come along and wear your Christmas jumper and / or hat. It's a great way of bringing us all together and entering into the Christmas spirit. If you wish to attend and did not put your name on the list at the Church, please email office@staugustines.org.uk.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE: Our communal Penance Service in preparation for Christmas will be on **Tuesday 19 December from 6pm until 7pm** in St. Augustine's. We strongly encourage you to avail yourselves of this opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Personal Confession on this evening.

CONFESSION: If you cannot come to the communal Penance Service on 19 December and wish to make the sacrament of confession, please attend the 6pm Mass in Eton on Thursday 21 December. Confession is also available by arrangement with Fr. Shyju after weekday Masses.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS ART: Young people from our parish are invited to submit a drawing or painting of their favourite Christmas memory or activity. The pictures will form part of a display over the festive season. Entries close on Friday 22 December. Please hand completed pictures to Fr Shyju.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: A summary can be seen below and can also be found on the Parish website Mass Times page: <http://www.staugustines.org.uk/mass-times.html>

Tue 19 December	06:00 pm	Penitential Service -Confession	St. Augustine's
Sat 23 December	06.00 pm	Mass: 4th Sunday of Advent	St. Augustine's
Sun 24 December	09.30 am	Mass: 4th Sunday of Advent	Our Lady of Sorrows
Sun 24 December	11.00 am	Mass: 4th Sunday of Advent	St. Augustine's
<u>CHRISTMAS 2023</u>			
Sun 24 December	08.30 pm	Carols and Children's Nativity	St. Augustine's
	09:00 pm	Christmas Night Mass	St. Augustine's
Mon 25 December	09:00 am	Carol singing followed by:	Our Lady of Sorrows
	09:30 am	Christmas Morning Mass	Our Lady of Sorrows
	11.00 am	Christmas Day Mass	St. Augustine's

BISHOP DAVID'S ADVENT MESSAGES covering the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love will be released each week of Advent. A video of this week's message can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/3f6csnr3> The message can also be read with the Newsletter on the Parish website.

DATCHET LINK MAGAZINE: This year's Christmas Message has been written by Fr. Shyju. It can be found online at : <https://simplebooklet.com/linknov2023#page=19>

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. Shyju come and serve us as our Priest upon the retirement of Fr. Frank. Those who will not be attending Mass on the *evening* of Christmas Eve or Christmas Day in our Parish, may wish to place their donation in an envelope marked Christmas Offertory for Fr. Shyju in one of the Offertory collections prior to or shortly after Christmas. (Please note that the Masses on the morning of Sunday 24 December are for the Fourth Sunday in Advent and are *not* Christmas Masses. Unless the donation is given in a marked envelope, offertory given at these Masses will be for the Church/Diocese). Donations can be made in cash or by cheque made payable to ST. AUGUSTINE'S, (please do not make your cheque payable to Fr. Shyju).

CENTENARY JUBILEE OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH: Our Chapel was established in 1923 and 2023-2024 is our Parish Centenary Jubilee Year. We are planning a Parish celebration with our Bishop on **SUNDAY 25 AUGUST 2024**. More details will follow, but in the meantime please save the date.

THANK YOU FROM SLOUGH FOODBANK: *"We would like to thank you for your kind support and recent donations in November to Slough Foodbank. Your donation last month weighed a total of 43Kg. Each gift makes an enormous difference to families and individuals who are most in need in our local community."* Our donation was 67Kg in October.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE FOODBANK

The need for donations of food and toiletries for the Slough Foodbank remains great. Please try and donate items to the Foodbank on a regular basis. Boxes for donations can be found in each Church.

The Foodbank's December Shopping List states the items needed are:

Food Urgent: tinned spaghetti, tinned fruit, tinned tuna, long life fruit juice, tinned carrots, long-life sponge puddings, long-life rice puddings / custard, cooking sauces, tea

Always required: long-life milk, instant mash

Please note they have a 12 month supply of PASTA. It is NOT NEEDED

Toiletries & Basic Items Urgent: washing up liquid, shampoo, deodorant, shaving foam/gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes, size 5 nappies

Always required: toilet rolls, strong carrier bags