

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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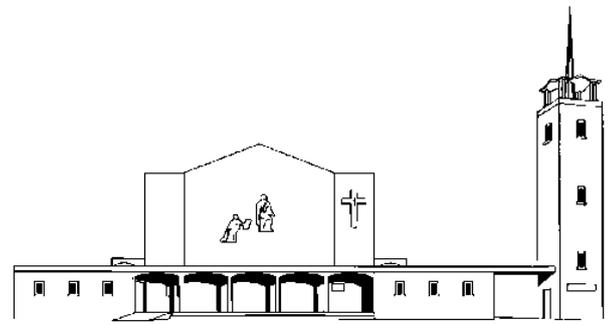
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

8TH MAY 2016

GOSPEL: Luke 24: 46–53

As he blessed them he was carried up to heaven.

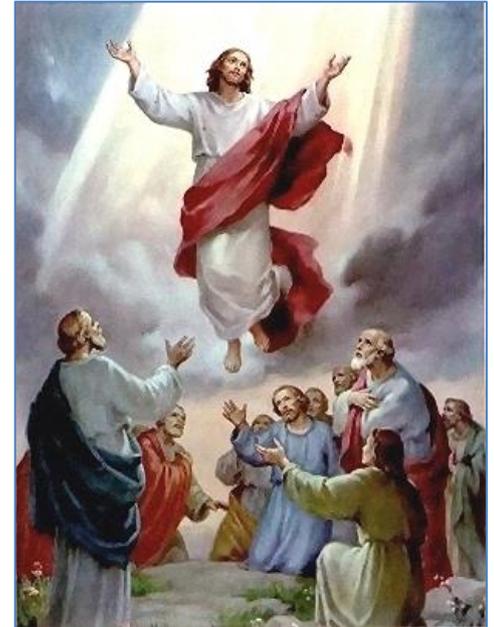
My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

TODAY'S GREAT FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF JESUS draws us in to the latter celebrations of the Easter season, with the wonderful event of Our Lord's bodily return to heaven. As the preface of the Mass says, "He ascended, not to distance Himself from our lowly state, but that we, His members, might be confident of following where He, our Head and Founder, has gone before."

THE POPE'S RECENT APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION AMORIS LAETITIA, teaching about love, marriage and the family, I now intend to 'unpack' for you over the next few weeks in a series of homilies on the document's 9 chapters. I hope that this will be an enlightening time for us, to explore the riches of this long body of papal teaching. Today I will preach on Chapter 1, 'In the Light of the Word,' on the Scriptural basis for the Church's teaching. If you wish to buy a copy of *Amoris Laetitia*, then go to the CTS website (<http://www.ctsbooks.org/>), or if you wish to read it online then go to the Vatican's website (<http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html> — click on the tab marked 'Amoris Laetitia'). If you would like to read ahead, know that next Sunday I will explore Chapter 2, 'The Experiences and Challenges of Families.'

AFTER FR ANDRZEJ'S INSPIRING VISIT LAST WEEK TO PREACH ON 'DIVINE MERCY,' there are now many devotional materials available at the back of church in the porch: both the variety of lovely prayer cards that he brought with him (free of charge) and some CTS booklets (cost as marked).

May the joy of the Lord's Ascension fill our hearts with a deep desire for heaven! Fr Philip



From Misericordiae Vultus, Pope Francis on the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' n. 14:



The Lord Jesus shows us the steps of the pilgrimage to attain our goal: "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back." The Lord asks us above all *not to judge* and *not to condemn*. If anyone wishes to avoid God's judgement, he should not make himself the judge of his brother or sister. Human beings, whenever they judge, look no farther than the surface, whereas the Father looks into the very depths of the soul. How much harm words do when they are motivated by feelings of jealousy and envy! To speak ill of others puts them in a bad light, undermines their reputation and leaves them prey to the whims of gossip. To refrain from judgement and condemnation means, in a positive sense, to know how to accept the good in every person and to spare him any suffering that might be caused by our partial judgment, our presumption to know everything about him. But this is still not sufficient to express mercy. Jesus asks us also to *forgive* and to *give*; to be instruments of mercy because it was we who first received mercy from God; to be generous with others, knowing that God showers his goodness upon us with immense generosity.

PRAYER & LITURGY

JOHN DEMPSEY RIP formerly of Belvedere Court, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to his family. His funeral will be on **Wednesday 11th May at 11am.**

FR ANTON COWAN RIP, former parish priest of St Paul's, Cheshunt, died recently. Fr Anton's mortal remains will be brought to the church of St Paul, Cheshunt on Tuesday 17th May at 7pm. His funeral will be on **Wednesday 18th May at 12 noon.**
May they rest in peace.

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Nick and Ailis Nikolla who will be baptised this weekend.

CONFIRMATION: We congratulate Sofia Gullo who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this weekend.

MAY DEVOTIONS

MONTH OF OUR LADY: During May, a decade of the Rosary will be prayed before each Sunday Mass. The Rosary in Italian will be said on Thursday evenings at 7pm.

PILGRIMAGE TO AYLESFORD PRIORY: Fr Philip will lead a group to the peaceful Carmelite Shrine at Aylesford (Kent) for a day out on **Thurs 12th May, departing from the church at 9am.** We'll arrive for midday Mass in cloister chapel; lunch in pilgrims' Hall; follow the rosary way and have Benediction, departing after tea at about 4pm. The total cost (incl. the coach) is £32.00, and we are given a hot 3-course lunch in the medieval Pilgrims' Hall. If you have any special dietary requirements, please contact the presbytery. **There are still 13 places available, so please sign the sheet in the porch THIS WEEKEND if you would like to come as the cut off is Monday 9th.** If you haven't yet paid, please hand your money into the presbytery by Wednesday 11th May at the latest. Thank you.

