

ST AUGUSTINE'S, DATCHET		OUR LADY OF SORROWS, ETON		
70 Eton Road DATCHET SL3 9AY		 1 Eton Court ETON SL4 6BY		
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Safeguarding: safeguarding.staugustinedatchet@northamptondiocese.org				
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 20 SEPTEMBER 2026				
MESSAGE FROM FR. SHYJU				
Today's Gospel parable challenges our perspective of mathematics. The landowner pays the late-coming workers exactly the same daily wage as those who toiled all day. Why? Because God's metric is not merit; it is boundless mercy. Isaiah reminds us that God's thoughts and ways infinitely surpass our own. When we feel envious or measure holiness by a scoreboard, God invites us into His generous heart. Rejoice today that His grace is a gift, never a wage.				
SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES		HOLY MASS TIMES		
ROSARY 20 mins prior to Mass ADORATION Weekdays at 8.30am BENEDICTION Thu. after 9.30am Mass CONFESSION After Mass / Appointment	Datchet	Sat 19	06.00pm	Peter Keating RIP
	Eton	Sun 20	09.30am	Abin Antony Int.
	Datchet	Sun 20	11.00am	Grey Family RIP
	Datchet	Mon 21	09.30am	Lucia Herrera Int.
	Datchet	Tue 22	09.30am	Peter Keating RIP
	Eton	Wed 23	06.30pm	Grey Family RIP
	Datchet	Thu 24	09.30am	Our Lady of Walsingham
	Datchet	Fri 25	09.30am	Holy Souls
	Datchet	Sat 26	06.00pm	Abin Antony Int.

TEA & COFFEE will be served after the 11am Sunday Mass in Datchet.

OFFERTORY 13 SEPTEMBER: Cash: £167 SO: £220 per week.

SICK OF THE PARISH: Please pray for James Ansell, Ken Byerley, Maria Cordosa, Michael Lafleur, Madleen Magic, Terry Nichol and Elaine Shaw. If anyone would like to have a priest visit them, kindly speak to Fr. Shyju.

HOME MISSION SUNDAY: This Sunday (20 September) is designated as Home Mission Sunday. The Bishops of England and Wales ask the faithful of these countries to look for ways in which we can all do our part in sharing the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus Christ. A second collection will be taken this Sunday for Home Mission Sunday.

PETER KEATING RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Peter Keating, who passed away on 3rd September. His funeral will take place on Friday 02 October at 10.30am in St. Augustine's Datchet. Please remember Peter and also his late wife Dorcas in your prayers.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS: We celebrated the feast of our Church in Eton on Tuesday 15 September. Three priests and a good number of parishioners joined the celebration of Holy Mass in the morning. Thank you everyone.

PARISH COUNCIL: The Parish Council will be meeting in Datchet on the morning of Monday 21 September after Holy Mass. If you have any matters you wish to be raised in the meeting, please send an email to the Parish email address or speak directly to Ros Nockles, the Council's Chairperson.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED: We need more parishioners to help with the Foodbank and / or the Counting Rota. Please contact Barbara Williams or Loretta Finn directly or email the Parish email address if you are interested in helping. The more people who help, the easier the less time required from all volunteers, as there will be a longer number of weeks' interval between volunteering dates.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE PARKING AT OUR LADY OF SORROWS, ETON: This matter is currently under discussion with the Councils, but until you hear to the contrary you are advised to pay for parking on Sunday morning at our Church in Eton.

SUPPORT THE FOODBANK: Boxes for donations can be found in each Church. The items on their Shopping List are: Food Urgent (items always required): tea, long life sponge puddings, tinned tomatoes, tinned meat. Please note they have a 12 month supply of PASTA. It is NOT NEEDED. Toiletries & Basic Items (always required): soap, toilet rolls, strong carrier bags.

100 CLUB DRAW

The licence purchased from RBWM last year for the 100 Club Draw expired on 03 September 2026. A new licence for the 100 Club has not yet been purchased because we need confirmation that at least 35 tickets will be sold. As before, the ticket price will be £52 and there will be 12 £100 prizes.

If you would like to purchase a ticket in the next 100 CLUB and you haven't yet confirmed that you will do so, please speak to Pamela Bailey or send an email to: office.staugustinedatchet@northamptondiocese.org Please DO NOT send payment yet.

through the soil rather than being spirited away, the mosses and the peat become the sponges that absorb both rainfall and carbon dioxide. In many places, the land is breathing more easily, released from the chemicals and machinery, the rigorous calendar of human activity that bears little relation to the beating heart of the natural world.

