

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

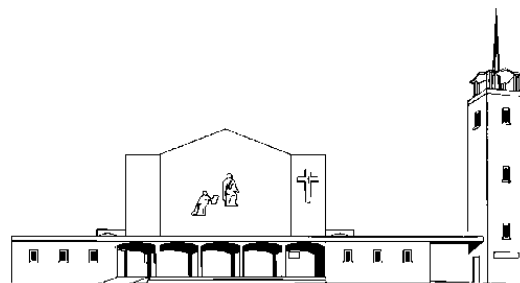
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Year A

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

5th FEBRUARY 2017

Matthew 5: 13-16 — *You are the light of the world.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

OUR GOSPEL PASSAGES FOR THESE SUNDAYS 'OF ORDINARY TIME' continue to be drawn from those key chapters of Matthew, 5-7, which present the great body of teaching of Jesus known as the 'Sermon on the Mount.' We heard last week the opening passage of this, 'the Beatitudes,' and now we continue to hear from Jesus's teaching about the Kingdom as He uses the two images for the Christian's presence in

society: "salt of the earth" and "light of the world." I always think of these two images as complementary: the 'salt' being an image for our being distributed amongst the people of the world, bringing a new "flavour" to society; and the image of 'light' showing also that we *stand out*, apart from the world, and act as a beacon for guidance that can clearly be seen. If you will, this is summed up in the phrase "*in the world but not of the world.*" The Lord places us here as Christians to be living with others, but not necessarily acting as others — instead, to be examples of faith, hope and love. These two images, then, are worth reflecting on as we hear the Gospel today. Am I 'in' the world enough — or too much? Do I act as 'salt to the earth', making a truly Christian difference to those around me as I take a committed part in their lives, or do I hide myself away from them? Am I 'of' the world too much, or am I that beacon of 'light,' standing out as a Christian should, in order to light the way for others through life by my shining example? Let's allow Our Lord's beautiful images to come in to our hearts today at Mass, and help us discern His will for our ways of living as a Christian.



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:



First, we are called to *celebrate* mercy. What great richness is present in the Church's prayer when she invokes God as the Father of mercies! In the liturgy, mercy is not only repeatedly implored, but is truly received and experienced. From the beginning to the end of the Eucharistic celebration, mercy constantly appears in the dialogue between the assembly at prayer and the heart of the Father, who rejoices to bestow His merciful love. After first pleading for forgiveness with the invocation "Lord have mercy," we are immediately reassured: "May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life." With this

confidence, the community gathers in the presence of the Lord, particularly on the holy day of the resurrection. Many of the 'Collect' prayers are meant to remind us of the great gift of mercy. In Lent, for example, we pray: "O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by Your mercy."

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Frankie Oliver, Honey-Mae Harrison and Verity Spires who will be baptised this weekend.

SATURDAY MASS: Please note there will be NO 10am Mass on Saturday 11th February.

TERENCE BARTLETT RIP formerly of this parish died recently. Our sympathies go out to his family. Details of the funeral will follow in due course. *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 **7th 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.

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 in March 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 Feb at 7.15-8.45pm** for **candidates only.** Candidates need to have read chs 11 & 12 of the Mark’s Gospel.

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: Applications for the Nursery open on the **6th February**. **Flexible Nursery Provision:** St Augustine's School are looking into offering flexible hours within the Nursery provision as parents need more flexibility. Please follow the link <https://staugustines.herts.sch.uk/herts/primary/staugustines/> 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 2017**. This will help in assessing how they can offer a flexible service that meets parent's requirements. Please note that there will be a tour of the school for new Nursery parents on **Thursday 9th February @ 1:00pm**. If you would like to attend, please register with the school office by phoning 01992 463549 email admin@staugustines.herts.sch.uk



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

CAFOD: There will be a talk on CAFOD's long term development work in Zambia on Saturday **11th February** from 10am to 12 noon at the CAFOD volunteer centre, 1st Floor, Catholic Church of Christ the King, 29 Bramley Road, London N14 4HE. Coffee served from 9.30am.

For further info or to book a place contact 0208-449-6970 or email westminster@cafod.org.uk

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 **7th Feb & 21st Feb, 7th & 21st March and 4th April 12.30-2.30pm**. Price £4. Anybody & everybody welcome!

200 CLUB WINNER for February was Mr A Palin, no 60. Congratulations!

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE: a healing weekend for men and women who find themselves single again following divorce, separation or the death of a partner: **17th to 19th March 2017** at Emmaus Centre, West Wickham, Kent. For details please contact Freda 01322-838415, Sandra 01293-783965 or John 01992-642443, e-mail johnabrotherton@hotmail.co.uk

CHARITY WALK: A team of ladies from the Parish has signed up to 'The Moon Walk,' London to raise money for vital breast cancer causes. They have set themselves to raise £400 for this charity and would be very grateful for support! To read more about what they are about to do and also how you can sponsor them, please visit their online fundraising page: <http://wtwalk.org/moonwalklondon2017/team-jd-s> Thank you so much for your generosity and support, it means a lot! – Janet Pearce, Debbie Cummings, Lisa Moran, Jeanine Percival.

CHURCH CLEANING: Cheryl Holbourn, Josie Warren, Barbara Wright, Tanya McAteer, Mima Salvo & Tracey Hayes. 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: 5th & 19th February, 5th & 19th March.

Masses this week		Today's Liturgy	
Sat 4th February 10am Mass <i>Hester Counsell's intentions</i>		PAGE 133 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Isaiah 58: 7–10 <i>Then will your light shine like the dawn.</i> Psalm 111 — <i>The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.</i> 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 1–5 <i>During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus as the crucified Christ.</i> Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! <i>I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia.</i> Gospel: Matthew 5: 13–16 <i>You are the light of the world.</i> PREFACE TODAY: Sundays no. 5 (p. 69) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18) NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 6 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 15: 15–20 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 6–10 Gospel: Matthew 5:17–37	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Daniel Hurley RIP			
Sun 5th February 5th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.15am** Gaetana Lomanto RIP 11.15am Leo & David Lee-Lozone RIP 5.00pm Latin Mass For the Parish ‡			
Mon 6th February ST PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Veronica Perrotta's intentions			
Tues 7th February 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Eileen Charles RIP			
Wed 8th February 9.15am Mass Anthony O'Doherty RIP — followed by coffee in crypt			
Thurs 9th February NO Mass			
Fri 10th February ST SCHOLASTICA, Virgin (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12noon Mass Giovanni Salvo RIP rec. dec.			
Sat 11th February NO 10am Mass			
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Giovannina Minichiello RIP			
Sun 12th Feb 6th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.15am For the Parish 11.15am Maria & Onofrio Panepinto 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.	
<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>		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	
REGULAR EVENTS			
Mon 6th 7.15pm Confirmation, crypt Tues 7th 12.30pm Lunch club, crypt	Tues 7th 7.30pm The Big Picture, crypt Wed 8th 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.*