

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

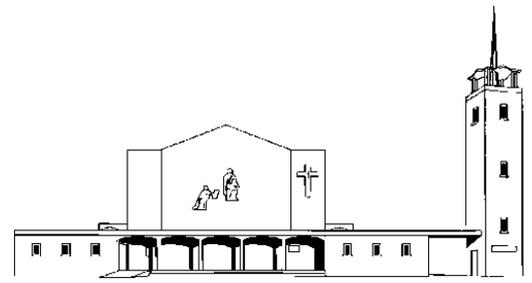
The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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(<http://yofhomilies.wordpress.com>)



Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9am–3pm)

Also in residence: Fr Joseph Thayil Mathew (chaplain to Syro-Malabar-rite Catholics)

Year A SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

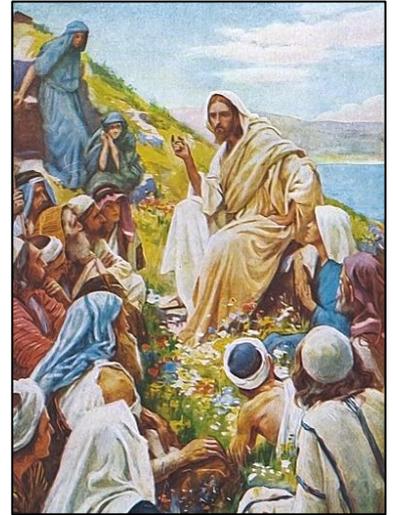
16th FEBRUARY 2014

GOSPEL: Matthew 5: 17–37

You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; but I say this to you ...

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

OUR LONG GOSPEL PASSAGE THIS SUNDAY brings us a significant section of Our Lord's 'Sermon on the Mount' (a famous collection of Jesus's teachings which takes up chapters 5–7 of St Matthew). It is said to have taken place in the hills above Lake Galilee, a tranquil and picturesque spot, with a beautiful view of the Lake. But Jesus's teachings in the Sermon on the Mount are not soft or soppy sentiments: they are a great challenge to us in our lives of faith. Jesus takes elements of the Law and the Commandments — which all the Jews knew, coming down to them from the time of Moses — but explained how they were to be taken to a deeper level; not kept in a minimalistic way, but kept to the full, in the way God had always intended. We would do well to listen very carefully to the Gospel teaching today, and to let Our Lord's words really penetrate our hearts.



OUR GROWING IN FAITH CAMPAIGN — our parish's contribution to the diocesan scheme to support our parishes, our priests, and our diocesan Caritas (caring for the poor and needy) — is now well under way. I will continue to be inviting parishioners to come and hear about the needs of our Diocese and the parish project (see inside the Newsletter). But also, as of this week, so will other parishioners be reaching out into the parish to share this, and invite your involvement. If you get a request to have a visit from a parishioner, do be generous in letting them come and fill you in on *Growing in Faith* and what we can do with the money raised. Let's do our best, please, all of us, together, to make this a success!

*** **On the evening of March 12th (8pm) Bishop John Sherrington** — our auxiliary bishop in Hertfordshire — will come and address an open meeting of the parish, and explain further about the campaign *** and give us all the opportunity to ask questions and consider giving to the scheme. Drinks and nibbles will be provided so we can mingle and chat with the bishop afterwards.

May God bless us this week and may Our Lady's prayers help us to be holy.

Fr Philip

From *Gaudium et Spes*, Vatican II on 'The Church in the Modern World,' n. 12:



Sacred Scripture teaches that man was created "to the image of God," is capable of knowing and loving his Creator, and was appointed by Him as master of all earthly creatures that he might subdue them and use them to God's glory. "What is man that you should care for him? You have made him little less than the angels, and crowned him with glory and honour. You have given him rule over the works of your hands, putting all things under his feet." But God did not create man as a solitary, for from the beginning "male and female he created them." Their companionship produces the primary form of interpersonal communion. For by his innermost nature man is a social being, and unless he relates himself to others he can neither live nor develop his potential. Therefore, as we read elsewhere in Holy Scripture God saw "all that he had made, and it was very good."

PRAYER & LITURGY

PETER GILLOW RIP formerly of Station Road, Broxbourne died recently. Our sympathies go out to his family. **The funeral will be on Wednesday 19th February at 10.45am.** *May he rest in peace.*

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR is held on the third Sunday of each month. It will next take place 5pm **this Sunday 16th February.** This is an evening of Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday evening of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **Friday 21st February.** A semi-formal quiet hour in the Lady Chapel once a month to reflect on the Sunday Scriptures and bring our needs and prayers to the Lord. All welcome!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: More helpers are needed to assist at the 11.15am Mass. If you can help please contact Claire Hay 07971-063520.

