

# The Announcer

## St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

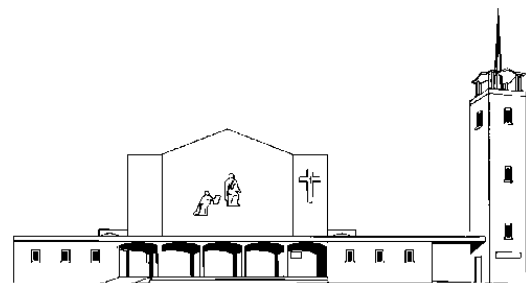
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Year A

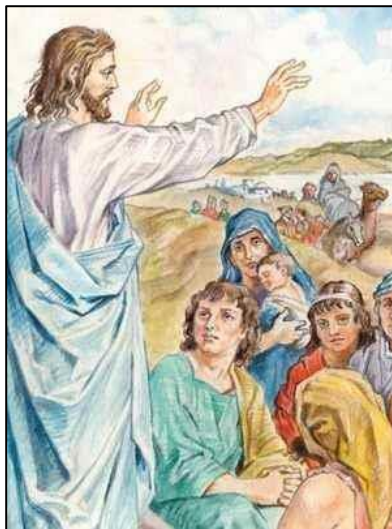
FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017

Matthew 5: 1-12 – *Blessed are the poor in spirit!*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

OUR GOSPEL PASSAGES FOR SUNDAY are now being taken from those key chapters of Matthew, 5-7, which present the teaching of Jesus known as the 'Sermon on the Mount.' This begins with the famous, and familiar – yet challenging – words which we call 'the Beatitudes.' What a tall order they are, this agenda of Jesus for right living! I remember the words of a board game I had as a child, with the strapline, "A moment to learn; a lifetime to master"! To



### THE BEATITUDES

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall possess the earth.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst  
for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart,  
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are they who suffer  
persecution for justice sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

— (Matthew 5: 3-12)

me, the message of the Beatitudes is just the same: words which are undoubtedly simple and straightforward, but whose content, meaning, and implications run very deep into our souls. For sure, the Beatitudes will take a lifetime to master! Let's listen carefully to these Gospel words this Sunday, and allow the challenge of living them to penetrate deep within our hearts.

THIS PAST WEEK HAS SEEN TWO VERY JOYFUL SACRAMENTAL OCCASIONS – namely, the Confirmation of 5 adults of our parish last Saturday at Westminster Cathedral in a beautiful sung Mass with Bishop John Sherrington; and then the peaceful evenings of First Confessions of our Holy-Communion children. Both were, for me, moments of great joy, each of which passed off with great dignity and spiritual peace. May they signify many long-term blessings on these members of our parish. Let us all cherish our closeness to the Lord in His precious gifts of the life-giving sacraments, which are at the heart of our faith.

May we strive and pray to live out Jesus's *Beatitudes* in everyday life!

Fr Philip

**Pope Francis, from *Misericordia et Misera*, closing the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' nn. 4-5:**



In the Holy Year [2016], the Church listened attentively and experienced intensely the presence and closeness of the Father, who with the Holy Spirit has enabled her to see with greater clarity the gift and mandate of Jesus Christ regarding forgiveness. It has truly been like a new visitation of the Lord among us. We have felt His life-giving breath poured out upon the Church and, once again, His words have pointed out our mission: "Receive the Holy Spirit: if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now, at the conclusion of this Jubilee, it is time to look to the future and to understand how best to continue, with joy, fidelity and enthusiasm, experiencing the richness of God's mercy. Our communities can remain alive and active in the work of the new evangelization in the measure that the "pastoral conversion" to which we are called will be shaped daily by the renewing force of mercy. Let us not limit its action; let us not sadden the Spirit, who constantly points out new paths to take in bringing to everyone the Gospel of salvation.

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**ADULT CONFIRMATIONS:** we congratulate those of our parish who were confirmed last weekend by Bishop Sherrington in the Cathedral. May they and their families constantly grow in the strength of Christ.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Please note that there are currently plenty of spaces to have Masses said on weekdays. Please complete a brown envelope and hand it into the presbytery to request Mass to be offered for an intention.

**FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting Feb 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!

**SUNDAY HOLY HOUR** will next take place at **5pm Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 **31<sup>st</sup> Jan** in the crypt at 7.30pm. See noticeboard in porch.

**NEW ALTAR SERVERS:** Children (any age) who have at least made their First Holy Communion, please contact the Presbytery. We will be arranging training for them shortly.

