

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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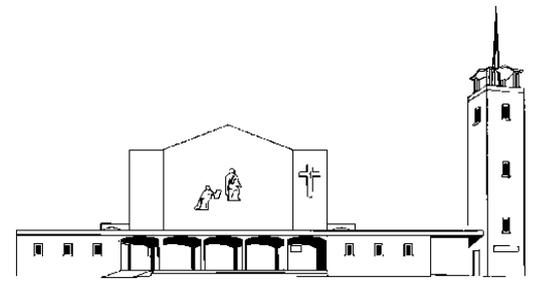
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1ST FEB 2015

GOSPEL: Mark 1: 21–28

He taught them with authority.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY, JESUS COMES TO CAPERNAUM, which He will use as the base for His Galilean ministry. It's the village that Peter lives in, by the lakeside. In the synagogue, He heals a man possessed, and manifests His divine authority, to the amazement of the people.

THIS WEEKEND I WILL BE SPEAKING ABOUT THE 'VOLUNTEERING' EXERCISE that we will undertake together next Sunday. I want to offer you a chance to volunteer your time and talents to re-invigorate many of the tasks that help our parish live its life, on many levels. To that end, I will concentrate in this Sunday's homily on the need as parishioners to give more fully to our parish, so that God's Gospel message can be furthered in all sorts of little ways here. In the meantime, do please pray about your contribution to the life of this parish, and whether God is calling you to be more active for Him and His people.

THIS SUNDAY IS 'EDUCATION SUNDAY.' We are reminded in Bishop John's letter (available from the porch) of the huge contribution that Catholic schools make to the life of this country. There is sometimes criticism levelled at our Catholic schools — which usually perform very well academically — that they are exclusive, or that they are selective, or that they don't manifest proper diversity. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. 36% of children in Catholic Primary schools (and 30% in Secondary) are from ethnic backgrounds. 18% of children in our schools are from the most socially deprived areas, which is much higher than the national average. We congratulate our own Primary and Secondary schools on the great work they do with our young people, and pray that they continue to spread the Gospel to them, and with them.

May God bless our families, parish, schools as we seek each day to follow Christ. Fr Philip



From *Gaudium et Spes*, Vatican II on 'The Church in the Modern World,' n. 41:



The Church can anchor the dignity of human nature against all tides of opinion, for example those which undervalue the human body or idolize it. By no human law can the personal dignity and liberty of man be so aptly safeguarded as by the Gospel of Christ which has been entrusted to the Church. For this Gospel announces and proclaims the freedom of the sons of God, and repudiates all the bondage which ultimately results from

sin; it has a sacred reverence for the dignity of conscience and its freedom of choice, constantly advises that all human talents be employed in God's service and men's, and, finally, commends all to the charity of all. This agrees with the basic law of the Christian dispensation. For though the same God is Saviour and Creator, Lord of human history as well as of salvation history, in the divine arrangement itself, the rightful autonomy of the creature, and particularly of man is not withdrawn, but is rather re-established in its own dignity and strengthened in it.

PRAYER & LITURGY

JILL LOGSDAIL RIP formerly of Ditchfield Road, died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. Her funeral will be on **Wednesday 4th March** (not February) at 12.15pm at Parndon Wood Crematorium, Harlow. Mass will be offered for Jill in the parish at 9.15am that same day.
May she rest in peace.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS: this Friday 7.30pm, in addition to the weekly 12noon Mass.

LATIN MASS: The monthly Latin Mass, with sung chants, will be **this Sunday 1st Feb** 5.00pm.

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR (3rd Sunday of each month) takes place at 5pm **Sunday 15th Feb** Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction, with a Scriptural reflection.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting Feb 20th**. A semi-formal quiet hour in the Lady Chapel to reflect on Sunday Scriptures and bring our needs and prayers to the Lord. All welcome!

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK 7th–14th FEB: A time to celebrate, focus and give thanks for couple relationships. The 6.30pm Mass on **Saturday 7th February** will be dedicated to all married couples. Please come along whether you are married, widowed or single to celebrate together. Afterwards we'll have a bring-and-share table in the Crypt. For more info please contact Michel and Jacky Jordan 303794.

CARDINAL'S MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE: The Cardinal invites all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2015 to a Mass on **Saturday 23rd May at 3pm** at Westminster Cathedral. If you wish to attend, please communicate to the Presbytery the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and e-mail (or telephone number, if no e-mail) by 8th March.

LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY is on **18th February** and Mass will be at 9.30am, 12 noon and 8pm. If you are a Eucharistic Minister, reader or altar server and can assist at the Masses, please sign your name on the lists at the back of the church. **Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting (for those aged 16–60) and abstinence (for those aged 14+).** This means that we consciously choose to eat less — one main meal only — and that (as on all Fridays) we eat no meat whatsoever.

SAINTS HELPING US TODAY: Fr Philip will be showing a six-session DVD series exploring Saints Thérèse of Lisieux, Benedict, Francis of Assisi, Patrick, Ignatius of Loyola and Catherine of Siena during Lent. The talks will be on **Lent Wednesdays at 10.15am** after coffee in the crypt. Dates are: 25th Feb, 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March & 1st April.

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, John Lumley, Anne Smith and Sylvia Mullick.

