

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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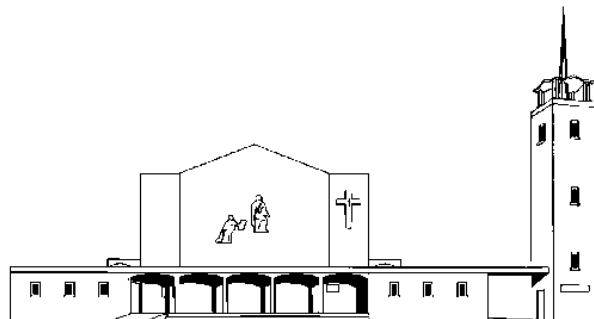
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

6TH MARCH 2016

GOSPEL: Luke 15: 1–3, 11–32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

TODAY IS LAETARE SUNDAY, THE MID SUNDAY OF LENT and we 'rejoice,' as the word implies, at being halfway through our penitential season: halfway to the greatest festival of the year, Easter. The Gospel passage for this Sunday forms the centrepiece of the whole 'Year of Mercy,' in my opinion: it is the greatest of all

Jesus's parables of mercy, 'The Prodigal Son' — or better entitled, perhaps, 'The Forgiving Father.' No parable is clearer than this one about the tender mercy of God, and His willingness to forgive and 'take back' after we stray and then repent. Jesus's words in this parable are direct and profound: the mercy of God is tangible and real; it is offered to us all in the necessary and beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation. So, at this mid-Lent point, we need to take stock of our Lenten penances and preparations. Are we ready, yet, to go to Confession, as the Church urges us to, and seek that forgiveness from the Father that Jesus is manifestly offering? Inside the Newsletter today are listed some opportunities for Reconciliation, both in our own parish and also in other neighbouring parishes. Let's each decide — if we've not already been to Confession this Lent — to choose a time receive the forgiveness of our sins.

A VERY HAPPY & BLESSED MOTHERING SUNDAY to all our parish mothers! It's another element of deep 'rejoicing' on the middle Sunday of Lent to give thanks to God for our mothers, living or dead.

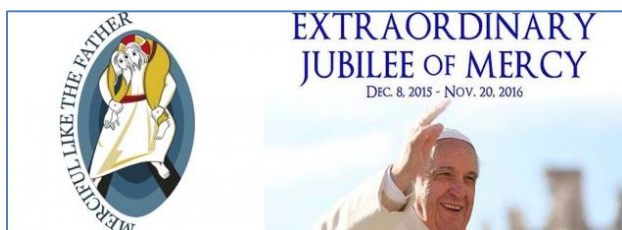
FR PHILIP LAW — CHAPLAIN TO JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN STEVENAGE — will be celebrating the Saturday 6.30pm Mass this weekend, so please make him welcome. I am grateful to him for covering for me during an evening that I must be away.

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!

May Christ's divine radiance shine on us and light us up with holiness this Lent!

Fr Philip

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



In the parables devoted to mercy, Jesus reveals the nature of God as that of a Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy. We know these parables well, three in particular: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the father with two sons (cf. *Lk* 15:1-32). In these parables, God is always presented as full of joy, especially when he pardons. In them we find the core of the Gospel and of our faith, because mercy is presented as a force that overcomes everything, filling the heart with

love and bringing consolation through pardon.

PRAYER & LITURGY

MOYRA O'NEILL RIP formerly of Barclay Court, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. Her funeral will be on **Friday 11th March at 12 noon.**

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 they 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.

“THE GIFT” ... is coming! A new experience of the Holy Spirit in our lives, starting after Easter.

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.

LENT

PARISH “FAST” 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!

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 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.

LENTEN REFLECTION will be held on **Saturday 12th March from 1–5pm** at the parish centre, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception & St Joseph, Waltham Cross, EN8 7DP. All welcome!

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 — profits to Christian Aid.

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

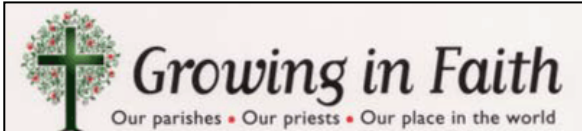
We pray for our sick parishioners and friends: Peter Tanner, John Askew, Rosa Augello, Roberto Piacentini, Helen & Michael Sherman, Annette

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/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

CATECHETICS

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

CONFIRMATION 2016: The next session held on **Monday 7th March at 7.15pm** for candidates only. 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 8th March at 7pm.**

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

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 on the weekends of the **6th and 13th March**. If you would like to join contact Theresa Casbard 301551 or email t.casbard@ntlworld.com.

200 CLUB winners for March were no. 181 Mrs C Moore, 139 Mrs I Coleman-Green and no 165 Mrs J Grahame. Congratulations to you all!

MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip intends to visit parish homes this week, Wed afternoon, in: Taylors Avenue, Oxenden Drive, Park Road, Park View.

APF: The total raised for 2015 was £1,701.87. Mass will be offered for all past and present members on **Saturday 19th March at 10am**.

PLANNED-GIVING BOXES: Boxes of envelopes for the new financial year will be available from the back of the church **next 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: 6th March, 3rd & 10th April.

CHURCH CLEANING: Cheryl Holbourn, Mima Salvo, Mirella DiChiara, Josie Warren & Barbara Wright. Thank you!

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy												
Sat 5th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Byrne Family intentions	<p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 168 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Joshua 5: 9–12 <i>The People of God keep the Passover on their entry into the promised land.</i></p> <p>Psalm 33 — Taste and see that the Lord is good.</p> <p>2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 17–21 <i>God reconciled us to himself through Christ.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.' Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!</p> <p>Gospel: Luke 15: 1–3, 11–32 <i>Your brother here was dead and has come to life.</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Lent II (p. 70) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 43: 16–21 2nd Reading: Philippians 3: 8–14 Gospel: John 8: 1–11</p>												
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Thanksgiving to St Anthony Sun 6th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** Iolanda Fattore RIP 11.15am Frances Woolgrove RIP Anniv 5.00pm Latin Mass For the Parish †	<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 7th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Ita & John Mackey Intentions	<p style="text-align: center;">REGULAR EVENTS</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td data-bbox="815 1861 1114 1895">Mon 7th</td> <td data-bbox="1114 1861 1514 1895">7.15pm Confirmation, crypt</td> <td data-bbox="815 1861 1114 1895">Wed 9th</td> <td data-bbox="1114 1861 1514 1895">8pm 1st HC meeting crypt</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="815 1895 1114 1928">Tues 8th</td> <td data-bbox="1114 1895 1514 1928">7pm RCIA, presbytery</td> <td data-bbox="815 1895 1114 1928">Sat 12th</td> <td data-bbox="1114 1895 1514 1928">10am Children's 1st HC meeting</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="815 1928 1114 1960">Wed 9th</td> <td data-bbox="1114 1928 1514 1960">6pm Brownies, crypt</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Mon 7th	7.15pm Confirmation, crypt	Wed 9th	8pm 1 st HC meeting crypt	Tues 8th	7pm RCIA, presbytery	Sat 12th	10am Children's 1 st HC meeting	Wed 9th	6pm Brownies, crypt		
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Tues 8th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Kitty O'Rourke RIP													
Wed 9th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Ron & Margaret Lampard RIP — followed by coffee in the crypt													
Thurs 10th March NO Mass													
Fri 11th March (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.30 Benediction 12 noon Funeral Moyra O'Neill RIP 12.30pm NO Stations of the Cross													
Sat 12th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Gaetano Martorana RIP													
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>* 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.*