

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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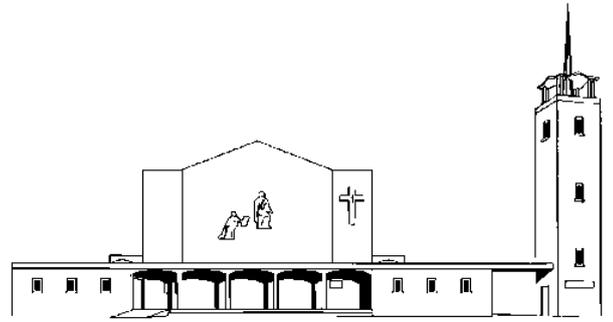
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon

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

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

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



Year C

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

13TH MARCH 2016

GOSPEL: John 8: 1–11

If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

THIS SUNDAY WE ARE MOVING RAPIDLY TOWARDS THE CULMINATION OF LENT. This Sunday we come to Mass to find the church even more starkly decorated, with the statues covered, and we are moving into Passiontide. But on this Sunday we also receive another startling account in the Gospel of the mercy of Our Blessed Lord: his treatment of the 'woman taken in adultery.'

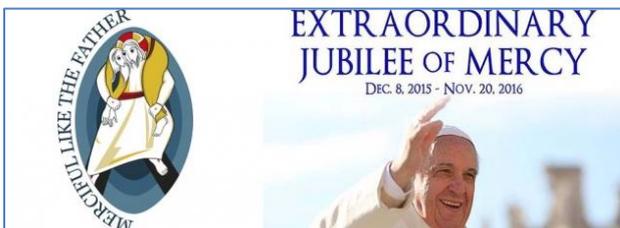
This was the very first Sunday Gospel preached on by Pope Francis — the Sunday after he was elected Pope — and in that homily he already set the scene for his theme of 'mercy' which has culminated in this 'Holy Year of Mercy' 2015/16. The Lord does not condone the sin the lady is accused of; but nor does He condemn her: He calls her to repentance and sends her on her way forgiven and with the chance of a new life. Imagine the relief she feels as He lifts her to her feet, saves her life, gives her a new opportunity for a good life! He does the same with us, every single time that we come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation! Do make sure that you have made your preparations for Confession between now and Easter. Monday 21st (Penitential Services here) would be an ideal opportunity, so 'save the date' for that.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PILGRIMAGE TO KRAKOW: there is still time for anyone (16–30yrs old) to join our group for the papal event of World Youth Day early this summer (July 18th – 31st). We went on the first of the 'info' meetings with the diocesan youth service recently, and it sounds very exciting. Take a flyer, or look at: <http://dowym.com/events/wyd/> and speak to me soon!

MANY THANKS FOR THE VARIOUS GREETINGS/CARDS/GIFTS which I received on my birthday last week, including two huge cards from each of our Primary Schools with every single child's name included! I was very touched by your kindness.

May Christ's merciful gaze fall on us this Lent as we open up to Him for forgiveness! Fr Philip

From *Misericordiae Vultus*, Pope Francis on the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' n. 9:



From another parable, we cull an important teaching for our Christian lives. In reply to Peter's question about how many times it is necessary to forgive, Jesus says: "I do not say seven times, but seventy times seven times." He then goes on to tell the parable of the "ruthless servant," who, called by his master to return a huge amount, begs him on his knees for mercy. His master cancels his debt. But he then meets a fellow servant who owes him a few cents and who in turn begs on his knees for mercy, but the first servant refuses his request

and throws him into jail. When the master hears of the matter, he becomes infuriated and, summoning the first servant back to him, says, "Should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" Jesus concludes, "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

PRAYER & LITURGY

CARMELO VENTURA RIP of Thurgood Road, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to his family. His funeral will be on **Friday 18th March at 12 noon.** *May he rest in peace.*

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting March 18th.** 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 (3rd Sunday of each month) takes place at 5pm **Sunday 20th March** with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction.

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.

“THE GIFT” ... is coming! A new experience of the Holy Spirit in our lives, starting after Easter: a 6-week course meeting Tuesday evenings, open to all parishioners.

LENT

PARISH “FAST” FOR LENT: in Lent, we have no final hymn at Sunday Mass, and then we **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. Our 2016 diocesan ‘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 marginalized, the least among us — and to make a sacrifice through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. *Caritas Westminster* works across our Diocese, 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 collection box throughout Lent in front of the lectern.**

HALF-DAY OF RECOLLECTION will be held on **Sunday 20th March at 3pm** in the crypt (coffee available from 2.30pm) ending with the Holy Hour 5–6pm. All are welcome to attend.

