

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

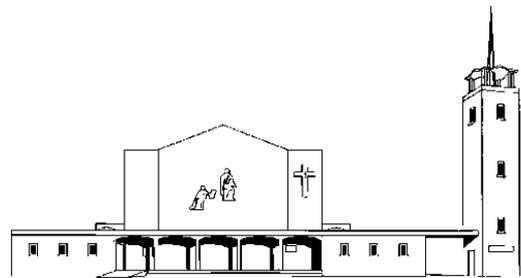
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(<http://yofhomilies.wordpress.com>)



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 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 23RD MARCH 2014

GOSPEL: John 4: 5–42 *The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

THE MIDDLE SUNDAYS OF LENT IN 'YEAR A' are taken up with the three great traditional Lenten passages from St John's Gospel that speak of conversion and faith. Today's is the first, the dialogue of Our Lord with the Samaritan Woman at the well; next Sunday's is the cure of the man born blind; and the third is the raising of Lazarus. Each of these is incredibly moving, Our Lord bringing out the faith of those He encounters; and those converted become, like the Samaritan Woman, credible and powerful witnesses to Our Lord Jesus.



OUR GROWING IN FAITH CAMPAIGN — as I explained last week in the homily — has now been widened to embrace the whole parish, and most households in the parish this past week should have received a postal pack* to give more information on our parish's contribution to the diocesan scheme to support our **parishes**, our **priests**, and our **diocesan Caritas**. We are blessed to have been able already to raise in pledges some £97,000+ from the first 60 households who have contributed, which means that we are already almost half way to our parish goal of £200,000. But this still mean that we need *generous and valuable contributions from the rest of the parish* to realise our dream of being able to afford to employ a part-time parish catechist for, say, 5 years: if we are able to get to our target, then as a parish we will retain £62,000 of the donations.

* IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A POSTAL PACK for **Growing in Faith** this week, there should be spare A4 packs available by the Newsletters for you to take.

I urge you, when you have read the information provided, to weigh up your own possible contribution to the scheme. There are 'pledge forms' included with this week's Newsletter, on which you can record your intended level of giving — this is not a formal binding contract, of course, but a statement of intent; as the donor you are always in control of the gift, and can raise or lower your giving at any point if future circumstances change. Most donors are, like myself, spreading their giving over 5 years to allow an affordable monthly amount to grow into a sizeable gift. Thank you for all your generosity, and, please, let's be united in prayer for a successful campaign.

May God bless us so that as a parish we can grow in holiness and Gospel outreach. Fr Philip

From *Gaudium et Spes*, Vatican II on 'The Church in the Modern World,' n. 15:



Man judges rightly that by his intellect he surpasses the material universe, for he shares in the light of the divine mind. By relentlessly employing his talents through the ages he has indeed made progress in the practical sciences and in technology and the liberal arts. In our times he has won superlative victories, especially in his probing of the material world and in subjecting it to himself. Still he has always searched for more penetrating truths, and finds them. For his intelligence is not confined to observable data alone, but can with genuine certitude attain to reality itself as knowable, though in consequence of sin that certitude is partly obscured and weakened.

PRAYER & LITURGY

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR is held on the third Sunday of each month. It will next take place 5pm **Sunday 18th May**. Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction, with a Scriptural reflection.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday evening of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **Friday 16th May**. 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!

LENT

'IDEAS FOR LENT 2014' — which I made available to you last Sunday — may be found alongside the Newsletters again this week (pink sheets) for those of you who missed a copy. Also on parish website.

PARISH "PENANCE" FOR LENT: in Lent, we will have no final hymn at Sunday Mass, and then we will **keep silence** in the body of the church, so as to allow a period of prayer for those who wish to remain after Mass in Thanksgiving. Please abide by this!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: the "Way of the Cross" followed in church each Friday (12.30pm, after Mass) & Saturday (9.30am, before Mass.) Stations of the Cross in Italian each Friday at 5pm.

"COME FOLLOW ME" the diocesan faith-sharing booklet will look at the "Joy of the Gospel." The booklet is now available from the back of the church by the newspapers for £1.50. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

LENTEN ALMS are collected each year in support of charitable causes. The Archbishop has decided that this year's two beneficiaries will be: (i) *Aid to the Church in Need*, specifically for the relief they are providing to the people of Syria; (ii) *the Bakhita Fund* in association with *Caritas Westminster*, working together to provide aid and support to victims of human trafficking and modern slavery. **You will find the box throughout Lent in front of the lectern.**

LENT LUNCHESES will be held every Tuesday during Lent at Barclay Hall (St Catherine & St Paul's Anglican church hall) at 12.15pm for £3. **Fr Philip will be the speaker on 8th April so our team of helpers need to arrive at 10.30am.**

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

We pray for our sick parishioners and friends: 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, and/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 Sławek Jedrych 01279-426017



Our parish's **Growing in Faith** season runs January–Easter, with our chance, along with all Westminster Catholics, 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 care for those priests in retirement and sickness.
3. To further the work of our diocesan *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. **Please think of making a contribution via the pledge forms included with this week's Announcer. Thank you!**

www.rcdow.org.uk/growing-in-faith

CATECHETICS

FIRST-HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: the next meeting for parents will be **Wed 23rd April** from 8–9pm in the crypt. The next meeting for the children will be on **Saturday 26th April at 10am.**

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: next meeting will be on **Mon 24th March 7–9pm** for candidates and parents in the crypt.

