

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

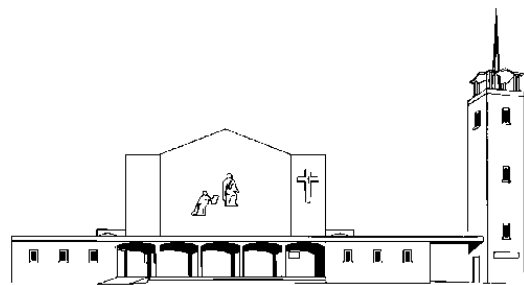
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Year A

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

19th FEBRUARY 2017

Matthew 5: 38-48 – *Love your enemies.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

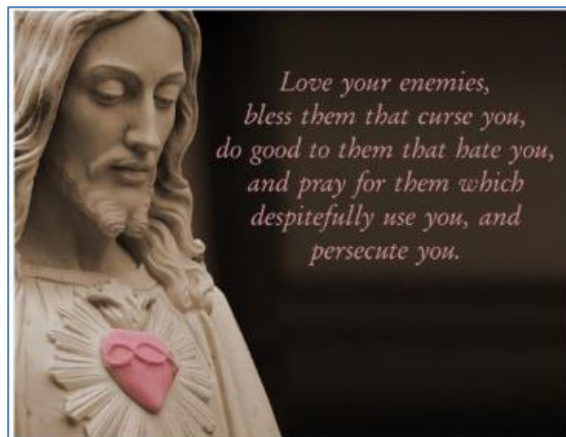
OUR GOSPEL PASSAGE THIS SUNDAY continues the same text from the Sermon on the Mount as we heard last weekend, as Jesus deepens His followers' understanding of the 10 Commandments. His divine teaching reminds us to "love our enemies," or, rather, to treat no-one as our enemy, but to wish the very best for each and every person. That may mean praying hard for their conversion to Christ and to a life of goodness, especially

if they seem to be wishing us and causing us harm at present. But we must remember: the Lord has put us, as Christians, in their lives to be a model of good conduct, of prayer, and of patience, so that the example of our lives may help heal them and bring them to Him. That's not always easy, but the Lord asks us to live up to a different standard of behaviour from the world around us, and how we treat those who mistreat us is a crucial measure of our faith.

IT WAS GOOD TO TAKE MY RETREAT RECENTLY, and I thank those priests who came and supplied here in my absence. I shan't be away now until the Deanery pilgrimage to Fatima in May, which I am very much looking forward to – especially as it's the centenary year of the Fatima apparitions in May 1917. So, we have the great seasons of Lent and Easter to look forward to together in the coming months. Do note that **Ash Wednesday is 1st March**. Please sign up this weekend for the usual ministries of Reader, Altar Server, and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion for the Masses of Ash Wednesday (9.30am, 12noon, 8pm) on the lists in the porch.

May we strive to be a neighbour to all, and to pray for those who mistreat us!

Fr Philip



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



In the sacramental life, mercy is granted us in abundance. It is not without significance that the Church mentions mercy explicitly in the formulae of the two "sacraments of healing", namely, the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. In the first, the formula of absolution reads: "God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace." In the second, the formula of anointing reads: "Through this holy

anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit." In the Church's prayer, then, references to mercy, far from being merely exhortative, are highly *performative*, which is to say that as we invoke mercy with faith, it is granted to us, and as we confess it to be vital and real, it transforms us. This is a fundamental element of our faith, and we must keep it constantly in mind. Even before the revelation of sin, there is the revelation of the love by which God created the world and human beings. Love is the first act whereby God reveals himself and turns towards us. So let us open our hearts and trust in God's love for us. His love always precedes us, accompanies us and remains with us, despite our sin.

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Pixie Hallissey & Gianni Ferrara who will be baptised this weekend.

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR will next take place this Sunday, **19th February** at 5pm with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction. A truly peaceful hour!

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30-8.30pm: **next meeting Mar 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!

"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, concludes on **21st February** in the crypt at 7.30pm. See noticeboard in porch.

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.

LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY is on **1st March** and Mass will be at 9.30am (with both schools), 12 noon and 8pm. If you are a Eucharistic Minister, reader or altar server and can assist at the Masses, please sign your name on the lists at the back of the church. **Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting (for those aged 16-60) and abstinence (for those aged 14+)**. This means that we consciously choose to eat less – one main meal only – and that (as on all Fridays) we eat no meat whatsoever.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

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

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. **Please also return your retreat consent form if you have not already done so.**

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**.

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/primary/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. Please note there will be a tour of the school for new Nursery parents on **14th March 1pm**. If you would like to attend, please register with the school office 463549.

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL TEACHING VACANCIES. The Governing Body is currently advertising for a Deputy Headteacher for Sept, a Class Teacher from Sept and for an experienced Higher Level Teaching Assistant from April. For more info contact the school or visit <https://www.teachinherts.com/>.

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.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT - 27th February - 12th March: Choose Fairtrade when buying food on our tables, the tea and coffee in our mugs, all from farmers who toil, sweat and

slog. However hard they work to provide the things we depend on, millions of farmers in developing countries aren't paid what they deserve. Many are paid prices too low to provide for their families. But we can end this by choosing Fairtrade.



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 has been meeting 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

MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip continues his new round of house visits on **Wednesday 22nd February** in these streets: Beyers Ride/Gardens/Prospect, Molesworth, Caxton Road and Ranworth Avenue.

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 Mass on these weekends: **4th/5th & 11th/12th March**. If you would like to join, please contact Theresa Casbard: t.casbard@ntlworld.com or 301551.

CHURCH CLEANING: Maria Manzo & Charmaine Collins. Thanks for your help!

CHURCH CLEANERS are **still 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 2 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: 5th & 19th March.

Masses this week		Today's Liturgy	
Sat 18th February 10am Mass Patricia Murphy RIP		PAGE 139 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Leviticus 19: 1–2, 17–18 <i>You must love your neighbour, as yourself.</i> Psalm 102 — The Lord is compassion and love. 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 3: 16–23 <i>All are your servants, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.</i> Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia. Gospel: Matthew 5: 38–48 <i>Love your enemies.</i> PREFACE TODAY: with Euch. Pr. 4 (p. 32) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 4 (p. 32) NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 8 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1st Reading: Isaiah 49: 14–15 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 4: 1–5 Gospel: Matthew 6: 24–34	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Bridget & Martin Moriarty RIP			
Sun 19th February 7th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.15am** Carmela De Luca RIP anniv. 11.15am For the Parish 5.00pm Holy Hour ‡			
Mon 20th February 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Colin Kelly's Intentions			
Tues 21st February 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Harry Bowles RIP			
Wed 22nd Feb THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Patrick Walsh RIP— followed by coffee in the crypt			
Thurs 23rd February ST POLYCARP, Bishop & Martyr 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Terry McIntyre RIP			
Fri 24th February (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12noon Mass Bert & Alice Warden RIP & Ausgusta & Victor Desmet-lippens 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. ROSARY Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass. 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. 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	
Sat 25th February 10am Mass Carmelo Ventura RIP Anniv			
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* For the Parish			
Sun 26th Feb 8th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.15am Alexander, Peter & Rosemary Burt's Intentions 11.15am Enrico & Maria Rega RIP ‡			
* 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)			
REGULAR EVENTS			
Mon 20th	7.15pm Confirmation, crypt	Wed 22nd	6pm Brownies, crypt
Tues 21st	12.30pm Lunch club, crypt	Wed 22nd	8pm 1st HC meeting, crypt
Tues 21st	7.30pm The Big Picture, 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.*