ARCHBISHOP'S MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE: The Archbishop invites all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th+ wedding anniversary to a Mass on **Saturday 7th June at 3pm.** If you qualify, please contact the presbytery with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) **by the 28th February.**

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER is on **Friday 7th March.** The services will be at St Cuthbert's, Whitley Rd, 10am for 10.30am start, and at St Laurence, Church Lane, Wormley at 7.30pm for 8pm start. Please come to support this event.

MASS INTENTIONS: Please note that Saturday evening/Sunday Mass intentions are now booked up until July. Mass intentions for weekdays are far less booked up; many possible dates are free.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

We pray for our parishioners and friends who are sick: Sue Porto, Christopher Browne, John Askew, Alan Dolan, Rosa Augello, Roberto Piacentini, Mark Reason, Hilda Andrews, Joanne Sheridan, Helen Sherman, Annette Pinto, Bohita Fanor, Jill Logsdail, Joe Barr, Margaret Johns, Jenny Miller, and Joseph Penheiro.

PLEASE TELL US IF ANYONE IS HOUSEBOUND, EVEN TEMPORARILY, SO THEY CAN BE VISITED & HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION.

IF YOU GO IN TO HOSPITAL: Catholics in hospital are unlikely to receive an automatic visit from the Catholic Chaplain, as this information is now systematically withheld from Chaplains. If someone is sick in hospital, **please let us know here at the presbytery, or ask the staff on the ward,** so that

your loved one can be visited whilst in hospital, and receive Holy Communion and any other Sacraments from the Chaplain.

The Chaplains are: QEII, Jacqueline Humphreys 01438-285518 or 07884-187463; Princess Alexandra, Fr Slawek Jedrych 01279-426017



Our parish's **Growing in Faith** season runs from January–Easter, with our opportunity, along with all the Catholics of the Diocese, to support the needs of the local Church.

The aim of *Growing in Faith* is three-fold:

1. To build up parish life.*
2. To support priests' welfare, in particular the funding of priestly training for our many seminarians; and the care for those priests in retirement and sickness.
3. To further the work of our diocesan *Caritas* (<http://rcdow.org.uk/caritas/>) which promotes initiatives for the poor, needy and vulnerable in our diocese.

*** Our local parish project is a very important one: to employ a part-time parish catechist** to add to the great work already going on at St Augustine's in First Holy Communion and Confirmation, RCIA etc. by wonderful volunteers. There are so many other opportunities for catechesis and work amongst the youth & young adults of our parish which we could begin through a new employee.

Fr Philip is gradually sharing this vision one-to-one with more parishioners, and starting this coming week, some other parish volunteers will also begin to share the needs of the fundraising with you.

*** BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON WILL VISIT US **RE GROWING IN FAITH** ON 12TH MARCH 8PM — PLEASE KEEP THIS DATE FREE! ***

<http://rcdow.org.uk/growing-in-faith/> — has more information and a video message from the Archbishop.

CATECHETICS

FIRST-HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: Please note the next meeting for parents will not be until **Wed 23rd April** from 8–9pm in the crypt. The next meeting for the children will be on **Saturday 15th March at 10am.**

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: The next meeting will be on **Monday 24th February 7–9pm** for

candidates and parents. **TWO candidates did not collect a letter after the session on Monday 3rd: please contact the presbytery immediately.**

“RCIA” – The ‘Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults’ is the programme for preparation for adults wishing to become Catholics, or be prepared for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion). **The course continues on Tuesday 25th February at 7pm.**

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Monday 3rd and Friday 14th March** from **7.30pm-9pm** in the presbytery. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 24th Feb – 9th March: **St Cross School** is hosting The Big Brew, to be held in the hall on **Friday 7th March, from 1.30 - 3.00pm.** £1 suggested donation for entry, a cup of tea and biscuit. All are welcome!

SPUC coffee morning will be held on **Saturday 22nd February** in the crypt after the 10am Mass.

SCHOOLS

ST CROSS SCHOOL is celebrating this year its 80th Anniversary. To mark this great milestone the school want to develop a Jubilee Peace Garden within their grounds. In order to achieve this, the school will be relying on voluntary contributions. If you would like to help by making a donation, please do contact the school on 467309.

ST AUGUSTINE'S NURSERY APPLICATIONS 2014: Applications for children due to start nursery places in Sept 2014, those born between 01/09/2010 and 31/08/2011, are open from **Monday 10th February until Friday 21st March.** Applications must be made to School and Herts CC www.hertsdirec.org/nurseryadmissions. St Augustine's Nursery application form is available from the school office or to download from their website. Please return the completed form with a copy of the Baptism certificate to the school office before Friday 21st March 2014.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL have just launched their alumni network in partnership with education charity Future First. If you used to go to St Mary's school and would like to get back in touch with them and get involved in school life they would love to hear from you! Sign up at www.networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/saintmarys so they can let you know what's happening at the school and let you know of opportunities to get involved.

MISCELLANEOUS

RETROUVILLE – a lifeline for troubled marriages: The next programme begins on the **28th March** at a hotel in Hatfield. If your marriage is in difficulty, or you have already separated, please contact Clive and Kathy Jones on 07973-380443 to discuss in complete confidence how you can be helped to bring healing and a fresh start to your marriage.

