

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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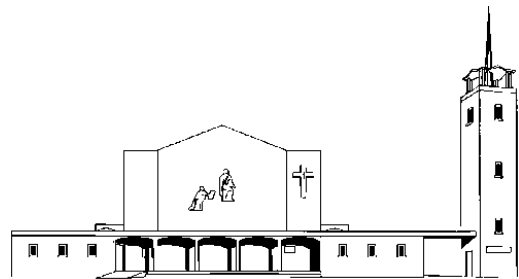
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

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 OF LENT

15TH MARCH 2015

GOSPEL: John 3: 14–21

God sent his Son so that through Him the world might be saved.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — LAETARE SUNDAY — is a moment, mid-Lent, for us to relax a little the discipline of Lent, to sense that Easter is now on the horizon, and also to celebrate Mothering Sunday. The purple of Lent gives way, briefly, to the rose-pink of *Laetare*, and we also hear



proclaimed, from St John's Gospel, this Sunday, the beautiful verse 3:16, "For God so loved the world ..." One could almost consider that line as the Gospel in miniature; a line that we should each memorize and have close to our hearts always!

For God so loved the world
that He gave His only Son,
so that everyone
who believes in Him
will not perish
but have eternal life

John 3:16 NLT

WE BEGAN, LAST WEEK, OUR NEW PLANNED-GIVING CAMPAIGN, and I gave an extended notice at the end of Mass to introduce it. I hope that you received the blue leaflet that explains the need for our renewed effort to increase our regular offertory collection. This weekend, to fill you in more specifically on the details, a member of the parish's Finance Committee will address you towards the end of Mass, and I will preach a shorter homily to make time for this. I do ask you to listen carefully and kindly to what he has to say, as it is important that we each consider honestly the right level of our weekly giving, so as to support the parish and cover its day-to-day costs. I said last week, and I repeat again: I know that many of you have been generous — and continue to be generous — in various ways of giving, and the last thing I want is to be criticised for "always talking about money." Nevertheless, we cannot continue to have an annual deficit, as we have had for the past three years. Thanks for listening to the address given today, and please reflect on what is the right level of offertory giving for you, over the next week.

May God bless our families, and especially this Sunday the mothers of our parish! Fr Philip

From *Gaudium et Spes*, Vatican II on 'The Church in the Modern World,' n. 44:



The experience of past ages, the progress of the sciences, and the treasures hidden in the various forms of human culture, by all of which the nature of man himself is more clearly revealed and new roads to truth are opened, these profit the Church, too. For, from the beginning of her history she has learned to express the message of Christ with the help of the ideas and terminology of various philosophers, and has tried to clarify

it with their wisdom, too. Her purpose has been to adapt the Gospel to the grasp of all as well as to the needs of the learned, insofar as such was appropriate. Indeed this accommodated preaching of the revealed word ought to remain the law of all evangelization.

PRAYER & LITURGY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS, the 'Way of the Cross' is followed in church each Fri (12.30pm, after Mass) & Sat (9.30am, before Mass.) Also in Italian at 4.30pm each Friday.

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

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday (usually) of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting April 24th**. 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!

HOLY WEEK – advanced notice of times:

PALM SUNDAY 29th March: Blessing of Palms will take place at every Mass. **Please note: the 9.15am Mass will begin at 9am** with the blessing of the Palms in the parish garden by the grotto, with procession from garden to church.

Tuesday 31st March: CHRISM MASS at Westminster Cathedral at 12 noon.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 2nd April
8pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
9.30–Midnight: praying at Altar of Repose.

GOOD FRIDAY: 3rd April
10am Stations of the Cross
c. 10.45am Churches Together Act of Witness –
Meet at Clock Tower in town.
3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7pm Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY: 4th April
9pm Mass of the Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY: 9.15am and 11.15am Mass

RECONCILIATION BEFORE EASTER

In addition to the regular times for Confession, there will be the additional availability of the Sacrament:

Penitential Services for the parish on Monday 30th March at 11.30am and 7.30pm. Several priests available on these occasions.

Also there are other Penitential Services locally:
BISHOPS STORTFORD: Thurs 26th March 7.30pm
WARE: 26th March 7.30pm Adults
WALTHAM CROSS: Monday 30th March 8pm
HERTFORD parish (tel. 582019) has many extra confessions during Holy Week.

LENT

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!

