

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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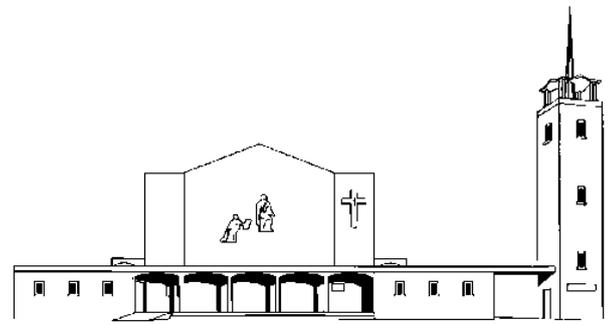
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon

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

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

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



Year B EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 2nd AUGUST 2015

GOSPEL: John 6: 24-35

He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

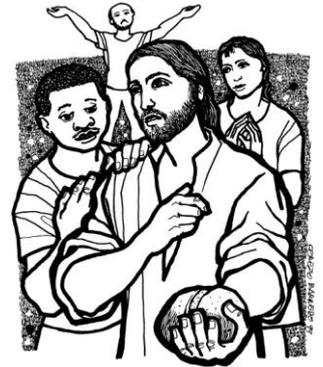
Last Sunday we began to reflect on the Gospel of John Chapter 6 which focuses on Jesus as the "Bread of Life".

The event in this Sunday's Gospel followed the miraculous feeding of five thousand people. Jesus realised that the people were looking for Him, not because they saw signs, but because they ate to their fill of the loaves. The people had only considered the material aspect of the miracle, having failed to reflect on its significance. Surely, the feeding of the 5,000 echoed Divine power beyond any human capabilities!

Jesus continued to teach them, "Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life". While one is called to work for earthly bread, he is also called to work for eternal life. As we pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Give us our daily bread," we should not lose sight of the bread of life which nourishes our souls as well. The difficulty that Jesus was experiencing was the worldly mindedness of the people. While Jesus spoke of spiritual food that will not perish, the people were stuck on material needs. Quite often, we are in that dilemma too, thinking only of material needs. Today's Gospel can really throw some light onto this dilemma. The account of the people crossing the lake to seek Jesus is similar to the event in John 4 where a Samaritan woman seeking water enters into a conversation with the Lord. In both cases, it seems that the key element is the difference between seeking for something material, and earthly seeking for something spiritual and heavenly.

Jesus wants to lead and encourage the Samaritan woman and the people in today's Gospel and all of us to realise the deeper need for what is spiritual and then open our eyes to see that it is Jesus himself who fulfils that need. He Himself, Jesus is the bread of life. Lord Jesus, give us this bread and water always.

Fr John Baptist Kisembo.



From *Gaudium et Spes*, Vatican II on 'The Church in the Modern World,' n. 58:



There are many ties between the message of salvation and human culture. For God, revealing Himself to His people to the extent of a full manifestation of Himself in His Incarnate Son, has spoken according to the culture proper to each epoch. Likewise the Church, living in various circumstances in the course of time, has used the discoveries of different cultures so that in her preaching she might spread and explain the message of Christ to all nations, that she might examine it and more deeply understand it, that she might give it better expression in liturgical celebration and in the varied life of the community of the faithful. But at the same time, the Church, sent to all peoples of every time and place, is not bound exclusively and indissolubly to any race or nation, any particular way of life or any customary way of life recent or ancient. Faithful to her own tradition and at the same time conscious of her universal mission, she can enter into communion with the various civilizations, to their enrichment and the enrichment of the Church herself.

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Eleni Kember who will be baptised this weekend.

FIRST FRIDAY: The first Friday Mass will be at **7.30pm on Friday 7th August**. This will be followed by the Holy Hour at 8pm, which is always prayed for the pro-life cause.

ITALIAN MASS: Please note that there will be **NO Italian Mass until Saturday 12th September**.

SUNDAY MASS ON HOLIDAY: Even when on holiday we are bound to attend Sunday Mass every weekend, whether we are in this country or abroad. If you need help in locating a church in another part of this country, please feel free to phone the Presbytery and we'll happily look it up for you in the Catholic directory.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting Sept 18th**. A semi-formal hour in the Lady Chapel to reflect together on Sunday Scriptures and bring our needs and prayers to the Lord. All welcome!

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR (3rd Sunday of each month) takes place at 5pm **Sunday 20th September** with Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction, and a Scriptural reflection.

FUNERALS: Fr Philip is now adopting a new routine at funerals. Any family tributes etc. will now take place *before* the beginning of the funeral Mass, immediately after the deceased's body has been brought in to church. This will help the Mass and funeral ceremonies flow better as liturgy, and also take away the drawn-out anxiety of those intending to speak.

