

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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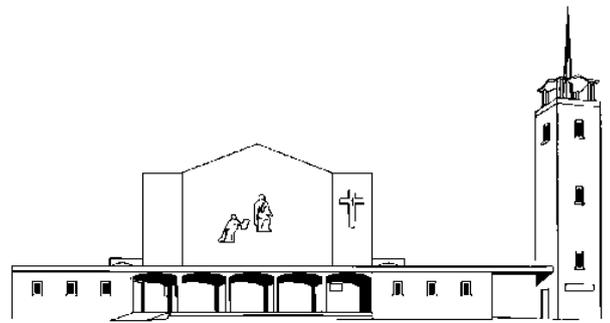
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon

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

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

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



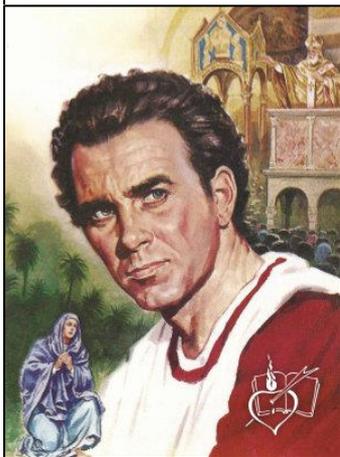
Year B TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 23RD AUGUST 2015

GOSPEL: John 6: 60–69

Who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

JESUS'S GREAT DISCOURSE ON 'THE BREAD OF LIFE' (ch. 6 of St John's Gospel) ends today with the passage we hear at Mass. For some weeks, now — excluding last Sunday's celebration of Our Lady's Assumption — we have been hearing from this same, profound, and beautiful chapter. It ends with a challenge to the Twelve Apostles, after Jesus's Eucharistic teaching: do they wish to stay with Him or depart from Him? St Peter replies with one of the most poignant sayings in the New Testament: "Lord, to whom should we go? You have the message of eternal life ..."



THIS FRIDAY, 28TH, IS THE FEAST-DAY OF ST AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO, our patron saint. It's a Solemnity in our parish liturgical calendar. We will be keeping the feast with our usual midday Mass, and afterwards there will be some refreshments in the Presbytery garden. PLEASE do come and celebrate our patronal feast! It's always a shame that it falls so fairly and squarely in the summer holidays, and often around the bank-holiday weekend, when many of our parishioners are away. But, still, we shall be keeping the feast with great joy, so please, if you are not away, **do come to the festal Mass on Friday at noon.**

St Augustine's life of faith was, for some decades, a rather tortuous one! Though his mother, St Monica (feast-day Thursday) was a devout Catholic,

Augustine wasn't baptized as a young child, owing to objections from his father. After some years of studying and teaching, and living a rather wayward life morally, Augustine moved from his native North Africa (modern-day Algeria) to Italy. It was in Milan he encountered the preaching of its saintly bishop, Ambrose, whose teaching began to bring him finally round to the idea of being baptized. In 387AD, at the age of 32, he was baptized by St Ambrose, and so began a life of great Christian practice, as a layman in a semi-monastic community, and later as a priest and bishop. He ministered as Bishop of Hippo (on the coast of Algeria) from 397AD till his death in 430AD, and wrote countless sermons and other works. Still, today, we have works of his, available, that amount to some 5–6 million words from his pen: he was a prodigious writer and zealous bishop, and the Christian world has benefitted enormously from his life!

May God bless these ongoing summer weeks with time for recreation and prayer! Fr Philip

From *Gaudium et Spes*, Vatican II on 'The Church in the Modern World,' n. 61:



It remains each man's duty to retain an understanding of the whole human person in which the values of intellect, will, conscience and fraternity are preeminent. These values are all rooted in God the Creator and have been wonderfully restored and elevated in Christ. The family is, as it were, the primary mother and nurse of this education. There, the children, in an atmosphere of love, more easily learn the correct order of things, while proper forms of human culture impress themselves in an almost unconscious manner upon the mind of the developing adolescent.

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH James Kelly and Elena Simmons who will be baptised this weekend.

ST AUGUSTINE'S DAY is on **Friday 28th August** and Mass will be at 12 noon followed by refreshments in the garden. Please come and celebrate our patronal feastday!

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, Kitty O'Rourke & Michael Foley.

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:

application forms for the new First-Holy-Communion programme (for practising Catholic children in Yr3 or above) will be available from the first Sunday of September after Mass (and not available from the Presbytery).