STANDING ORDER: If you are currently using the offertory envelopes, to make life easier, you may wish to consider changing over to standing order instead. If you wish to do so, please collect a form from the back of the church, the presbytery or alternatively you can email the parish office hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk, or download one from the parish website under ‘Donate to Our Parish.’

ASCENT GROUP: Sr Teresa regrets that she can no longer attend the group anymore due to the distance and for physical reasons. Bridget Newson will continue to run the group and if anyone would like to join please contact her on 465833.

RENEE HOLLOWAY an elderly parishioner has now moved away to be nearer to her family. Her new address is Bernard Sunley Nursing Home, College Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 8BT.

FAMILY PLANNING – GOD'S WAY – NATURE'S WAY: The Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Family Planning is 99% effective in avoiding pregnancy with no side effects. This method is also very helpful for couples having difficulty conceiving and is a natural alternative to IVF. A clinic is held by arrangement at St Joseph's Church hall, Hertford. For appointments: info@billingsmethodhertford.org.uk. Visit www.billingsmethodhertford.org.uk for further info.

SUNDAY LUNCH: Fr Philip would like to continue meeting further parishioners/families in their homes, as much as possible. Sunday lunch 1.30pm is a good (but by no means only) time. Free dates: 2nd, 16th and 30th March.

CHURCH CLEANING: Michele & Pele De Luca and Bianca Aguillon. Thank you!

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

22nd FEBRUARY

CHAIR OF ST PETER

O God, who by delivering to thy blessed Apostle Peter the keys of the kingdom of Heaven, didst confer upon him the pontifical power of binding and of loosing, grant that, by the help of his intercession, we may be delivered from the bonds of our sins. Who livest and reignest with Thee, one God, world without end. Amen.

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
<p>Sat 15th February 10am Mass <i>Mrs Renehen RIP</i></p> <hr/> <p>6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i></p> <p>Sun 16th Feb 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am** <i>Edward McGrath RIP</i> 11.15am ** <i>Daniela Ruggiero RIP</i> 3.30pm Italian Mass ‡ 5.00pm Holy Hour</p>	<p>PAGE 136 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 15: 15–20 <i>He never commanded anyone to be godless.</i></p> <p>Psalm 118 — They are happy who follow God's law!</p> <p>2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 6–10 <i>God predestined wisdom to be for our glory before the ages began.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!</i></p> <p>Gospel: Matthew 5: 17–37 <i>You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; but I say this to you.</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: with Euch. Pr. no 4 (p. 32) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 4 (p. 32)</p> <p>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> <p>1st Reading: Leviticus 19: 1–2, 17–18 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 3: 16–23 Gospel: Matthew 5: 38–48</p>
<p>Mon 17th Feb 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Howard Thompson's Ints</i></p> <p>Tues 18th Feb 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Paul McPeake RIP</i></p> <p>Wed 19th Feb 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Maria-Teresa Distefano</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 10.45am Funeral <i>Peter Gillow RIP</i></p> <p>Thurs 20th Feb 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Roy Clucas's Ints</i></p> <p>Fri 21st Feb <i>(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Phyllis Lawlor RIP</i></p> <p>Sat 22nd Feb CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE 10am Mass <i>May Adams RIP</i></p>	<p>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> <p>Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at any other time.</p> <p>ROSARY</p> <p>Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> <p>Any parishioner frail through illness or old age, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Philip for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.</p>
<p>6.30pm* <i>Mario & Giuseppina Vaccaro RIP</i></p> <p>Sun 23rd Feb 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am** <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am** <i>Antonino Martorana RIP</i> 3.30pm Italian Mass ‡</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*Vigil Mass of Sunday</p> <p>** With Children's Liturgy (nursery-age to year 2 only) ‡ There are also Sunday evening Masses in English in Hertford (6pm) and Waltham Cross (6.30pm)</p>	
REGULAR EVENTS	
<p>Tues 18th 1.30pm Guild Tea and chat, crypt</p>	<p>Fri 21st 7.30pm Prayer group, church Sat 22nd 10.30am SPUC coffee morning</p>

NEWSLETTER ITEMS TO PRESBYTERY IN WRITING, BY FAX, OR E-MAIL BY 9AM THURS WITH YOUR NAME & PHONE NO. — THANK YOU. **NEW PARISHIONERS** Please take a parish membership form & information leaflet from the box attached to the notice board. The completed forms should be posted through the presbytery letterbox. **MOVING HOME?** Please post your new details through the presbytery letterbox. **PARROCCHIANI:** *Si pregano tutti i parrocchiani di prendere i questionari (uno per ciascun famiglia) che si trovano vicino al tabellone degli avvisi. Una volta compilati, i questionari devono essere riconsegnati depositandoli nella cassetta della posta vicina alla statua di Sant'Antonio.*