

# The Announcer

## St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

Tel: 01992-440986

Fax: 01992-440244

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



E-mail: [hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk)

FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon"

**Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.**

Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon & Wed-Fri, 9am-3pm)

Also in residence: Fr Mathew Kattiyangal (National chaplain to Knanayan community)

**Year A**

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

**20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2017**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 15: 21-28**

*Woman, you have great faith.*

**My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's**, this 20th Sunday in ordinary time, we are called upon to pray persistently with great faith and our requests will be granted. Persistent praying never faints or grows weary. It is never discouraged. It never yields to cowardice, but is lifted up and sustained by a hope that knows no despair and a faith that will not let go. Persistent praying has patience to wait and strength to continue. It never prepares itself to quit praying, and it refuses to get up from its knees until an answer is received. We can learn a big lesson from the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel on persistent prayer. In this account, we see the Canaanite woman's journey of faith. Leaving her own religious tradition behind, she turns to a Jewish rabbi, Jesus, and places her faith in Him. She looks to Him for a miraculous cure for her daughter. For her trouble, she received silence from Jesus. She was rejected, humiliated, and given a cold shoulder from Him. She did not give up. The disciples of Jesus, annoyed by the fact that she was bothering Him with her loud crying, seek to get rid of her. They want Jesus to send her away. So Jesus says to her, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Even then she doesn't give up. The woman presses in on Jesus and falling on her knees in front of Him she cries out, "Lord help me." Jesus tells her, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." How utterly humiliating. In effect, He was calling her a dog! Her humility was turned into what appeared to be a terrible humiliation. People in the Middle East are very sensitive to such things. But even then she does not give up. Now, in awful humility with her face in the dirt, stripped of her dignity, having abandoned her own religious background, she has nothing left, not even her pride. "Please, Lord," she softly insists, "even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." What the Canaanite woman is saying is that she doesn't deserve anything, "but how about giving me scraps that accidentally fall from your abundance?" With that, the heart of Jesus is overwhelmed. "Woman you have great faith, let your wish be granted. And the request of the woman was granted. The lesson for us is that never to give up in prayer. If we ask the Lord with great faith and persistence our requests will always be granted.

**Fr John Baptist**

### **Pope Francis, from *Misericordia et Misera*, closing the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' n. 21:**



The Jubilee impresses upon us the words of the Apostle Peter: "Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." Let us not hold on jealously to what we have received, but share it with our brothers and sisters in need, so that they can be sustained by the power of the Father's mercy. May our communities reach out to all who live in their midst, so that God's caress may reach everyone through the witness of believers. This is the time of mercy. Each day of our journey is marked by God's presence. He guides our steps with the power of the grace that the Spirit pours into our hearts to make them capable of loving. It is the time of mercy for each and all, since no one can think that he or she is cut off from God's closeness and the power of his tender

love. It is the time of mercy because those who are weak and vulnerable, distant and alone, ought to feel the presence of brothers and sisters who can help them in their need. It is the time of mercy because the poor should feel that they are regarded with respect and concern by others who have overcome indifference and discovered what is essential in life. It is the time of mercy because no sinner can ever tire of asking forgiveness and all can feel the welcoming embrace of the Father.

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**ENZO ALIO RIP** of Saffron Close, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to his family. His funeral will be on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August at 1.30pm.**

**CONSTANCE KING RIP** of Stortford Road, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. Details of her funeral will follow in due course.

**JOHANNA BASS RIP** of Champions Way, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. Details of her funeral will follow in due course. *May they rest in peace.*

**PARISH PATRONAL FEAST:** St Augustine's Day (28<sup>th</sup> August) will be celebrated on Bank Holiday Monday at the end of August, with 10am Mass. Assuming the weather is fine, we will then have coffee & cakes in the parish garden. **Volunteers are needed to help make the refreshments. If you can help, please contact the presbytery.**

**FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting 15<sup>th</sup> Sept.** A semi-formal hour in the Lady Chapel to reflect together on Sunday Scriptures and bring our needs and prayers to the Lord.

**SUNDAY HOLY HOUR** will next take place **Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> Sept** at 5pm with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction. A truly peaceful hour!

'**LOVE IN ACTION**' is a program being run in our parish starting in late September. We will hear about how to respond to the needs of society in relation to our faith. Over a period of 6 weeks, there will be a focus in the Mass on the following themes: Dignity, Creation, Solidarity and Peace, Dignity of the Worker, Community and the Preferential Option for the Poor. After the 6 weeks, workshops will be led to look more closely at these themes and an opportunity for you all to gather and put together your own parish action plan, relating to how you all want to respond to the needs around you.

### HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

*Please pray for our sick parishioners & friends: John Askew, Rosa Augello, Helen Sherman, Annette Pinto, Siobhan Fiorentini, Toni Randazzo, Tallulah Scott & Marina Morris.*

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

Housebound parishioners may 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, Rev Anthony Curran 01438-285138 or 07884-187463; Princess Alexandra, Fr Leszek Gamracy 01279-426017**

## CATECHETICS

**CONFIRMATION 2018:** applications have now closed for next year's Confirmation group. We need to receive the yellow forms back in from those who have applied. We look forward to welcoming you to the next session on the **5<sup>th</sup> September at 7.15pm** in the crypt.

**BAPTISM COURSE:** The next course will be held on **Tues 12<sup>th</sup> & Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 7.30-9.00pm** in the presbytery. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To book onto the course, please contact the presbytery.