MAY PROCESSION will be held this **Sunday 8th May** starting in the church at 5pm, ending in the Grotto in the garden. This will be a service of the rosary, hymns and prayers in honour of our Blessed Lady. Tea and cakes will be available afterwards.

YEAR OF MERCY: On **Sunday 22nd May at 3pm** there will be a Deanery celebration at the Door of Mercy at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph at Waltham Cross with Bishop Paul McAleenan. All are welcome!

"THE GIFT" is a new experience of the Holy Spirit in our lives: the 6-week course continues on **Tues 10th May at 7.30pm.** The fourth meeting will be on "Unwrapping God's Gift"

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR (3rd Sunday of each month) takes place at 5pm **Sunday 15th May** with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting May 20th.** 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!

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS/READERS: The next rota for the period June - September 2016 is due to be drawn up shortly. Please advise Pat Kavanagh by **Wednesday 25th May at the latest** of any dates in this period that you are not available. Please also advise of any changes in personal details e.g. address, telephone number etc. Please contact Pat Kavanagh on 449282 patandcarolkav@btinternet.com.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

Pray for sick parishioners & friends: 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

CATECHETICS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The eighth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 11th May 8–9pm.** The seventh session for the children will be **Sat 14th May 10am–12noon.** **The final meeting for parents will be on Wednesday 8th**

June at 8pm. The final session for children will be on Saturday 11th June.

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on Monday 9th and 16th May from 7.30–9.00pm in the presbytery. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.

CONFIRMATION 2017: Fr Philip wishes to see each candidate (in next year's year 9 or above) and a parent for a short chat (20-30 minutes) before the summer. **Applications will close for this programme on 8th July.** Please contact the presbytery for an appointment. In general, these will be between 3.30–6.00pm on the following days: 17th, 24th May, 7th, 14th and 21st June.



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

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.

MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip hopes to visit parish homes in these streets this Wednesday afternoon: Riversmead, Brickendon Court, Brunswick Court.

GIFT AID: We will soon be putting in a Gift Aid claim for the tax paid by parishioners on donations to the church in the year ending 5 April 2016. If you have signed a Gift-Aid form previously and are still paying UK tax, you do not need to take any action. If you are paying enough UK tax and have not yet signed a Gift-Aid form you can still do so and it will apply to the previous year as well as future years. Provided you give by envelope or standing order this will enable the parish to reclaim 25p for every £1 you give at no extra cost to yourself. Gift-Aid forms are available beside the newsletters at the back of church. However, **if you have previously signed a Gift Aid form and have now stopped paying tax you will need to let the parish know.** If you have any queries or concerns about Gift Aid, please contact Bill Pollard, 461315.

200 CLUB: The winner for May was Mrs S Brown no 81. Congratulations!

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: 5th & 12th June.

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

PRAYER OF THE WEEK **WORLD COMMUNICATIONS** **DAY PRAYER**

O God, whose word is truth and in whose light we see light, guide those who tell the story of our times through word and image. Make them seekers after truth and advocates of human dignity. Grant discernment to all who rely on their labours, and, as we confront the pain and promise of this world, awaken in us a sense of wonder at your presence and of longing for your peace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Masses this week		Today's Liturgy	
Sat 7th May 10am Mass <i>Fr Anton Cowan RIP</i>		PAGE 277 in the Mass books	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i>		1st Reading: Acts 1: 1–11 <i>He was lifted up while they looked on.</i>	
Sun 8th May THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 9.15am** <i>John Doyle RIP 1st Anniv</i> 11.15am <i>Linda & Vincenzo Tuzzeo</i> 5.00pm May Procession ‡		Psalm 46 — God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. 2nd Reading: Ephesians 1: 17–23 <i>He made him sit at his right hand in heaven.</i>	
Mon 9th May 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Michael & Peggy Bartlett RIP</i>		Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! Go, make disciples of all the nations; I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.' Alleluia.	
Tues 10th May 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Daniela Ruggiero RIP</i>		Gospel: Luke 24: 46–53 <i>As he blessed them he was carried up to heaven.</i>	
Wed 11th May 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Maggie Haward RIP — followed by coffee in crypt</i> 11am Funeral <i>John Dempsey RIP</i>		PREFACE TODAY: Ascension I (p. 75) EUCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)	
Thurs 12th May NO Mass — Pilgrimage to Aylesford		NEXT WEEK'S READINGS PENTECOST SUNDAY	
Fri 13th May OUR LADY OF FATIMA <i>(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Pasquale, Rosa & Brigida Cattini RIP</i>		1st Reading: Acts 2: 1–11 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 3–7, 12–13 Gospel: John 20: 19–23	
Sat 14th May ST MATTHIAS, Apostle 10am Mass <i>Patsy Murphy RIP</i>		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>	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Enrico & Maria Rega RIP</i>		ROSARY Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.	
Sun 15th May PENTECOST SUNDAY 9.15am** <i>Patrick & Thomas Lawlor</i> 11.15am <i>For the Parish</i> 5.00pm Holy Hour ‡		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.	
* 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)		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 10th	12.30pm Lunch club, crypt	Wed 11th	8pm Parents 1 st HC meeting
Wed 11th	6.00pm Brownies, crypt	Sat 14th	10am 1 st HC session, 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 parroccchiani 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.*