

# The Announcer

## St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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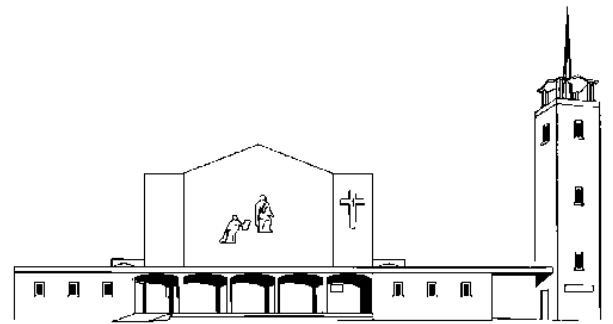
Email: [hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk)

[www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon)

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

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

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



Year C

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

14<sup>TH</sup> FEB 2016

GOSPEL: Luke 4: 1–13

*Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness and was tempted there.*

**My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,**

**WE HAVE BEGUN THIS SACRED SEASON OF 40 DAYS OF LENT** and today we hear of the 40 days of Our Lord's fasting in the wilderness. In the barren place of the Judaean Wilderness, He was tempted by the devil to satisfy His hunger and other human cravings, but overcame those human temptations. Our Lord leads us powerfully, then, in our Lent days, to use this penitential time to overcome our weaknesses. The inserted leaflet, '**IDEAS for Lent 2016**' lets you know of a number of suggestions for a wise and profitable use of Lent. But there are countless other ways of keeping the Lenten disciplines of Fasting, Prayer, and Almsgiving. One of our regular practices, together, is to keep silence in the church after Sunday Masses, to allow that opportunity for extra prayer in the peace that should follow the celebration of the liturgy. So, please, let's in a heartfelt way adopt this, for the reverence it shows to Our Blessed Lord, and to each other!



**THE 'HOLY YEAR OF MERCY' 2015–16** includes the idea of passing through the Holy Door of Mercy and so I am arranging a morning trip to go together on a mini-pilgrimage to Westminster Cathedral on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. See the details inside the 'IDEAS for Lent' leaflet, and add your name to the sign-up sheet if you want to join me.

**I SHALL BE AWAY ON MY ANNUAL RETREAT** this week in a Benedictine monastery, and shall be keeping you all in my prayers. Please welcome Fr Christopher Thomas, General Secretary to the Bishops' Conference, for the weekend Masses; and please welcome back our regular visiting priests, Mgr Peter Wilson and Fr Michael Stewart, for the weekday Masses. I am sincerely grateful to them all.

**May Christ's example of faith in the face of temptations inspire us this Lent!**

**Fr Philip**

**From *Misericordiae Vultus*, Pope Francis on the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' n. 7:**



Before His Passion, Jesus prayed with this psalm of mercy [Ps 136]. Matthew attests to this in his Gospel when he says that, "when they had sung a hymn", Jesus and His disciples went out to the Mount of Olives. While He was instituting the Eucharist as an everlasting memorial of Himself and His paschal sacrifice, He symbolically placed this supreme act of revelation in the light of His mercy. Within the very same context of mercy, Jesus entered upon His passion and death, conscious of the great mystery of love that He would

consummate on the Cross. Knowing that Jesus himself prayed this psalm makes it even more important for us as Christians, challenging us to take up the refrain in our daily lives by praying these words of praise: "for his mercy endures forever."

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**ADORATION/MORNING PRAYER** will not take place next week whilst Fr Philip is on retreat.

**MARIA SYED RIP** of Stortford Road, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. **The funeral will be on Tuesday 23rd February at 12 noon with Don Antonio.**

*May she rest in peace.*

**FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting March 18<sup>th</sup>.** 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** (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month) takes place at 5pm **next Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February** with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction.

