

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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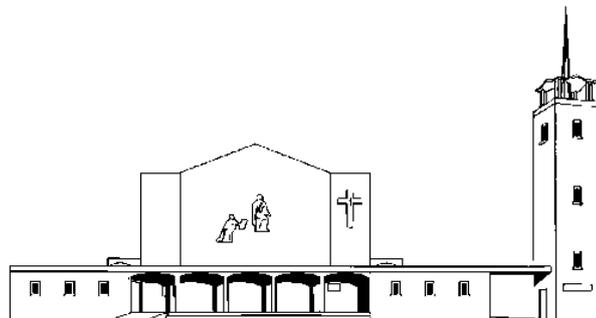
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

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

PALM SUNDAY

20TH MARCH 2016

GOSPEL: The Passion according to St Luke.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

PALM SUNDAY TODAY MARKS THE START OF HOLY WEEK, and so we enter this most sacred of the weeks of Lent. I would like you to contemplate how you will give your ALL to Jesus in this Holy Week, and bring your Lenten practices to a powerful conclusion:

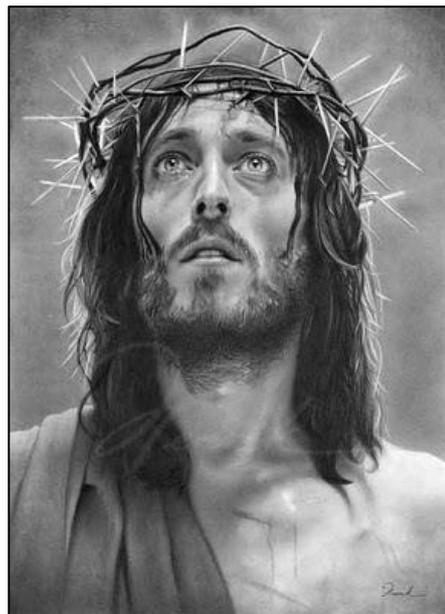
I. FASTING. Whatever else we have given up in Lent, we should make sure that this week on **Good Friday** we adhere to the command of the Church to abstain from all meat (those aged 14+) and keep a day of fasting (those aged 16–60).

II. ALMSGIVING. We could reflect on whether or not we have given anything substantial to charity this Lent. An ideal opportunity would be to make use of the '**Lenten Alms**' box at the front of church; or take an envelope, if you prefer, from alongside the Newsletters.

III. PRAYER. In Holy Week we have the pinnacle of the Church's liturgical life: the prayerful and moving ceremonies commemorating the Lord's Passion. PLEASE think of coming to the **WHOLE** of the **Easter Triduum** — especially if you have never done so before! **MAUNDY THURSDAY** 8pm Mass; **GOOD FRIDAY** 3pm Liturgy; **HOLY SATURDAY NIGHT** 9pm Easter Vigil. As well as the other opportunities for prayer, Stations of the Cross etc. All the times are listed inside ...

IV. RECONCILIATION. If you have not been to Confession, yet, this Lent, then please pray for the courage and humility to do so. The 'Holy Year of Mercy' urges us to take seriously the need we each have to kneel before the Father and receive His loving forgiveness. The best opportunity would be to come to one of the **PENITENTIAL SERVICES** on Monday (11.30am or 7.30pm) when several priests will be available for you after a brief preparation-service together. We can come to Easter in no better way than having had the sacramental forgiveness of our sins.

May we give this Holy Week generously to Jesus, accompanying Him in His Passion. Fr Philip



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



[The parables of mercy] contain profound teaching for all of us. Jesus affirms that mercy is not only an action of the Father, it becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are. In short, we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us. Pardoning offences becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves. At times how hard it seems to forgive! And yet pardon is the instrument placed into our fragile hands to attain serenity of heart.

To let go of anger, wrath, violence, and revenge are necessary conditions to living joyfully. Let us therefore heed the Apostle's exhortation: "Do not let the sun go down on your anger." Above all, let us listen to the words of Jesus who made mercy an ideal of life and a criterion for the credibility of our faith, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy": the beatitude to which we should particularly aspire in this Holy Year.

PRAYER & LITURGY

HOLY WEEK

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. 10.45am *Churches Together* Act of Witness –
Meet at Aldi car park.

