

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

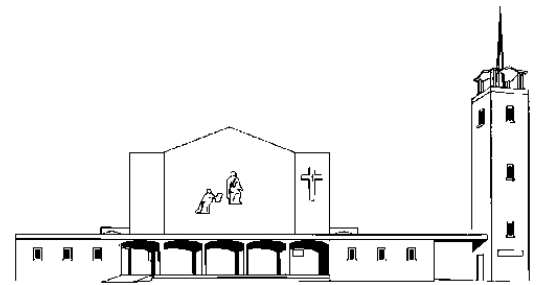
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Year A

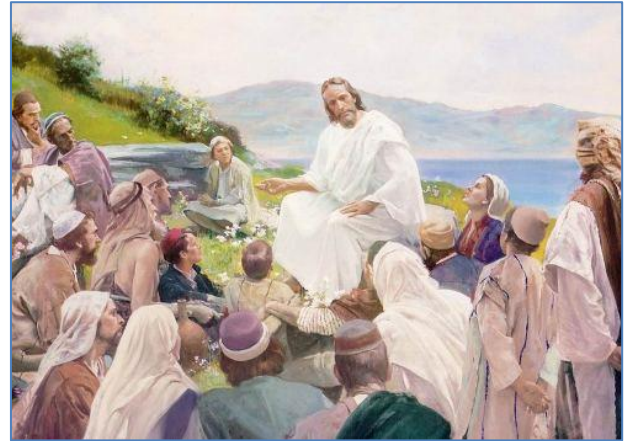
SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

12th FEBRUARY 2017

Matthew 5: 17-37 – *You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; but I say this to you.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

OUR GOSPEL PASSAGE THIS SUNDAY continues our excerpts from the great Sermon on the Mount. In today's passage, Our Lord deepens our understanding of how we are to keep the Commandments, expressing that we are not to keep them in a 'minimal' way, but in a far deeper, more considered way. One cannot just say, "I haven't killed anyone ..." – one has to extend one's self-examination to one's anger, one's aggression, one's tone of voice, one's choice of words to others, for example. Hearing Our Lord's words in the Sermon on the Mount is never easy: it can be unsettling, as we let them speak to our conscience. Let's allow His challenging words, uttered out of deep love for us, to penetrate our minds and hearts this Sunday!



I WISH TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO ASSISTED LAST SUNDAY/MONDAY with the problems in the crypt that occurred because of a High St sewage blockage. Several parishioners went out of their way to help in rather unpleasant circumstances, particularly Miss Zulu, and I am grateful to them. Thames Water worked late into the evening of Monday to resolve the problem. I also apologize for the knock-on disruption to Under-5s, Lunch Club and Confirmation group who were due to use the crypt.

I SHALL BE AWAY THIS WEEKEND and up to Thursday on retreat at a Poor Clares convent. I ask you to provide a warm welcome again to Fr Christopher Thomas, General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference, for coming up from London to be here and celebrate the Sunday Masses; and to Fr Michael Stewart who will celebrate the weekday Masses Monday-Wednesday. I will keep you in my prayers as I take this extra-special time for quiet and reflection.

May we strive and pray to live out Jesus's teachings in our everyday life!

Fr Philip

Pope Francis, from *Misericordia et Misera*, closing the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' n. 5:



[At Mass] we are immersed in the great Eucharistic Prayer with the Preface that proclaims: "You so loved the world that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer, to live like us in all things but sin." The Fourth Eucharistic Prayer is a hymn to God's mercy: "For you came in mercy to the aid of all, so that those who seek might find you." "Have mercy on us all" is the insistent plea made by the priest in the Eucharistic Prayer to implore a share in eternal life. After the *Our Father*, the priest continues by invoking peace and liberation from sin by the "aid of your mercy." And before the sign of peace, exchanged as an expression of fraternity and mutual love

in the light of forgiveness received, the priest prays: "Look not upon our sins but on the faith of your Church." In these words, with humble trust we beseech the gift of unity and peace for Holy Mother Church. The celebration of divine mercy culminates in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, the memorial of Christ's paschal mystery, the source of salvation for every human being, for history and for the whole world. In a word, each moment of the Eucharistic celebration refers to God's mercy.

PRAYER & LITURGY

ADORATION/MORNING PRAYER will not take place next week whilst Fr Philip is away on retreat.

TERENCE BARTLETT RIP formerly of this parish died recently. Our sympathies go out to his family. The funeral will be at St Joseph & The English Martyrs, Bishop's Stortford, on **Monday 6th March 9.30am**. *May he rest in peace.*

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting Feb 17th**. 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 will next take place at **5pm Sunday 19th February** with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction. A truly peaceful hour!

"THE BIG PICTURE": An inspiring step-by-step, easy-to-use guide through the Bible, 6 sessions on Old Testament, 6 sessions on New Testament, continues on **14th February** in the crypt at 7.30pm. See noticeboard in porch.

NATIONAL STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA and the Relics of Blessed Jacinta & Francisco will be visiting Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday 18th Feb**. Cardinal Vincent Nichols will receive, bless and crown the National Statue and celebrate Mass at 2pm.

MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS will be held on **Saturday 11th March at 2.30pm** at Westminster Cathedral. It's a time to remember, pray and give thanks. All are welcome!

MARRIAGE THANKSGIVING MASS: The Cardinal invites couples in the Diocese who are celebrating 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th or 60th wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2017 to Mass on **Sat 3rd June at 3pm** at Westminster Cathedral. If you would like to attend, please communicate to the presbytery these details: husband's and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and e-mail, or telephone number if no e-mail, by 20th March.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for our sick parishioners & friends: John Askew, Rosa Augello, Helen & Michael Sherman, Annette Pinto, Anne Smith, Siobhan Fiorentini, Marina Morris & Maureen Norman.

