

# The Announcer

## St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

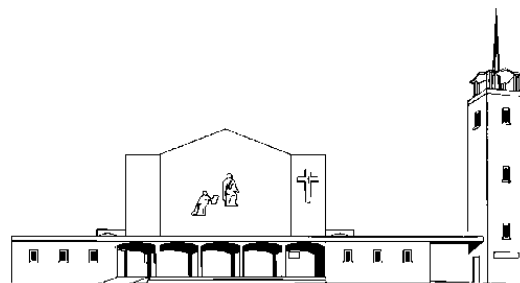
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Year A

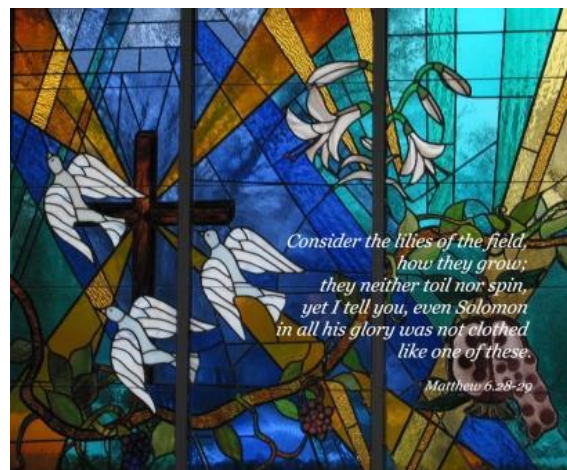
EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

26th FEBRUARY 2017

Matthew 6: 24-34 – *Do not worry about tomorrow.*

**My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,**

OUR FINAL GOSPEL PASSAGE FROM THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT before we start Lent later this week includes those beautiful words from Our Lord about God's care for us, and the fact that we must trust in Him. "Consider the birds of the air ...," says Jesus, "... Consider the lilies of the field ..." His gentle words lead us away from a 'grabbing and spending' culture, and towards a reflective concern for Him and for our neighbour.



OUR LENT SEASON OF PREPARATION FOR EASTER begins this week on Wednesday, 1st March:

**\* \* \* \* \* Masses of Ash Wednesday: 9.30am, 12noon, 8pm \* \* \* \* \***

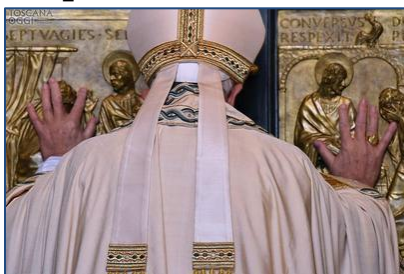
**Don't forget that Ash Wednesday is an obligatory day of penance, which we keep through the traditional practices of fasting, and abstinence from meat (details and expected ages to keep these practices inside newsletter ...)**

We keep these penitential practices of Ash Wednesday to mark our deep love for the Lord which goes beyond our bodily pleasures of eating: so we give up some food (including all meat) on Ash Wednesday as a clear sign that we place Him above all other things.

Important ways in which we can keep Lent very simply include daily Mass, Stations of the Cross (Friday lunchtime or Saturday morning) and a variety of "giving up" foods/drinks/pastimes for the 6 ½ weeks of this sacred season ahead.

**May the Lord inspire us to plan our Lenten practices well, out of love for Him! Fr Philip**

**Pope Francis, from *Misericordia et Misera*, closing the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' n. 6:**



Each Sunday, God's word is proclaimed in the Christian community so that the Lord's Day may be illuminated by the paschal mystery. ... In the biblical readings, we retrace the history of our salvation through the proclamation of God's tireless work of mercy. The Lord continues to speak to us today as to friends; he dwells in our midst, in order to accompany us and show us the path of life. His word gives a voice to our inmost needs and worries, and offers a fruitful response, so that we can concretely experience his closeness to us. Hence the importance of the *homily*, in which "truth goes hand in hand with beauty and goodness" so that the hearts of

believers may thrill before the grandeur of mercy! I strongly encourage that great care be given to preparing the homily and to preaching in general. A priest's preaching will be fruitful to the extent that he himself has experienced the merciful goodness of the Lord. Communicating the certainty that God loves us is not an exercise in rhetoric, but a condition for the credibility of one's priesthood. The personal experience of mercy is the best way to make it a true message of consolation and conversion in the pastoral ministry. Both homiletics and catechesis need to be sustained by this pulsing heart of the Christian life.

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH** Arthur Donaghy & Áine-Mae McCarthy who will be baptised this weekend.

**ADORATION/MORNING PRAYER:** will not take place on Monday, but there will be Mass at 9.15am.

**FIRST FRIDAY:** The extra first-Friday Mass will be at **7.30pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**. This will be followed by the Holy Hour at 8pm, which is always prayed for the pro-life cause.

**LATIN MASS:** monthly Latin Mass, with sung chants, will be at **5pm next Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March**.