**YEAR OF MERCY:** On **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February**, Fr Philip will lead a morning visit to the *Holy Door of Mercy* at Westminster Cathedral. Inside the Cathedral there is a pilgrimage 'Way of Mercy' to follow, with accompanying prayers. We would then attend together, at the end, the 12.30pm Mass. **If you would like to attend, please do sign the sheet at the back of church.** More information about the year, Holy Doors and the Indulgence available: <http://rcdow.org.uk/year-of-mercy/>.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** Young helpers, from year 6 upwards are needed to help with the children's liturgy. If you are interested, please contact Claire Hay 07971-063520 or Janet Pearce 07711-257560.

**MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE:** The Cardinal invites all couples in the diocese who are celebrating 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> or 60<sup>th</sup> (+ anything over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2016 to Mass on **Sat 14<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm** at Westminster Cathedral. If you would like to attend, please communicate to the Presbytery these details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and e-mail (or tel. number, if no e-mail) by **6<sup>th</sup> March**.

## 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!

**CAFOD LENT FAST DAY** is on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February**. This year CAFOD is working to ensure girls living in the world's poorest countries are free to change their lives by getting an education. CAFOD Fast Days are our opportunity to support that vital work. **Please collect your CAFOD Fast Day envelope from church next week**, fast this Friday and give as much as you can in next week's collection. Extra Good news: the UK government has promised to match every pound and penny you give to CAFOD this Lent! After all Masses **this weekend** there will be a CAFOD speaker.

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

**LENTEN ALMS** Our 2016 Lenten Alms appeal will be in support of *Caritas Westminster*, the official social outreach arm of the Diocese of Westminster. Lent is the perfect time for us to think of those suffering without — the poor, the marginalised, the least among us — and to make a sacrifice through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. *Caritas Westminster* works across our Diocese, throughout London and Hertfordshire, enabling and co-ordinating parish communities to find practical solutions that address a variety of local social needs. For example, rough sleeping, food poverty, human trafficking, youth employability and loneliness. **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 £1.75 by the newspapers.

'**LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS**' is the diocesan faith-sharing booklet for Lent, on the theme of mercy. The booklet is now available from the back of the church for £2.00. Please place your money for either of these items in the 'newspaper' wall-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 — profits to Christian Aid.

## HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

*We pray for our sick parishioners and friends: Moyra O'Neill, Peter Tanner, John Askew, Rosa Augello, Roberto Piacentini, Helen & Michael Sherman, Annette Pinto, Anne Smith, Siobhan Fiorentini, Michael Foley and Michael Sherman.*

**PLEASE TELL US IF ANYONE IS HOUSEBOUND, EVEN TEMPORARILY, SO THEY CAN BE VISITED & HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION.**

Housebound parishioners may also like to know that Mass is regularly broadcast in the internet from the Catholic Church in Bishops Stortford: <http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopstortford>

**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**



On the noticeboard is now posted the most recent summary of our parish's 'Growing in Faith' donations, which 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.**

As yet we have not sourced anyone to take up the post of a parish catechist, but Fr Philip is in discussion with friends in the diocese who have experience in this area, to try and find a recommended and suitably qualified person for the post. Do pray that this can come about soon.

[www.rcdow.org.uk/growing-in-faith](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/growing-in-faith)

### CATECHETICS

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** The sixth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 9<sup>th</sup> March 8–9pm**. The sixth session for the children will be **Sat 12<sup>th</sup> March 10am–12noon**.

**CONFIRMATION 2016:** The next session held on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 7.15pm** for candidates and parents. Candidates will need to have read **chapter 12 & 13** of the Gospel of Mark.

**“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 continues on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7pm.**

**BAPTISM COURSE:** The next Baptism course will be held on **Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> AND 16<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm–**

**9pm** in the Presbytery. This course needs to be completed prior to arranging the Baptism.

### SCHOOLS

**CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE:** If your child is presently in year 5 and would wish to go to St Mary's or another Catholic secondary school in 2017, or if your child is looking to go into Reception year in a Catholic Primary school in autumn 2017, then you will need to apply immediately to go on the list for requesting a 'Certificate of Catholic Practice' towards the end of 2016. An information pack is available now from the presbytery. Once you have completed the form and returned it to the presbytery, your name will be added to the weekly sign-in-sheet which will be available in the church porch on the noticeboard (by the fire-exit door) for signing after the Saturday evening vigil Mass and the Masses of Sunday. On this basis Fr Philip will be in a better position to judge whether he can issue the Certificate you ask for.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**HOUSE VISITS:** Fr Philip will resume his visits after his return next week.