"**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 will begin on 11<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.** If anyone is considering becoming a Catholic (or is an adult Catholic wishing to be confirmed,) please contact Fr Philip as soon as possible. There are **green leaflets** outlining RCIA by the newsletters.



Our fundraising began in 2014, and **we have pledged of c. £185k, to give our parish project, ultimately, a slice of c. £51k.** So far we already

have £24k available for our parish project, which is to employ a part-time worker in the area of catechetics and evangelization.

Fr Philip is meeting a possible candidate for this role, who has been recommended to us by the diocesan youth-ministry team. Let's pray that this will come to fruition!

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

### SCHOOLS/UNDER-5s

**ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5s HOLIDAY TIMES:** free play and themed activity days on **Mondays & Wednesdays 9.30am-11.30am.** Donation of £3 per child and £1 per sibling; under-1s free. This includes a drink and snack. Parents must be responsible for their children and must supervise them at all times.

**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 2018, or if your child is looking to go into Reception year in a Catholic Primary school in autumn 2018, then you need to continue signing the weekly sign-in-sheet in the church porch on the noticeboard. **Please note that the system for applying for a Certificate of Catholic Practice is now closed.**

### MISCELLANEOUS

**HOUSE VISITS:** Fr Philip will resume his house visits in two weeks' time after his holidays.

**PARISH ACCOUNTANT:** the Parish Finance Committee is delighted to have appointed a new parish bookkeeper, but would still like to know if there is a parishioner with *accounting* experience to volunteer for a specific role on the committee. This would mainly involve keeping the parish financial records on a web-based system, carrying out monthly bank reconciliations and producing annual accounts. This would take up to 3 or 4 hours per month, and there would be some flexibility on where and when it was carried out. Training and support is available. For a job description and to receive more information, please contact the Presbytery.

**PARISH BARBECUE will be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Sept at 1pm.** The forms to request your tickets are now available at the back of church. We do need final numbers by **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 12 noon** so that we can order the

food. There won't be a bar, so please do bring your own drink and glasses. Adults are £5, children £1 and under 5's free. Please hand your completed form and money into the presbytery. The lists for volunteers will be available soon.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who attended my Dad's funeral as it really meant a lot to me to have so many parishioners there. Thank you to everyone who made a donation as £158 was raised. This brings the total amount of donations to over £500 and these will be sent to the Isabel Hospice in memory of my Dad, Larry O'Neill RIP. Thank you also for all the cards as I am very touched by everyone's kindness. Dawn Bates and family.

**KYIV CLASSIC ACCORDIAN DUO:** Thank you to everyone who supported the concert. It was as usual, very enjoyable. The total raised was £579, so thank you to you all.

**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, 17th Sept, 1st & 8th Oct.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Mima Salvo, Josie Warren, Tracey Hayes, Tanya McAteer and Francesca Comparetto. Thank you for your help.

### SAINT OF THE WEEK

#### ST BARTHOLOMEW

**24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

All that is known of him with certainty is that he is mentioned in the synoptic gospels and Acts as one of the twelve apostles. His name, a patronymic, means "son of Tolomai" and scholars believe he is the same as Nathanael mentioned in John, who says he is from Cana and that Jesus called him an "Israelite incapable of deceit." The Roman Martyrology says he preached in India and Greater Armenia, where he was flayed and beheaded by King Astyages.



Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
<p><b>Sat 19<sup>th</sup> August</b> 10am Mass <i>Vincenzo Genuardi RIP</i></p> <hr/> <p>4.00pm* Italian Mass <b>6.30pm*</b> <i>For the Parish</i></p> <p><b>Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Aug 20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> 9.15am <i>John Fallon RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Gaetana Conti RIP</i> ‡</p>	<p><b>PAGE 117</b> in the Mass books</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7 <i>I will bring foreigners to my holy mountain.</i></p> <p><b>Psalm 66</b> — <i>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.</i></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32 <i>With Israel, God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <b>Alleluia, alleluia!</b> <i>The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!</i></p> <p><b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 15: 21-28 <i>Woman, you have great faith.</i></p> <p><b>PREFACE TODAY:</b> ad lib <b>EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:</b> ad lib</p> <p><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b> 21ST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 22: 19-23 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Romans 11: 33-36 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 16: 13-20</p>
<p><b>Mon 21st August ST PIUS X, Pope</b> 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Michael Connors Intentions</i></p> <p><b>Tues 22nd Aug QUEENSHIP OF THE B VIRGIN MARY</b> 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Stanley Abrahams RIP</i> 1.30pm Funeral <i>Enzo Alio RIP</i></p> <p><b>Wed 23rd August</b> 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Gaetana Conti RIP Anniv</i></p> <p><b>Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> August ST BARTHOLOMEW, Apostle</b> 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Larry O'Neill RIP</i></p> <p><b>Fri 25<sup>th</sup> August</b> <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Colm Kelly's Intentions</i></p> <p><b>Sat 26<sup>th</sup> August</b> 10am Mass <i>Margaret Feury's Intentions</i></p>	<p><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 any other time.</p> <p><b>ROSARY</b> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p><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><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> Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
<p>4.00pm* Italian Mass <b>6.30pm*</b> <i>For the parish</i></p> <p><b>Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 21ST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> 9.15am <i>Margaret &amp; Alan Lawlor</i> 11.15am <i>Cirilo Balmaceda RIP</i> ‡</p>	<p><b>REGULAR EVENTS</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">* 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.*