**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.

### 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.*

**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 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.

**CONFIRMATION 2017:** next session **6<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.15-8.45pm** for **candidates only**. Candidates need to have read chs 11 & 12 of the Mark's Gospel. We have slightly adjusted the times of the Confirmation Masses on the **7<sup>th</sup> May 2017 to 1.15pm and 4pm**. However, the numbers for each Mass are very unbalanced. **9 candidates need to swap from 1.15pm to 4pm**. If no one does this voluntarily, then we may have to use a ballot to decide on the allocation.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** The fifth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 8-9pm** in the crypt. The fifth session for children will be on **Mon 27<sup>th</sup> 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 MARY'S SCHOOL** requires a teacher of ICT and computing for April 2017. For further information, please contact the school on 01279.654901 or e-mail [headspa@stmarys.net](mailto:headspa@stmarys.net). Closing date is the 31<sup>st</sup> January.



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

### JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

**CATHOLIC WORKER FARM:** for those of you who were inspired to hear Scott Albrecht speak at the Christian-Unity service last week, you may wish to read more about their work of helping care for undocumented (destitute) refugee women and children on their website: <http://thecatholicworkerfarm.org/>

### MISCELLANEOUS

**HOUSE VISITS:** Fr Philip continues his new round of house visits on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February** in Chaucer Way, Beechfield, Granville Gardens.

**TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB** will be held next in

the crypt on **7<sup>th</sup> Feb & 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> March** and **4<sup>th</sup> April** 12.30-2.30pm. Price £4. Anybody & everybody welcome!

**REFUGEES: NEXT STEP:** Caritas Westminster in partnership with Capital Mass are holding an event relating to the refugee crisis on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, 7-9pm, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QN.** This is a chance to hear more about the community sponsorship programme, and an update about the current situation in Syria. Please RSVP to [caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk) if you'd like to attend, or search for the events on Eventbrite.

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

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Filomena's team: Elizabeth Nsonwah, Laura Harwood, Tony & Linda Barrell. Thank you for your help!

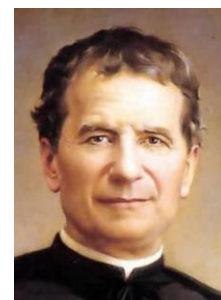
**CHURCH CLEANERS** are **urgently needed** to help clean the church for just one hour per month. **Help is still needed on Wednesday mornings and afternoons as there are only 2 people on each team.** If you can help, please contact presbytery **as soon as possible.**

**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: 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> March.

### SAINT OF THE WEEK

#### **ST JOHN BOSCO**

Saint John Bosco, popularly known as Don Bosco, was an Italian priest, educator and writer of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. While working in Turin, where the population suffered many of the effects of industrialization and urbanization, he dedicated his life to the betterment and education of street children, juvenile delinquents, and other disadvantaged youth. He developed teaching methods based on love rather than punishment, a method that became known as the Salesian Preventive System.



Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Jan ST THOMAS AQUINAS, Priest &amp; Dr</b> 10am Mass <i>Ken Parker RIP</i>	<b>PAGE 130 in the Mass books</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Zephaniah 2: 3, 3: 12–13 <i>In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people.</i> <b>Psalm 145 — How happy are the poor in spirit, theirs is the Kingdom of heaven!</b>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Theresa Delaney's intentions</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Corinthians 1: 26–31 <i>God chose what is foolish by human reckoning,</i>
<b>Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> 9.15am** <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am <i>Maria-Teresa Distefano</i> ‡	<b>Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the Kingdom to mere children. Alleluia.</b>
<b>Mon 30<sup>th</sup> January</b> 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Elizabeth McNamee's int's (sick)</i>	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 5: 1–12 <i>How happy are the poor in spirit!</i>
<b>Tues 31<sup>st</sup> January STJOHN BOSCO, Priest</b> 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Catherine Stockwell RIP</i>	<b>PREFACE TODAY:</b> Sundays no. 4 (p. 69) <b>EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:</b> no. 3 (p. 28)
<b>Wed 1<sup>st</sup> February</b> 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Sick of the parish — followed by coffee in crypt</i>	<b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b> 5 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 58: 7–10 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Corinthians 2:1–5 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 5:13–16
<b>Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> February PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</b> 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>First-Communion children's intentions</i>	<b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b> Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at any other time.
<b>Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> February SS LAURENCE, DUNSTAN &amp; THEODORE, Archbishops of Canterbury</b> <i>(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12noon Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 7.30pm Mass <i>Moira O'Neill RIP</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> February</b> 10am Mass <i>Hester Counsell's intentions</i>	<b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b> 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.
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Daniel Hurley RIP</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>Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> 9.15am** <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am <i>Leo &amp; David Lee-Lozone RIP</i> ‡	<b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust</b> <b>Registered Charity No. 233699</b>
<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>	
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	
<b>Tues 31<sup>st</sup></b> 7.30pm The Big Picture, 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.*