

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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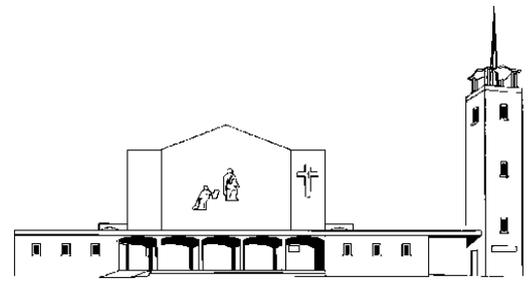
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

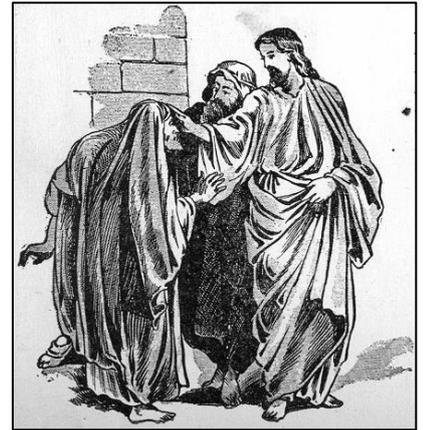
15th FEB 2015

GOSPEL: Mark 1: 40–45

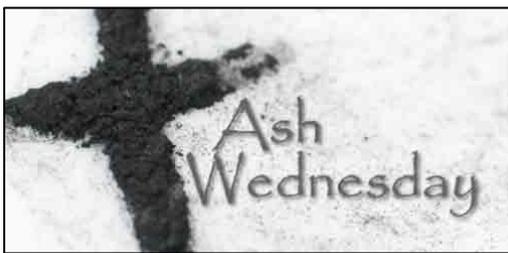
The leprosy left him at once and he was cured.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

OUR FINAL PASSAGE FROM CHAPTER 1 OF ST MARK'S GOSPEL, before we enter Lent, sees our Lord once again healing a man. This man was a leper, a contagious disease, and considered ritually unclean, and someone to shun. Our Lord does not ignore him, but has compassion on the leper, and touches him, and heals him. Who might it be that we ignore, shun, or studiously avoid? Is the Lord calling us to be back in touch with that person, to reach out to them with a hand of friendship?



LAST WEEKEND I WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE 'VOLUNTEERING' EXERCISE that we undertook together. Quite apart from all those of you who indicated that you volunteer in various capacities already, some 90 parishioners filled in cards to make themselves available in new ways. I am grateful for that. I intend to leave this opportunity *open for one more week* — cards for filling in are available still alongside the newsletters. Please find a card, if you wish to volunteer, and return it to me, or post it through the Presbytery door in the next few days. Over the coming week I will start to analyse the response and communicate in various ways with the groups which you have offered to support. I have been touched by the way in which you responded to this request, and am hopeful for a lot of good to come from this. May the Lord build up this Parish — for it is *His* work we do!



THE PENITENTIAL SEASON OF LENT BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY with our keeping of 'Ash Wednesday.' I hope and pray that you will *all* be able to attend Mass that day, *along with your children* who are on their half-term break. It is important as a parish that we keep Lent well, and there is no better way to begin Lent than with the sign of the penitence — the ashes — on our foreheads. **Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence from**

meat, so please keep these disciplines diligently, as every Catholic (within the age ranges) should.

*** * * * * ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES: 9.30am, 12 noon, 8pm * * * * ***

May God bless our parish as we seek to grow together towards the Kingdom.

Fr Philip

From *Gaudium et Spes*, Vatican II on 'The Church in the Modern World,' n. 42:



Since in virtue of her mission and nature she is bound to no particular form of human culture, nor to any political, economic or social system, the Church by her very universality can be a very close bond between diverse human communities and nations, provided these trust her and truly acknowledge her right to true freedom in fulfilling her mission. For this reason, the Church admonishes her own sons, but also humanity as a

whole, to overcome all strife between nations and race in this family spirit of God's children, and in the same way, to give internal strength to human associations which are just.

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Bridget Connors, Vienna Rowe, Dolly-Rae Harrison and Ryan Fairgrieve who will be baptised this weekend.

GAETANA LOMANTO RIP of Westgate House, Ware, died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. Her funeral will be on **Tuesday 17th February at 9.30am.** *May she rest in peace.*

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR (3rd Sunday of each month) takes place at 5pm **this 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 hour in the Lady Chapel to reflect together on Sunday Scriptures and bring our needs and prayers to the Lord. All welcome!

FREE PRAYER PAMPHLETS for 'After Holy Communion' and for 'Praying as a Family' are still available to take from the back of church.

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 **Sat 23rd May at 3pm** at Westminster Cathedral. If you wish to attend, please communicate to the Presbytery the following details: husband's 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: the "Way of the Cross" is followed in church each Friday (12.30pm, after Mass, & Saturday (9.30am, before Mass.) And in Italian at 5.30pm each Friday.