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.**

'SAINTS HELPING US TODAY': Fr Philip is showing an excellent DVD series exploring Saints — **Catherine of Siena**, Ignatius of Loyola and Thérèse of Lisieux. This is on **Lent Wednesdays at 10.15am** after coffee in the crypt. Dates: 18th, 25th March & 1st April.

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.

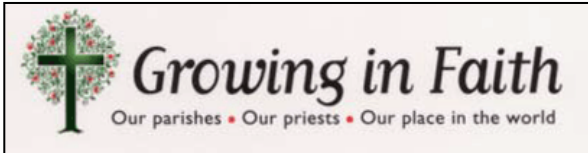
HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

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.

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

CATECHETICS

CONFIRMATION: The next session will be held on **Mon 16th March 7pm** for Candidates and parents. Chapter 14 of St Mark's Gospel is to be read in preparation for this session. Candidates also need to have filled in 'page 4' with their choice of Confirmation saint's name.

FIRST-HOLY-COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The seventh meeting for parents will be on **Wed 22nd April 8-9pm** in the crypt and the children's meeting is on **Saturday 25th April 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 17th March at 7pm.**

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, please ring the presbytery.

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S NURSERY: Applications for September 2015 must be made via www.hertsdirect.org/nurseryadmissions, Herts County Council. The school application form must also be filled in, and can be downloaded from www.staugustines.herts.sch.uk/herts/primary/staugustines/site/pages/schoolinformation/admissions. **Closing date Friday 20th March.**

MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will visit parishioners this week (Wed afternoon) in Crossfield Road, and Village Close.

PLANNED-GIVING BOXES: Boxes of envelopes for the new financial year will be available from the back of the church **this weekend.** It costs a lot to post them out, so please remember to collect your box after Mass.

PARIS MARATHON: our parishioner Xanthe Hodgson is running the Paris marathon in April, to raise funds for the Bobath Centre, which has helped thousands of children living with cerebral palsy to get the most out of life with the help of physiotherapy. To sponsor Xan, go to <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/xanthehodgson2>.

WALSINGHAM WALK 3rd-11th October. Applications are invited for the 4 remaining places. No special fitness level is necessary and full guidance will be given. We also need an additional support vehicle, with driver. Contact Peter Walters (walk administrator) on 01799-550398 or jpw33@live.co.uk Website: www.walsinghamwalkers.co.uk

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 date: 12th April.

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

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Remembrance of the Passion

Lord, even one drop of your precious blood is enough for our salvation.

Yet you poured it all out so that we might see the abundance of your love. Bless us this day with the gift of your new life. Bless those who are sure that their lives are already secure and those who are fearful. May we drink deeply at your fountain of life. Amen.



Masses this week

Sat 14th March

10am Mass *Jim O'Brien RIP Anniv & Mark Reeks*

4.00pm Italian Mass

6.30pm* *For the Parish*

Sun 15th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

9.15am** *Ned Monaghan RIP*

11.15am *Frances Woolsgrove/Eileen Sweeney RIP*

5pm Holy Hour



Mon 16th March

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Ben Ighade's intentions*

Tues 17th March ST PATRICK, Bishop

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am *Pat O'Riordan RIP*

Wed 18th March

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Andrea & Rosalinda Cattini RIP* — followed by coffee in the crypt

Thurs 19th March ST JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF BVM

9.15am Mass *Pat Stephenson RIP*

Fri 20th March

(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)

11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction

12 noon Mass *Joseph Penheiro RIP*

12.30pm Stations of the Cross

Sat 21st March

9.30am Stations of the Cross

10am Mass *Gaetano Martorana RIP*

4.00pm Italian Mass

6.30pm* *Pasquale Ricotta RIP*

Sun 22nd March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

9.15am** *For the Parish*

11.15am *Eric & Mollie Field RIP Anniv*



* **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 162 in the Mass books

1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36: 14–16, 19–23

The wrath and mercy of God are revealed in the exile and in the release of his people

Psalm 136 — O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2: 4–10

You who were dead through your sins have been saved through grace.

Gospel Accl: ***Glory and praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!***

Gospel: John 3: 14–21

God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved.

PREFACE TODAY: Lent II (p. 56)

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

1st Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31–34

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5: 7–9

Gospel: John 12: 20–30

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

Mon 16th 7pm Confirmation, crypt

Tues 17th 1.30pm Ascent, crypt

Tues 17th 7pm RCIA, presbytery

Wed 18th 6pm Brownies, crypt

Wed 18th 7.3pm All Saints, crypt

Wed 18th 7.30pm, Baptism course

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.*