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, Jenny Miller, Peter Tanner, Anne Smith, Maureen Fallon, Siobhan Fiorentini and Kitty O'Rourke.

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. 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.

Chaplains are: Lister, Jacqueline Humphreys 01438-285518 or 07884-187463; Princess Alexandra, Fr Leszek Gamracy 01279-426017



Fr Philip thanks those who have donated to our 'Growing in Faith' initiative, to benefit both the diocese, and our own parish's project of employing a part-time catechetical co-ordinator. **We have raised pledges of c. £190k, to give our parish project, ultimately, a slice of c. £55k.**

On the parish noticeboard in the porch is a breakdown of how much we have already raised for the various diocesan and parish projects, with data up to the end of 2014.

As for our own project of a parish catechist, Fr Philip is in discussion with the diocesan agencies, to try and locate a suitably qualified person for the post.

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

CATECHETICS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: photos now available to view online at Amwell Studios at www.amwellstudios.co.uk. Click on online galleries and then St Augustine's First Holy Communion. The username is 'staugustine' and the password is either '210615' or '280615.'

CONFIRMATION 2016: The next session will be held on **Monday 7th September** from 7.15-8.45pm in the crypt for parents and candidates.

"RCIA" – '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 will begin 8th September at 7pm** but if anyone is considering becoming a Catholic (or is an adult Catholic wishing to be confirmed), please contact Fr Philip as soon as possible. There are green leaflets outlining RCIA by the newsletters.

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 9th September** from 7.30-9pm in the presbytery. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.

SCHOOLS

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS to our Catholic Primary & Secondary schools requires the Parish Priest to provide a priest's reference as testimony of **Catholic practice, i.e attendance, every week, at Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass.** This accords with the diocesan guidance for priests, http://www.rcdow.org.uk/fileupload/upload/prf_4117200691341.pdf. In order to help him be just and fair to the practising Catholics of our parish, Fr Philip will continue to adopt the pattern of occasionally in the next few months asking those who will require a priest's form to be signed to come and see him briefly (each and every time he asks) after Sunday Mass. **This concerns those whose children will be in nursery-year and year 6 in 2015/16.** When Fr Philip last asked, there were 8 requests for references for Secondary School, and 3 requests for references for Primary School.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

ASSISTED-SUICIDE BILL: "On Friday 11th September the House of Commons will debate and vote on a Bill to legalise assisted suicide. This will put the most vulnerable people in our society at risk. Please contact your MP, urging them to attend the debate and vote against the Bill. You can send an e-mail to your MP via the Catholic Bishops' Conference website (www.catholicnews.org.uk/assisted-suicide) or send a letter by post, a draft of which can be found at the back of the Church. Even better, you could ask to see your MP and express your concerns directly." (Cardinal Vincent Nichols)

MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip has now finished his second complete visitation of the homes within the bounds of the parish. He is grateful for all the welcome he has received, and all the opportunity to chat to parishioners at their homes. He will initiate a third round of visits, starting in the north of the parish, in September.

SPARE ROSARIES: The Catenian 'Rosary group' has been sending Rosaries to Aboriginals in Australia and to third world countries in Africa, but many more are needed. If you have any spare rosaries at home, please do drop them off to the Presbytery — or through the letter box by St Anthony's statue — so that we can pass them on to the Catenians.

LADIES GUILD has now finished for the summer and will resume again on **Tuesday 8th September.**

SUMMER ACCOMMODATION IN LONDON:

Allen Hall Seminary in Chelsea offer comfortable rooms in central London in August. Rooms are from £50 per night (including breakfast). For further information please visit www.allenhall.org.uk allenhall@rcdow.org.uk Telephone : 020-7349-5600 (option 0).

SUNDAY LUNCH: Fr Philip would like to meet parishioners/families in their homes, as much as possible. Sunday lunch 1.30pm is a good (but by no means only) time. Free dates: 6th and 13th September.

CHURCH CLEANING: Michele & Pelle De Luca and Mary Dineen. Thank you!

SAINT OF THE WEEK

4th August
St John Vianney

St John Vianney, Priest (Patron of priests) was born in Lyons, France in 1786. He was ordained in 1815 in Grenoble, and in 1818 was assigned to the parish of Ars, where he spent the rest of his life. He was best known for his steadfast care of souls, for his spirit of prayer and mortification and, above all, for his tireless dedication to the Sacrament of Penance. He spent most of his life in the confessional, drawing energy from his intimate and constant friendship with our Lord in the Eucharist. He died on August 4th 1859 and was canonised May 31st 1925