HOLY WEEK — advanced notice of times:

PALM SUNDAY 20th 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 22nd March: CHRISM MASS at Westminster Cathedral at 12 noon.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 24th March
8pm Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper
9.30–Midnight: praying at Altar of Repose.

GOOD FRIDAY: 25th March
10am Stations of the Cross
c. 10.30am *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: 26th March
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 21st March at 11.30am and 7.30pm. Several priests will be available on these occasions.

Also there are other Penitential Services locally:
BISHOPS STORTFORD: 11th March 7.30pm
WARE: Thursday 17th March 7.30pm
WALTHAM CROSS: Mon 21st March at 8pm
HERTFORD parish (tel. 582019) has many extra confessions during Holy Week.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

Pray for sick parishioners & friends: Peter Tanner, John Askew, Rosa Augello, Roberto Piacentini, Helen & Michael Sherman, Annette Pinto, Anne Smith, Siobhan Fiorentini, Michael Foley.

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 on the internet from the Catholic Church in Bishops Stortford:
<http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford>

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

CATECHETICS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The seventh meeting for parents will be on **Wed 20th April 8–9pm**. The seventh session for the children will be **Sat 23rd April 10am–12noon**.

CONFIRMATION 2016: The next session held on **Monday 21st March at 7.30pm** for candidates and parents will be the Penitential Service in church. Candidates will need to have read **chapters 14 & 15** 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 15th March at 7pm.**

BAPTISM COURSE: The second part of the course will be held on **16th March 8pm** in church.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY: The amount collected was £905.84. Thank you!

TRAIDCRAFT stall will be available after all Masses next weekend.

CALAIS REFUGEES: People are now being moved from the 'Jungle' camp into new huts, but they are not allowed to take their few possessions with them for risk of scabies and other infections. They are in desperate need, but what can we do? We can buy items on line which will be delivered to the Calais depots. Go to www.leisurefayre and click 'help for refugees' for suggested items that are needed the most.

SCHOOLS/UNDER-5s

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.

'200 CLUB' RENEWALS take place after Mass If you would like to join contact Theresa Casbard 301551 or email t.casbard@ntlworld.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip intends to visit parish homes this week, Wed afternoon, in: Park Road, Park View, Kennedy Avenue, Rose Vale.

APF: Mass will be offered for all past and present members on **Sat 19th March at 10am**.

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.

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: 3rd & 10th April.

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

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy				
Sat 12th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Gaetano Martorana RIP	<p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 176 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 43: 16–21 <i>See, I am doing a new deed, and I will give my chosen people drink.</i></p> <p>Psalm 125 — What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.</p> <p>2nd Reading: Philippians 3: 8–14 <i>Reproducing the pattern of his death, I have accepted the loss of everything for Christ.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <i>Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Seek good and not evil so that you may live, and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!</i></p> <p>Gospel: John 8: 1–11 <i>If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Lent I (p. 70) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 50: 4–7 2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 6–11 Gospel: Luke 22:14–23:56</p>				
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* For the Parish Sun 13th March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** Milly Yarwood RIP 11.15am Daphne Huxley's Intentions †	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at <i>any other time.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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</p>				
Mon 14th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Kitty O'Rourke RIP Tues 15th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Patricia Murphy RIP Wed 16th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Ben Ighade's Intentions — followed by coffee in the crypt Thur 17th March ST PATRICK, Bishop, Patron of Ireland 9.15am Mass Geraldine Bunting RIP Fri 18th March (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.30 Benediction 12 noon Funeral Carmelo Ventura RIP 12.30pm NO Stations of the Cross Sat 19th March ST JOSEPH 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass All APF members, past & present	<p style="text-align: center;">REGULAR EVENTS</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Tues 15th 7pm RCIA, presbytery</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Wed 16th 8pm Baptism Course, church</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wed 16th 6pm Brownies, crypt</td> <td>Fri 18th 7.30pm prayer group, church</td> </tr> </table>	Tues 15th 7pm RCIA, presbytery	Wed 16th 8pm Baptism Course, church	Wed 16th 6pm Brownies, crypt	Fri 18th 7.30pm prayer group, church
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4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Pasquale Ricotta RIP Sun 20th March PALM SUNDAY 9.15am** Eric & Mollie field RIP anniv. 11.15am For the Parish † <p style="text-align: right;">* 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)</p>					

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.*