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

WORRIED ABOUT SCHOOL COSTS in the coming year? There is a Christian-based local grant-giving body, managed by the URC, the 'Broxbourne Educational Trust' that you can apply to for assistance (max. £500) with costs for educational activities for young people under 25 — so this would include university students. Pick up a flyer from the church porch, or go to visit their website: <http://broxbourne.urch.org.uk/index.php/projects/broxbourne-educational-charity> .

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS to our Catholic Primary & Secondary schools require 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/prf4117200691341.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

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

SUNDAY LUNCH: Fr Philip enjoys meeting parishioners/families in their homes. Sunday lunch 1.30pm is a good (but by no means only) time. Free dates: 6th and 13th September.

CHURCH CLEANING: Cheryl Holbourn, Mima Salvo and Mirella Di Chiara. Thank you!

SAINT OF THE WEEK ST AUGUSTINE

August 28th

Great Augustine, our father and teacher, knowledgeable in the luminous ways of God and also in the tortuous paths of men; we admire the wonders that divine grace wrought in you, making you a passionate witness of truth and goodness, at the service of brothers.

At the beginning of the new millennium marked by the cross of Christ, teach us to read history in the light of Divine Providence, which guides events toward the definitive encounter with the Father. Direct us toward peaceful ends, nourishing in our hearts your own longing for those values on which it is possible to build, with the strength that comes from God, the 'city' made to the measure of man.

May the profound doctrine, that with loving and patient study you drew from the ever living sources of Scripture, enlighten all those tempted today by alienating illusions.

Give them the courage to undertake the path toward that 'interior man' where the One awaits who alone can give peace to our restless hearts.

Many of our contemporaries seem to have lost the hope of being able to reach — amid the numerous opposing ideologies — the truth, of which their innermost being still keeps a burning nostalgia.

Teach them to never cease in their search, in the certainty that, in the end, their effort will be rewarded by the satisfying encounter with the supreme Truth who is source of all created truth.

Finally, St. Augustine, transmit to us also a spark of that ardent love for the Church, the Catholic Mother of the Saints, which sustained and animated the toils of your long ministry.

Have us, walking together under the guidance of legitimate Pastors, reach the glory of the heavenly Homeland, where, with all the Saints, we will be able to join the new canticle of the everlasting alleluia. Amen.

Pope John Paul II — Nov 2004



Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 22nd August QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 10am Mass <i>Stanley Abrahams</i>	PAGE 123 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18 <i>We will serve the Lord, for he is our God.</i>
4.00pm* NO Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Gaetana Conti RIP</i>	Psalm 33 — Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Sun 23rd Aug 21st SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.15am <i>Justina Ogbodu RIP</i> 11.15am <i>For the Parish</i> †	2nd Reading: Ephesians 5: 21-32 <i>This mystery has many implications for Christ and his Church.</i>
Mon 24th August ST BARTHOLOMEW, Apostle 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Brendan Gallagher RIP</i>	Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!</i>
Tues 25th August 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Susan Hegarty RIP</i>	Gospel: John 6: 60-69 <i>Who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life.</i>
Wed 26th August 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Giuseppe Di Stefano RIP</i> — followed by coffee in the crypt	PREFACE TODAY: ad lib. EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: ad lib.
Thurs 27th Aug ST MONICA 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Private Intention</i>	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 22 nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Fri 28th ST AUGUSTINE, Bishop & Dr <i>(SOLEMNITY: no abstinence from meat this week!)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Giuseppe Palminteri RIP anniv.</i> FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS IN THE GARDEN	1st Reading: Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8 2nd Reading: James 1: 17-18, 21-22, 27 Gospel: Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Sat 29th August BEHEADING OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST 10am Mass <i>Vincenzo Genuardi RIP</i>	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at <i>any other time.</i>
4.00pm* NO Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i>	ROSARY Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.
Sun 30th Aug 22nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.15am <i>Baby Owen Ingram</i> 11.15am <i>Vincenzo & Grazia Castronovo & Calogera & Maria Castronovo RIP</i> †	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.
<p style="text-align: right;">* Vigil Mass of Sunday</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)	SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date. Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699

REGULAR EVENTS

NEWSLETTER ITEMS TO PRESBYTERY IN WRITING, BY FAX, OR E-MAIL BY 9AM THURS WITH YOUR NAME & PHONE NO. —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.*