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

NEXT BAPTISM COURSE (2 sessions) will be on these dates: **Tues 14th March AND Fri 24th March, at 7.30pm**. A course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.

CONFIRMATION 2017: next session **20th Feb at 7.15-8.45pm** for **candidates and parents**. Candidates need to have read chs. 13 & 14 of the Mark's Gospel. In addition, over Half Term, the candidates are to research their **Confirmation saint's name**, and to fill in their "page 4" with a short account of that saint; also, to approach a **suitable sponsor** (a practising, Confirmed, Catholic), and to ask that person to fill in the Sponsor form.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The fifth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 22nd Feb 8-9pm** in the crypt. The fifth session for children will be on **Mon 27th Feb 6-7.30pm**.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: couples are required by the Church to give at least SIX months' notice of an intention to marry, whether here or abroad. **A new course of Marriage Preparation will begin soon, probably in mid February**, and any couples intending to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage are invited to contact Fr Philip at their earliest convenience to discuss getting married. NO Marriage date or Venue Booking should be agreed on privately prior to seeing Fr Philip, as for all sorts of reasons that date may not be possible. Please contact Fr Philip first.

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 2018, or if your child is looking to go into Reception year in a Catholic Primary school in autumn 2018, then you will need to apply **immediately** to go on the list for requesting a 'Certificate of Catholic Practice' towards the end of 2017. 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 AUGUSTINE'S NURSERY is looking into offering flexible hours within the Nursery provision to help support parents' needs <https://staugustines.herts.sch.uk/herts/prima/ry/staugustines/> is the link to go to, to access more information on the extended options they are considering offering. Please complete the preference form and return to the School office by **Friday 17th March**. This will help in assessing how the school can offer a flexible service that meets parents' requirements.

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S is collecting Sainsbury's vouchers and if you have any, please place them in the box in church by the foodbank collection point.

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL is actively seeking a proactive Foundation Governor that specialises in Human Resource matters, as well as a number of other Foundation Governors. You must be Catholic and be committed to putting the children's welfare at the forefront of everything you do at the school. They are specifically looking for someone from a HR background that is from the local community. If you are interested, please contact the Headteacher, Mrs. Gillian Napier (01992-463549) or the Chair of Governors, Adam Tackley (07852-167935).

ST CROSS SCHOOL is holding a quiz night on **Friday 24th March 7.30pm**. £5 per person, bring your own drink and nibbles. Tables of 6-10 people. If you would like to attend please e-

mail friends@stcross.herts.sch.uk to reserve a table.



Our fundraising began in 2014, and **we have pledges 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 has been meeting this week a possible candidate for this role, who has been highly recommended to us by the youth-ministry team working in the diocese. Let's pray that this will work out well and come to fruition!

www.rcdow.org.uk/growing-in-faith

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

TRAIDCRAFT stall will be at the back of the church after Mass **next weekend**.

MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip continues his new round of house visits on **Wednesday 22nd February** after he returns from retreat.

TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB will be held next in the crypt on **21st Feb, 7th & 21st March** and **4th April 12.30-2.30pm**. Price £4. Anybody & everybody welcome!

200 CLUB RENEWALS take place after all Masses on the weekends of the **4th/5th & 11th/12th March**. If you would like to join, please contact Theresa Casbard: t.casbard@ntlworld.com or 301551.

CHURCH CLEANING: Michele & Pelle De Luca & Kathleen Connors. Thanks for your help!

CHURCH CLEANERS are **urgently needed** to help clean the church for just one hour per month. **Help is still needed on Wednesday afternoons at 1pm as there are only 3 people on the team**. If you can help, please contact presbytery **as soon as possible**.

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: 19th February, 5th & 19th March.

Masses this week		Today's Liturgy	
Sat 11th February OUR LADY OF LOURDES NO 10am Mass		PAGE 136 in the Mass books	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Giovannina Minichiello RIP		1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 15: 15–20 <i>He never commanded anyone to be godless.</i>	
Sun 12th February 6th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.15am** <i>For the parish</i> 11.15am Maria & Onofrio Panepinto RIP †		Psalm 118 — They are happy who follow God's law!	
Mon 13th February 9.15am Mass Lawrie Connor RIP		2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 6–10 <i>God predestined wisdom to be for our glory before the ages began.</i>	
Tues 14th Feb SS CYRIL, Monk & METHODIUS, Bishop 9.15am Mass Marianna Ciarla RIP		Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia.	
Wed 15th February 9.15am Mass Knivett Family Intentions — followed by coffee in the presbytery		Gospel: Matthew 5: 17–37 <i>You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; but I say this to you.</i>	
Thurs 16th February NO Mass		PREFACE TODAY: ad lib. EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: ad lib.	
Fri 17th February HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITES <i>(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12noon Mass Irene Willmer RIP		NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 7 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1st Reading: Leviticus 19: 1–2, 17–18 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 3: 16–23 Gospel: Matthew 5:38–48	
Sat 18th February 10am Mass Patricia Murphy RIP		SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at any other time.	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Bridget & Martin Moriarty RIP		ROSARY Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.	
Sun 19th Feb 7th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.15am Carmela De Luca RIP Anniv 11.15am For the Parish † 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 14th 7.30pm The Big Picture, crypt		Fri 17th 7.30pm Prayer group, church	

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.