**SUNDAY HOLY HOUR** will next take place on Sunday, **19<sup>th</sup> March** at 5pm with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction. A truly peaceful hour!

**FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting Mar 17<sup>th</sup>**. 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. The 6 sessions on the New Testament will begin after a Lent break, after Easter.

**MARRIAGE THANKSGIVING MASS:** The Cardinal invites couples in the Diocese who are celebrating 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> or 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2017 to Mass on **Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> March.

## LENT

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is on **1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**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.

**PARISH “PENANCE” 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!

**‘LENT EXTRA’** booklets with daily Lent meditations are now available to buy for £1.75 by the newspapers. Please place your money in the newspaper box

**CAFOD LENT FAST DAY** is on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March**. After all Masses **next weekend**, there will be a CAFOD speaker to inform us about projects on which they spend our donations.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> March AND Fri 24<sup>th</sup> 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 **6<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15–8.45pm** for candidates. Candidates need

to have read chs. 14 & 15 of the Mark's Gospel.

#### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:**

The sixth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 15<sup>th</sup> March 8-9pm** in the crypt. The fifth session for children will be on **Mon 27<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 **14<sup>th</sup> March 1pm**. If you would like to attend, please register with the school office 463549.



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

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**HOUSE VISITS:** Fr Philip continues his new round of house visits on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March** in these streets: Ranworth Avenue, Dymokes Way, Danemead.

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

**200 CLUB RENEWALS** take place after Mass on these weekends: **4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> March**. If you would like to join, please contact Theresa Casbard: [t.casbard@ntlworld.com](mailto:t.casbard@ntlworld.com) or 301551.

**NEWMAN HOUSE LONDON UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** were you a resident or regular Mass-goer here? Were you in one of the university Catholic societies in London? We would love to re-connect with you and hear from you. There is a range of celebrations planned, but the principal celebration will be Mass on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May** at St James' Church, Spanish Place at 2pm, celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. To sign up for more info please visit [www.universitycatholic.net/signup](http://www.universitycatholic.net/signup) or e-mail [alumni@universitycatholic.net](mailto:alumni@universitycatholic.net) or visit our website at [www.universitycatholic.net](http://www.universitycatholic.net)

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Filomena Mezzullo, Elizabeth Nsonwah, Laura Harwood & Tony & Linda Barrell. 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: **19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> April**.

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Sat 25<sup>th</sup> February</b> 10am Mass <i>Carmelo Ventura RIP anniv.</i>	<b>PAGE 142 in the Mass books</b>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i>  <b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup> February 8<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> 9.15am** <i>Alexander, Peter &amp; Rosemary Burt's intentions</i> 11.15am <i>Enrico &amp; Maria Rega RIP</i> ‡	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 49: 14–15 <i>I will never forget you.</i>  <b>Psalm 61 —</b> <i>In God alone is my soul at rest.</i>  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Corinthians 4: 1–5 <i>The Lord will reveal the secret intentions of men's hearts.</i>
<b>Mon 27<sup>th</sup> February</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Elizabeth McNamee's intentions</i>	Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia.</i>
<b>Tues 28<sup>th</sup> February</b> 8.15am Adoration                      9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Irene Willmer RIP rec. dec.</i>	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 6: 24–34 <i>Do not worry about tomorrow.</i>  <b>PREFACE TODAY:</b> Sunday no. 8 (p. 70) <b>EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:</b> no. 3 (p. 28)
<b>Wed 1<sup>st</sup> March ASH WEDNESDAY</b> (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14 +; fasting for those aged 16-60) 8.15am Adoration                      NO Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass <i>Hughie Caine RIP</i> 12 noon Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 8.00pm Mass <i>Private Intention</i>	<b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b> <b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Genesis 2: 7–9, 3: 1–7 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Romans 5: 12–19 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 4: 1–11
<b>Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b> 8.30am Mass <i>James Shevlin RIP rec. dec.</i>	<b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b>
<b>Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b> (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12noon Mass <i>Moyra O'Neill RIP</i> 7.30pm Mass <i>Terry McIntyre RIP</i> 8.00pm Holy Hour	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>  <b>ROSARY</b> Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.
<b>Sat 4<sup>th</sup> March</b> 10am Mass <i>Terence Bartlett RIP rec. dec.</i>	<b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>William Phelan &amp; Dennis O'Donovan RIP</i>	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.
<b>Sun 5<sup>th</sup> March FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 9.15am <i>Anna &amp; Angelo Mercurio RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Bridie &amp; Maurice Cooper RIP &amp; Fred &amp; Dolly Dale RIP</i> 5.00pm Latin Mass <i>For the Parish</i> ‡	<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> <b>Registered Charity No. 233699</b>
<p style="text-align: right;">* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p> ** 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)	
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	
<b>Mon 27<sup>th</sup></b> 6pm Children's 1st HC meeting, crypt	<b>Wed 1<sup>st</sup></b> 6pm Brownies, 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.*