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 recently 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. With some very large new donations, **we have raised now pledges of c. £190k, to give our parish project, ultimately, a slice of c. £55k.** An update on 'Growing in Faith' can be seen on the noticeboard above the newspapers, though it doesn't yet include the most recent pledges. Fr Philip continues exploratory discussions with various contacts about filling the post of a catechetical co-ordinator. 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.

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

CATECHETICS

CONFIRMATION: The next session will be held on **Mon 9th Feb 7.00pm** for Candidates only. Chapter 12 of St Mark's Gospel needs to have been read in preparation for this session. If you haven't yet paid the £10 to cover materials or the £18 retreat money, please drop it off to the presbytery as soon as possible. Thank you.

FIRST-HOLY-COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The fifth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 4th Feb 8–9pm** in the crypt and the children's meeting is on **Saturday 7th Feb 10–12 noon**.

"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 3rd February at 7pm.**

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

SEX-SELECTIVE ABORTION: please visit the website www.stopgendercide.org to inform yourselves about gender-selective abortion and to support the Abortion (Sex-Selection) Amendment. **Thank you to everyone who contacted our MP. We have heard directly from Charles Walker MP that he has put his name to the amendment and will support it in favour of the ban.**

HELP AT FOODBANK: the Foodbank distribution centre at the Baptist church foyer (Essex Road, Hoddesdon) runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays 4–5pm. More volunteers are needed to help: please contact revjlavery@gmail.com.

CAFOD: The amount collected in January amounted to £156.75. Thank you!

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL will be holding a 'First Holy Communion Fayre' on **Tuesday 3rd February** from 3.30-5.30pm. There will be dresses and suits on sale together with many other stalls. All are welcome.

BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON has written a letter acknowledging the great work of Catholic education in the diocese. Copies of the letter are available from the back of the church beside the newsletters.

MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip intends to make house visits to parishioners on Wednesday afternoon this week in Stanstead Road, Cranbourne Drive, Murchison Road and Whitley Road.

THE RETROUVAILLE PROGRAMME is a lifeline for married couples facing difficulties or crises in their married life. It has offered hope and help to hundreds of couples looking to renew and heal their marriages. The next programme will run from March 20th-22nd 2015 in Hatfield, North London. For more information please call 0788 729 6983 in confidence or email info@retrouvaille.org.uk. More information on the Retrouvaille programme can be found at www.retrouvaille.co.uk.

PARISH ACCOUNTANT: The Parish Finance Committee would like to know if there is a parishioner with computer accounting experience who would like to volunteer for a specific role on the committee. It involves keeping the parish financial records on a web-based system, administering the parish finances and would require no more than an average of 3–4 hours each week. A short attendance at the presbytery on a Monday would be a requirement but a significant amount of the work could be carried out offsite to suit individual needs. Training and support is readily available. For a job description and to receive more information, please contact the presbytery.

SUNDAY LUNCH: Fr Philip would like to meet 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: 1st & 15th February.

CHURCH CLEANING: Filomena Mezzullo, Dave & Kathy Greenall, Maria & Carmelo Ventura and Theresa Casbard. Thank you!

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Prayer to Saint Agatha

O Heavenly Father, who raised Agatha to the dignity of Sainthood, we implore Your Divine Majesty by her intercession to give us health of mind, body and soul. Free us from all those things which hold us bound to this earth, and let our spirit, like hers, rise to your heavenly courts. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You, forever. Amen



Masses this week

Sat 31st January ST JOHN BOSCO, Priest
10am Mass *Vincent Byrne RIP*

4.00pm Italian Mass
6.30pm* *Bridget & Martin Moriarty RIP*

Sun 1st Feb 4TH SUN IN ORDINARY TIME

9.15am** *Kathleen McCarthy*
11.15am *Maria & Onofrio Panepinto RIP*
5.00pm Latin Mass *For the Parish* †

Mon 2nd February THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass *John & Johanna Doyle*

Tues 3rd Feb SS LAURENCE, DUNSTAN & THEODORE

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass *Shane MacThomas RIP*

Wed 4th February

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer
9.15 Mass *Maria-Teresa & Giuseppe Di Stefano RIP* —
followed by coffee in the crypt

Thurs 5th February ST AGATHA, Virgin & Martyr
NO MASS

Fri 6th February ST PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS

(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)
11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction
12 noon Mass *Vincent Byrne RIP*
7.30pm Mass *Bridget Connors' intentions*
8.00pm Holy Hour

Sat 7th February

10am Mass *Casey Family intentions*

4.00pm Italian Mass
6.30pm* *Kevin O'Neill RIP*

Sun 8th Feb 5th SUN IN ORDINARY TIME

9.15am** *For the Parish*
11.15am *Terry McIntyre RIP* †

*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

PAGE 132 in the Mass books

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 18: 15–20

I will raise up a prophet and I will put my words into his mouth.

Psalms 94 — O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 7: 32–35

An unmarried woman can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy.

Gospel Accl: *Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!*

Gospel: Mark 1: 21–28

He taught them with authority.

PREFACE TODAY: Sundays no. 4 (p. 55)

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Job 7: 1–4, 6–7

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 9: 16–19, 22–23

Gospel: Mark 1:29–39

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.

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

Tues 3rd 1.30pm Ascent, crypt
Tues 3rd 7pm RCIA, presbytery

Wed 4th 6.00pm Brownies, crypt
Wed 4th 8.00pm Parents 1st HC, meeting
Sat 7th 10am Children's 1st HC session

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.*