"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 March at 7pm.**

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY: The amount raised was £857. Thank you to everyone who donated.

TRAIDCRAFT stall will be available after all Masses this weekend.

SCHOOLS

ST CROSS SCHOOL are performing their Easter production in school on **Monday 31st March 7pm**. Dress rehearsal 2pm. All welcome.

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL are performing their Easter production in church on **Wednesday 2nd April 7pm**. Dress rehearsal 2pm. All welcome.

200-CLUB RENEWALS: You can still renew your 200-Club subscription by dropping the form into playgroup with your cheque; or by standing order/transfer online as per your renewal letter. New members, contact Theresa Casbard on 301551.

MISCELLANEOUS

A.P.F. "RED BOX HOLDERS" — the festal Mass for St Joseph's Day was celebrated by the Mill Hill Missionaries on 19th March for all members past and present. Let us remember to pray for our deceased member, Vera Brown. R.I.P.

RETROUVAILLE — 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.

PLANNED-GIVING BOXES: boxes for new financial year available from the back of church this weekend. It costs a lot to post them out, so please remember to collect your box after Mass. If you would like to make a new request for envelopes, please see a member of the finance committee at the back of the church.

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.'

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2014: flyers are now available for the diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage — a special 25th annual pilgrimage! — with the Cardinal to the Marian shrine of Lourdes. It would be lovely if this year a group of parishioners would want to come too. If there are parishioners who would need a certain degree of medical/nursing/personal care whilst in Lourdes, then

this can be arranged through the special 'St Frai' accommodation. **Please pick up a flyer from alongside the parish newsletters now.**

DIOCESAN HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2014: Cardinal Vincent invites you to join him on the 4th Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 17th–25th Nov 2014. During the pilgrimage you will follow Jesus' footsteps from Galilee to Jerusalem and on to Bethlehem. Price: £1495 per person sharing a room; £275 single room supplement. For further details and a booking form contact Gerald Daly at the Diocesan Pilgrimage Office: 020-7798-9173, email: [geraldaly@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:gerald Daly@rcdow.org.uk) or Gill Didino at Tangney Tours, 01732-886666.

DIOCESAN COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER is needed to manage the internal and external communications of the Diocese of Westminster. Based in Archbishop's House, SW1, the post-holder will promote the work of the Diocese through a variety of channels including print, the web and social media. The successful applicant will be educated to degree standard, possess a background in journalism or PR, with experience of pro-active media relations, social media and internet content management. Salary: £36,500–40,500. Hours of work: full time Monday to Friday with some evening and weekend work. Closing date: 26 March. Interviews: 3 April 2014

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: 13th April.

CHURCH CLEANING: Joanne Dawes, Lena Tona, Carmela Tona and Giuseppina Tuzzeo. Thank you!

FEAST OF THE WEEK

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD — 25th MARCH

The Solemnity of the Annunciation celebrates the coming of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce to her the special mission God had chosen for her in being the mother of His only Son. We are continually reminded of the importance of this feast to our salvation in various devotional prayers. Two examples that highlight the importance of this feast are the first joyful mystery of the Rosary, and the Angelus. Our Catholic faith calls us constantly to give thanks to God for the trusting 'yes' of Our Blessed Lady.



Masses this week

Sat 22nd March

9.30am Stations of the Cross

10am Mass *Roy Clucas's Ints*

6.30pm* *Pasquale Ricotta RIP*

Sun 23rd March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

9.15am** *Margaret & Peter White RIP Anniv*

11.15am** *For the Parish*

3.30pm Italian Mass †

Mon 24th March

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Peter Gillow RIP*

Tues 25th March THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Luisa & Rosa Soldano RIP*

Wed 26th March

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Phyllis Lawlor RIP*— followed by coffee in the crypt

Thurs 27th March

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Pasquale, Rosa & Brigida Cattini*

Fri 28th March

(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)

11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction

12 noon Mass *Giuseppe Palminteri RIP*

12.30pm Stations of the Cross

Sat 29th March

9.30am Stations of the Cross

10am Mass *Roy Clucas's Ints*

6.30pm* *Eva Cowley-Freeman RIP Anniv*

Sun 30th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

9.15am** *For the Parish*

11.15am** *Frances Woolsgrove & Eileen*

Sweeney RIP

3.30pm Italian Mass †

5pm Syro-Malabar-rite Mass (Fr Joseph)

*Vigil Mass of Sunday

** 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)

Today's Liturgy

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1st Reading: Exodus 17: 3–7

Give the water to drink.

Psalm 94 — O that today you would listen to his voice: "Harden not your hearts."

2nd Reading: Romans 5: 1–2, 5–8

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Gospel Accl: **Glory and praise to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Lord, you are really the Saviour of the world; give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

Gospel: John 4: 5–42

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

PREFACE TODAY: Samaritan Woman (p. 72)

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6–7, 10–13

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5: 8–14

Gospel: John 9: 1–41

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm

Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am

or ask Fr Philip at any other time.

ROSARY

Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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.

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust
Registered Charity No. 233699

REGULAR EVENTS

Mon 24th 7pm Confirmation, crypt

Tues 25th 2-3.30pm Ascent, crypt

Tues 25th 7pm RCIA, presbytery

Wed 26th 6pm Brownies, crypt

Thurs 27th 1.30pm Padre Pio, presbytery

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.*