The Covid pandemic saw re-naturing accelerate as we stepped back and allowed life to return to places where once it was crowded out and removed. Nature told us things about ourselves that we had either forgotten or refused to remember: that we are not the only ones that are loved on a sacred and wondrous planet. When the howl of the wind, the call of the curlew and the waves against a shore move us to ask for forgiveness, we will find that nature is full of the wisdom of God.

I long for the day when we do find a universal balance with the natural world. When a hen harrier can sky-dance over moors unmolested, when beavers can swim through rivers without fear of persecution, when curlews no longer lament, we will have asked for forgiveness, received it and grown in stature as people of God.

Mary Colwell is an award-winning wildlife broadcaster, writer and environmental campaigner.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.

Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:6-9

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 145(144):2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. 18a

R. The Lord is close to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day, and praise your name for ever and ever. The Lord is great and highly to be praised; his greatness cannot be measured. **R.**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in mercy. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways, and holy in all his deeds. The Lord is close to all who call him, who call on him in truth. **R.**

SECOND READING Philippians 1:20c-24. 27a

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Or

I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Ezekiel 18:25-28
Philippians 2:1-11
Matthew 21:28-32



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SUNDAY BULLETIN

THINKING FAITH

NATURE FORGIVES AND REBUILDS

Author and naturalist, Jonathan Tulloch, wrote, 'I can never hear a curlew without feeling forgiven.' That struck me as beautiful yet strange. The curlew is a bird teetering on the edge of oblivion across large areas of the UK and Europe because of our management of nature, yet, hearing one call evokes feelings of us being forgiven by them.

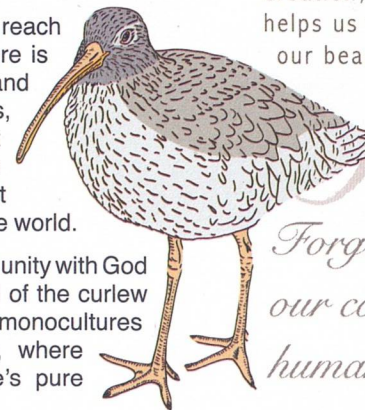
I know what Jonathan means. Nature alone can reach into our hearts with a gentle touch. Where there is pain, it administers balm, where there is heat and anger, it soothes. Where there is hopelessness, it surprises us with joy unbounded. For all that we do to fracture and destroy this planet, nature never ceases to heal us if we re-focus and set our being to listen to, to look upon and to feel the world.

In our brokenness, a yearning for wholeness and unity with God and all that is his, fires forth and meets the call of the curlew across the drained moors, silage fields and monocultures of our landscapes. In that fleeting moment, where the deepest of human desires meets nature's pure presence, we feel forgiveness.

It is as though nature takes all the ignorance, selfishness and greed we can throw at it and then, given just a small chance, transforms it into something utterly lovely. A thick slab of concrete sees a small flower appear through a crack. A forgotten edge of an intensively farmed field finds wildflowers emerging from darkness towards the light. In the burnt-out remnants of a forest, a bird will land on a blackened, twisted tree and sing a song of such aching beauty we are stopped in our tracks. That is the embodiment of forgiveness – and of hope.

Because from forgiveness springs hope. Without forgiveness we remain covered in concrete and chemicals and there is no flourishing. But, let forgiveness work its magic, allow it to break down barriers, and wonders will spring forth. The fruits of forgiveness are tears, charity and hope. Forgiveness is a rich soil in which so many good things can grow.

Across the country there are areas of land that are being allowed to express what lies within. The stand-off between nature and people is being broken and the barriers are coming down. When the pressure to force nature to provide what we demand (whether the land is suitable or not) turns to cooperation and respect, seeds that have lain dormant start to germinate and grow. What were once termed weeds are allowed to be essential food sources for turtle doves. Scrub, once rooted out and tidied into nothingness, becomes the stage for the nightingale. When the drainage channels are blocked and water rises



The Season of Creation

During this Season of Creation, Mary Colwell helps us to celebrate our beautiful world.

Forgetting our common humanity has given rise to divisions and violence; and when the earth suffers, the poor suffer the most.

Pope Leo XIV

20 SEPTEMBER 2026

25TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK 1