

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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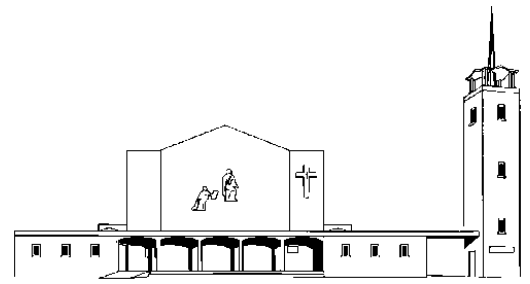
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

22nd MARCH 2015

GOSPEL: John 12: 20–30

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

'PASSIONTIDE' BEGINS NOW, WITH THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT. The statues and crosses are covered with their purple drapes, and we move into the more sombre conclusion of Lent, the time when we



particularly meditate on Jesus's suffering and death. Jesus says, in the beautiful Gospel passage of this Sunday: "Now My soul is troubled ... Shall I say 'Father, save Me from this hour'? ... But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour." Jesus agonizes over the Passion and Death He must face, and yet, out of perfect love for us, and for the Father, He sees it through. He uses the image of the 'grain of wheat' — it can't yield its great harvest of new life without falling to the ground and dying. Jesus does this for us: He dies, but He rises again, taking the 'sting' out of death for us, and allowing us to rise again with Him. We become that extended 'harvest' of life that happens only because of His death. Let's enter this Passiontide with prayer and feeling.

I REALLY THANK YOU FOR HAVING PONDERED, OVER THE LAST WEEK OR TWO, your contribution to the parish's regular offertory collection. We need, as has been made clear, to increase our offertory, since we have had three successive years of deficit. So, today, after my brief homily, you will get the chance to indicate your hopes / requests regarding this, on the cards that will be distributed. For example, you can request a standing-order form, or a box of parish offertory envelopes; and for all those who do pay UK tax, I urge you to sign the gift-aid declaration. I am VERY grateful indeed for your doing this, so as to secure the financial base of our parish, in its day-to-day expenditure. Let me give you just one statistic: suppose a parishioner put a certain cash gift in the basket on, say, 40 Sundays a year when he/she was here ... If that same weekly gift were transferred over to a regular standing order, and if gift-aid were added, that's automatically a 62% increase on the amount received! Thanks for responding kindly to this request to 'up' our parish support; the next generation deserves from us a healthy and financially stable parish, so **THANK YOU** for having considering that question: "Am I giving what I can / should to my parish."

May God bless us as we meditate on the saving Passion of Our Lord Jesus.

Fr Philip

From *Gaudium et Spes*, Vatican II on 'The Church in the Modern World,' n. 45:



While helping the world and receiving many benefits from it, the Church has a single intention: that God's kingdom may come, and that the salvation of the whole human race may come to pass. For every benefit which the People of God during its earthly pilgrimage can offer to the human family stems from the fact that the Church is "the universal sacrament of salvation," simultaneously manifesting and exercising the mystery of God's love. For God's Word, by whom all things were made, was Himself made flesh so that as perfect man He might save all men and sum up all things in Himself. The Lord is the goal of human history, the focal point of the longings of history and of civilization, the centre of the human race, the joy of every heart and the answer to all its yearnings.

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 **Sunday 19th April** 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
WALTHAM CROSS: Monday 30th March 8pm
HERTFORD parish (tel. 582019) has many extra confessions during Holy Week.

MAUNDY THURSDAY MASS: In keeping with the symbolism of the washing of feet of the 12 apostles, 12 men/boys are required for the washing of feet. If you can take part, please sign your name on the list at the back of the church. **During the Mass, there will also be a Rite of Re-commissioning for the Ministers of Holy Communion so, if you are a Minister, please attend the Mass at 8pm.**

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION, READERS & ALTAR SERVERS: If you can assist at any of the services during Holy Week, please sign your name on the lists at the back of the church.

FR BRIAN REYNOLDS has recently had surgery for cancer. Please keep him in your prayers at this time of his treatment.

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.

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—**Ignatius of Loyola** and **Thérèse of Lisieux**. This is on **Lent Wednesdays at 10.15am** after coffee in the crypt. Dates: 25th March & 1st April.

LENT LUNCHESES 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: Fr Brian Reynolds, 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, Sylvia Mullick, Maureen Fallon.

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 30th March 7pm** for Candidates and parents and will be the Reconciliation Service in church. Candidates also need to have filled in 'page 4' with their choice of Confirmation saint's name and returned their blue sponsor forms.

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 24th March at 7pm.**

BAPTISM COURSE: The second part of the course will be held on **Friday 27th March** from **7.30pm-9pm** in the church.

SCHOOLS

ST CROSS SCHOOL are performing their Easter

production in school on **Tuesday 31st May** at 6.30pm. Dress rehearsal will be on Monday 30th March at 2pm in school. All are welcome.

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL are performing their Easter production in church on **Wednesday 1st April** at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will visit parishioners this week (Wed afternoon) in Dobbs Weir, and Stortford Road.

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.

DAY CONFERENCE: 'FROM WISEMAN TO MANNING' This year is the 150th Anniversary of the death of Cardinal Wiseman, first Archbishop of Westminster, and the appointment of Henry Edward Manning as his successor. The Diocesan Archive is organising a day conference on **Saturday 9th May**, between 10.30am and 4pm, at Our Lady of Victories Parish Centre (just off Kensington High St), at which several leading scholars will explore the contribution made by these two great English Cardinals. For a conference booking form, please contact archivist@rcdow.org.uk or send a SAE to Manning Conference, c/o 16 Abingdon Rd, London W8 6AF. A donation of £5 is asked per person. All are welcome

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: Joanne Dawes, Lena Tona, Carmela Tona and Giuseppina Tuzzeo. Thank you!

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord, we ask you in all humility to bless those who have been betrayed especially in their trust in your Church.

Bless them with your healing touch. May the sufferings of so many, offered to you in love, move you to bless them abundantly. Help us to become instruments of your love in our day. Amen.



Masses this week

Sat 21st March

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** ‡

Mon 23rd March

9.15am Mass **Peter & Margaret White**

Tues 24th March

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am **Bridget Dempsey Intention**

Wed 25th March ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass **Maria DiStefano RIP**— followed by coffee in the crypt

Thurs 26th March

NO Mass

Fri 27th March

(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)

11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction

12 noon Mass **Barbara Wright's intentions**

12.30pm Stations of the Cross

Sat 28th March

9.30am Stations of the Cross

10am Mass **Pasquale, Rosa & Brigida Cattini RIP**

4.00pm Italian Mass

6.30pm* **For the Parish**

Sun 29th March PALM SUNDAY

9.15am** **Ferraro Family**

11.15am **John & Frances Woolsgrove 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

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1st Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31–34

I will make a new covenant and never call their sin to mind.

Psalm 50 — A pure heart create for me, O God.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5: 7–9

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Accl: **Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

Gospel: John 12: 20–30

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

PREFACE TODAY: Lent I (p. 56)

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

PALM SUNDAY

1st Reading: Isaiah 50: 4–7

2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 6–11

Gospel: Mark 14: 1–15:47 (The Passion)

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 24th 1.30pm Guild tea and chat crypt

Tues 24th 7pm RCIA, presbytery

Wed 25th 6pm Brownies, crypt

Thurs 26th 1.30pm Padre Pio, presb

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.*