

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

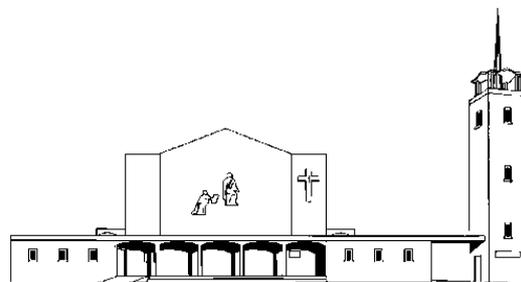
Tel: 01992-440986

Fax: 01992-440244

Web-site: www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

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



E-mail: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon"

Year A

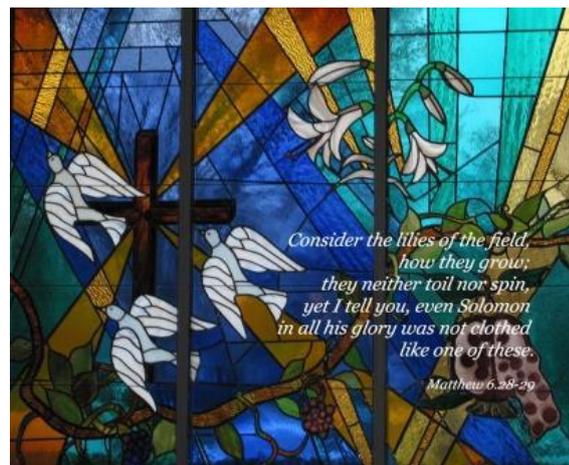
EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

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 3rd 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 5th March**.

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR will next take place on Sunday, **19th March** 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. 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 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.

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 10th 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 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 **6th 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 15th March 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.



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 1st March** in these streets: Ranworth Avenue, Dymokes Way, Danemead.

TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB will be held next in the crypt on **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.

NEWMAN HOUSE LONDON UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY 50TH 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 28th 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 or e-mail alumni@universitycatholic.net or visit our website at 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: **19th & 26th March, 2nd & 9th April**.