**200 CLUB WINNER** for February was no. 66 — Mrs D Ingram. Congratulations!

**TEXT GIVING:** Our diocese is now making available a new way to 'top up' your offerings or to make special gifts to our parish, e.g. if you are away for a weekend. By using your mobile telephone, you can now text £5 as an offering to help support the running costs, ministries and programmes, or the cost of maintenance and repairs to our buildings. Simply type: "Parish" (then space) then "HODDE". Send it to 70800 and £5 will be added to your mobile phone bill which will come directly to our parish.

**CHURCH CLEANERS:** At least **two more cleaners are urgently needed** to help clean for just one hour per month. If you can help, please do contact the presbytery.

**SUNDAY LUNCH:** Fr Philip would like to continue meeting parishioners/families in their homes, as much as possible. Sunday lunch 1.30pm is a good (but by no means only) time. Free dates: 21<sup>st</sup> February; 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Michele and Pelle De Luca and Mary Dineen. Thank you!

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Feb</b> 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <b>Onofria Maniscalco RIP</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PAGE 153 in the Mass books</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Deuteronomy 26: 4–10  <i>The creed of the chosen people.</i></p>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <b>For the Parish</b>	<p><b>Psalm 90 — Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.</b></p>
<b>Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Feb FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 9.15am <b>Peter Yee RIP</b> 11.15am <b>Santa Soldano RIP</b> †	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Romans 10: 8–13  <i>The creed of the Christian.</i></p>
<b>Mon 15<sup>th</sup> February</b> 9.15am Mass <b>Deceased members of Soldano &amp; Dinato Families</b>	<p>Gospel Accl: <b>Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!</b></p>
<b>Tues 16<sup>th</sup> February</b> 9.15am Mass <b>Kay Gaffney RIP</b>	<p><b>Gospel:</b> Luke 4: 1–13  <i>Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness and was tempted there.</i></p>
<b>Wed 17<sup>th</sup> February</b> 9.15am Mass <b>Dennis Broad RIP</b> — followed by coffee in the crypt	<p><b>PREFACE TODAY:</b> Temptation of Jesus (p. 71)  <b>EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:</b> ad lib.</p>
<b>Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> February</b> NO Mass	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b>          SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</p>
<b>Fri 19<sup>th</sup> February (CAFOD LENT FAST DAY)</b> (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <b>Terry McIntyre RIP Anniv</b> 12.30pm Stations of the Cross	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Genesis 15: 5–12, 17–18  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Philippians 3: 17–4:1  <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 9: 28–36</p>
<b>Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Feb</b> 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <b>John &amp; Johanna Doyle Anniv</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b>            Saturday 10.30 – 11am &amp; 5.30 – 6.15pm            Sunday 8.30 – 9am &amp; 10.40 – 11am            or ask Fr Philip at <i>any other time.</i></p>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <b>Martin &amp; Bridget Moriarty RIP</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROSARY</b>            Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<b>Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Feb SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 9.15am** <b>Carmela De Luca RIP Anniv</b> 11.15am <b>For the Parish</b> † 5.00pm Holy Hour	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b>            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>
<p style="text-align: center;">* <b>Vigil Mass of Sunday</b>            ** <b>With Children's Liturgy (nursery-age to year 2 only)</b>            † There are also Sunday evening Masses in English in Hertford (6pm) and Waltham Cross (6.30pm)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b>            Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.  <b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust</b>  <b>Registered Charity No. 233699</b></p>
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	

**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.*