LENTEN ALMS are collected each year in support of charitable causes. The Archbishop has decided that this year's charity will be *Caritas*.

Caritas has been created to help parishes set up and run projects designed to give practical help to the poor, the hungry, the lonely and the vulnerable in our diocese. But its work is only possible if it receives donations. To find out more about *Caritas*, please do take a leaflet which are beside the newsletters. **You will find the box throughout Lent in front of the lectern.**

'**LENT EXTRA**' booklets with daily Lent meditations are now available to buy for £1.50 by the newspapers. Please place your money in the newspaper box

'**ANOINTED**' is the diocesan faith-sharing booklet for Lent, and explores what it means for all baptised to share in Christ's mission. 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.

LENT LUNCHES 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 24th Feb so our team of helpers need to arrive at 10.45am.**

'**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 2nd March 7.00pm** for Candidates and parents. Chapter 13 of St Mark's Gospel needs to have been read in preparation for this session. By then, could the candidates also have filled in 'page 4' with their choice of Confirmation saint's name.

FIRST-HOLY-COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The sixth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 11th March 8-9pm** in the crypt and the children's meeting is on **Saturday 14th March 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. **The course continues on 24th February at 7pm**, but attendance is expected at one of the Ash Wednesday Masses (18th Feb) for the start of Lent, and then the Rite of Election takes place at the Cathedral, Sunday 22nd Feb, 3pm.

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Wednesday 18th and Friday 27th 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.

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S NURSERY: Applications for September 2015 are open, and must be made

via www.hertsdirect.org/nurseryadmissions, Herts County Council. The school application form must also be filled in, and is available from the school office or can be downloaded from www.staugustines.herts.sch.uk/herts/primary/staugustines/site/pages/admissions. **Closing date for applications is Friday 20th March.**

200 CLUB RENEWALS take place after Masses on **28th Feb/1st March** and **7th/8th March**. If you would like join, you can speak to one of the St Augustine's Under 5's committee or contact Theresa Casbard on 01992-301551 or t.casbard@ntlworld.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip intends to make house visits to parishioners on Wednesday afternoon this week in Old Highway.

OVER 70s 'SAN GIUSEPPE' MEAL: Broxbourne & Sutura Town Twinning Association are offering a free meal to 10 parishioners aged over 70. It will be on **Sunday 22nd March** 12.30-4.30pm at the Borough Offices, Broxbourne. This is on a first-come, first-served basis, so if you are interested, please contact the presbytery soon.

RISE THEATRE are performing their 'White Rabbit' play in SS Alban & Stephen Church on **Thursday 26th Feb.** 7.30pm. It's for adults and children aged 12+. For tickets visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/risetheatre.

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: 15th & 22nd March.

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

Masses this week

Sat 14th Feb SS CYRIL, MONK & METHODIUS, Bishops
10am Mass *Mary & Joseph Murphy*

4.00pm Italian Mass
6.30pm* *Peter Yee RIP anniv.*

Sun 15th Feb 6TH SUN IN ORDINARY TIME
9.15am *For the Parish*
11.15am *Joe Phelan & Lauren Eley RIP Anniv*
5.00pm Holy Hour †

Mon 16th February
8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer
9.15am Mass *Elsie Ovenden's intentions*

Tues 17th Feb
8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer
9.30am **Funeral Gaetana Lomanto RIP**

Wed 18th February ASH WEDNESDAY
(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14 +; fasting for those aged 16–60)
8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer
9.30am Mass *Dennis Dempsey RIP*
12 noon Mass *Gina Gullo RIP*
8pm Mass *Carlo Gaudiano*

Thurs 19th February
8.30am Mass *Shane MacThomas RIP*

Fri 20th February
(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)
11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction
12 noon Mass *Terry McIntyre RIP 1st Anniv*
12.30pm Stations of the Cross

Sat 21st Feb
9.30am Stations of the Cross
10am Mass *Edward Flood RIP*

4.00pm Italian Mass
6.30pm* *For the Parish*

Sun 22nd Feb FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
9.15am** *Carmella De Luca RIP Anniv*
11.15am *Antonio Martorana* †

* 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 137 in the Mass books

1st Reading: Leviticus 13: 1–2, 44–46
The leper must live apart: he must live outside the camp.

Psalm 31 — You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 31–11:1
Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Gospel Accl: *Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!*

Gospel: Mark 1: 40–45
The leprosy left him at once and he was cured.

PREFACE TODAY: with Euch. Pr no. 4 (p. 32)
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 4 (p. 32)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

1st Reading: Genesis 9: 8–15
2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3: 18–22
Gospel: Mark 1:12–15

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 17th 1.30pm Ascent, crypt

Fri 20th 7.30pm Prayer group

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.*