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 regular times for Confession, there will be 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.**

Extra opportunities for Confessions this week:
After 9.15am Mass on Tuesday & Wednesday.
Holy Thursday: after Morning Prayer (9.15am) and before evening Mass 7pm–7.30pm.
Good Friday: after Stations of the Cross (10.45am) and before (2pm–2.30pm) and after 3pm Liturgy, and before evening Stations (6.30pm).
Holy Saturday: 10–11am.

Also there are other Penitential Services locally:
WALTHAM CROSS: Mon 21st March 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.

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR (3rd Sunday of each month) takes place at 5pm **this 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.**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY ON GOOD FRIDAY: children should be taken straight to the crypt before 3pm. The children will be brought into the church to venerate the cross and have a blessing at Communion and should be collected from the crypt after the service.

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL WALK OF WITNESS: Please gather at **Aldi car park** from 10.30–10.45 to begin the walk at 11am.

MICHAELA ('MICKEY') CANTWELL RIP of The Avenue, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. **There will be a Requiem Mass for her on Friday 1st April at 7.30pm** as her body has been given to medical science. *May she rest in peace.*

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting April 15th.** 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!

"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

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.**

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. **Please ensure that you sign in when you arrive.** Candidates also need to have filled in 'page 4' with their choice of Confirmation saint's name and returned their blue sponsor forms.

"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. **The course continues on the 22nd March at 7pm.**

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.

ST CROSS SCHOOL is performing its Easter production in school on **Monday 21st March at 2pm** (dress rehearsal) and **Tuesday 22nd March at 6.30pm in school**. All are welcome!

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL will be performing its Easter production in church on **Tuesday 22nd March at 6.30pm**. All are welcome!

MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip intends to visit parish homes this week, Wed afternoon, in: Lord Street.

PLANNED-GIVING BOXES: Boxes of envelopes are 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: Pina Johnson, Maria Manzo, Pam McCarthy, Charmaine Collins & Sara. Thank you!

PRAYER BEFORE A CRUCIFIX

BEHOLD, O good and sweetest Jesus, I cast myself upon my knees in Thy sight, and with the most fervent desire of my soul I pray and beseech Thee to impress upon my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope and charity, with true repentance for my sins and a most firm desire of amendment: whilst with deep affection and grief of soul I consider within myself and mentally contemplate Thy five most precious Wounds, having before mine eyes that which David, the prophet, long ago spoke in Thine own person concerning Thee, my Jesus: "They have pierced my hands and my feet, they have numbered all my bones."

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 19th March ST JOSEPH 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass All APF members, past & present	<p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 184 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 50: 4–7 <i>I did not cover my face against insult, I know I shall not be shamed.</i></p> <p>Psalms 21 — My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?</p> <p>2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 6–11 <i>He humbled himself; but God raised him high.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <i>Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!</i></p> <p>Gospel: The Passion according to Luke 22:14–23:56</p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Passion (p. 73) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 2 (p. 25)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS EASTER SUNDAY</p> <p>1st Reading: Acts 10: 34, 37–43 2nd Reading: Colossians 3: 1–4 Gospel: John 20: 1–9</p>
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 † 5.00pm Holy Hour	
Mon 21st March MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Kitty O'Rourke RIP	
Tues 22nd March TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Peter & Margaret White RIP Anniv	
Wed 23rd March WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Justina Ogbodu RIP— followed by coffee in the crypt	
Thurs 24th March MAUNDY THURSDAY 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 5.30pm Italian Mass 8pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper For the Parish 9.30-Midnight Praying at the Altar of Repose	
Fri 25th March GOOD FRIDAY (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+; fasting for those aged 16-60) 9.45am Morning Prayer 10am Stations of the Cross 3.00pm** CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION 5.00pm Italian Liturgy 7.00pm Stations of the Cross	<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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
Sat 26th March HOLY SATURDAY 9.45am Morning Prayer 4.00pm* Italian Easter Vigil 9.00pm* Mass of the Easter Vigil Priest's int's	
Sun 27th March EASTER SUNDAY 9.15am For the Parish 11.15am Maria-Teresa Di-Stefano RIP †	
<p style="text-align: right;">* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p> <p>** With Children's Liturgy (nursery-age to year 2 only)</p> <p>† There are also Sunday evening Masses in English in Hertford (6pm) and Waltham Cross (6.30pm)</p>	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 22nd 7pm RCIA, presbytery	Wed 23rd 6pm Brownies, crypt

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.*