

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

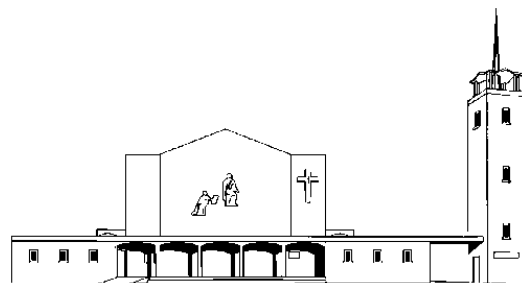
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Year A

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

12th MARCH 2017

Matthew 17: 1-9 – *His face shone like the sun.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

ON THIS SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, we hear of the Lord's glorious Transfiguration. After hearing of His 40 Days in the Wilderness last Sunday, this weekend we hear of His letting the closest three apostles glimpse His divinity on the Mount of the Transfiguration. It must have helped them enormously when it came to the time of Jesus's arrest, trial, passion and death, that they had already seen a little something of His true nature as the Son of God. It helps us, too, in these early stages of Lent, that we know of the Godhead of the Lord Jesus, and that the One whom we try to serve more closely than ever in this sacred season has the power to overcome all things, even sin and death. As St Peter says, "It is wonderful for us to be here!" – and it is! It is truly wonderful that we can be in the company of the Lord Jesus, to experience His love and His power whenever we are at Mass. As His body and blood are lifted up at Mass, we know that we are beholding the glory, usually hidden, of the only One who has the power to save us from our sins, and give us life after death.



CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION is a very important part of our Lenten practice for all of us. The classes of Years 4, 5, and 6 in the Catholic Primary schools have the Sacrament in school with Fr Philip on the Tuesdays of Lent. And the Confirmation candidates and their parents are celebrating the Sacrament at their next session. I want to make the Sacrament as available as possible to you during this penitential season, so I will hear Confessions after all the Saturday evening / Sunday Masses of Lent. But I have also set aside some other quiet opportunities, and the first is ...

THIS TUESDAY, 14TH MARCH, 6-7PM – CONFESSION AVAILABLE IN CHURCH

I will be available in the Confessional during this hour for anyone to come for the Sacrament.

May we examine our lives this Lent, and come to experience the Lord's great mercy! Fr Philip

Pope Francis, from *Misericordia et Misera*, closing the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' n. 8:



The celebration of mercy takes place in a very particular way in the *Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation*. Here we feel the embrace of the Father, who comes forth to meet us and grant us the grace of being once more his sons and daughters. We are sinners and we bear the burden of contradiction between what we wish to do and what we do in fact. Yet grace always precedes us and takes on the face of the mercy that effects our reconciliation and pardon. God makes us understand his great love for us precisely when we recognize that we are sinners. Grace is stronger than sin: it overcomes resistance, because love conquers all.

PRAYER & LITURGY

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!

LAMPEDUSA CROSS: **next Sunday, 19th March** at 4pm: special prayers and liturgy for refugees will be held at Sacred Heart of Jesus & St Joseph, Ware. This is a deanery event suitable for all ages. Refreshments will be served in the hall afterwards.

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

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 as usual 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. Fr Philip will also go to the Confessional at this time for anyone wishing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

LENTEN ALMS: This year the Cardinal has asked that the Lenten Alms be directed to the Cardinal's Appeal fund. The funds raised will go to support parishes or groups in their work to further the mission of the Church: to serve the evangelisation of youth, to develop marriage and family life projects, and to provide service in society, especially to those on the margins. **You will find the box throughout Lent in front of the lectern.**

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY was last Friday, 10 March and the fast day envelopes are attached

to the newsletter and will be collected after Mass. If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation so that CAFOD can claim an extra 25% at no extra cost to you. Thank you so much for your continued support.

LENT LUNCHESES will be held every Tuesday during Lent at Barclay Hall (St Catherine & St Paul's Anglican church hall) at 12.15pm for £3. Profits to Christian Aid. Fr Philip will be the speaker on the **21st March**.

'**THE GLORY OF EASTER**' will be performed by Adoramus choir and orchestra on **Sat 1st April** at 7.30pm at the Spotlight. Tickets available from the Spotlight box office 441946 or www.adoramus.com. This is a Christian choir, and is highly recommended.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for our sick parishioners & friends: John Askew, Rosa Augello, Helen & Michael Sherman, Annette Pinto, Siobhan Fiorentini, 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 **27th March at 7.15pm** is the Penitential service in church for candidates and parents.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:

The 6th meeting for parents will be on **Wed 15th March 8-9pm** in the crypt. The 6th session for children will be on **Mon 20th March 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.

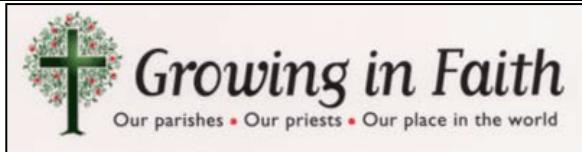
ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S is holding a 'Ladies Pamper Night' on **Fri 24th March**. For more details, contact playgroup on 460614.

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL is looking for an adult volunteer who can play the guitar, piano or flute. Please contact the school on 463549.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

BROXBORNE FOODBANK is in short supply of UHT milk, squash, tea, coffee, rice, jam and biscuits as well as the following tinned items: spaghetti, vegetables, meat & fruit. Please do use the box at the back of church if you can help by donating these items.

TRADCRAFT: The Traidcraft stall will be at the back of the church after all Masses **next weekend**. I shall have a few 'Original Real Easter eggs' for sale and, if there is sufficient demand, will be able to order more – I am only able to buy them as cases of 6. Maria Hunt.



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 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

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

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip continues his house visits on **Wed 15th March** in these streets: Tunfield Road, Stoneleigh Drive, Wallers Way.

200 CLUB RENEWALS take place after Mass this weekend. If you would like to join, please contact Theresa Casbard on 301551 or email t.casbard@ntlworld.com.

PLANNED GIVING: Thank you to all parishioners who make regular donations with the weekly envelopes or through standing orders. **Boxes of envelopes for the new financial year will be available from the back of the church from this weekend.** Please remember to collect them as it costs a lot to post them out. If you would like to start donating through the envelopes/standing orders, forms will be available at the back of the church, and members of the Finance Committee will be available to help. **GIFT AID:** Please note that Gift-Aid forms will also be available. Many parishioners have already signed Gift-Aid forms, which enables the parish to collect the tax on the donations they have made through envelopes or standing orders. There is no further cost to the donor but the parish is able to claim another £1 for every £4 donated under Gift Aid. You will need to be a UK taxpayer to sign a Gift-Aid form. If your circumstances change and you start to pay less or no tax, simply inform the Gift-Aid Coordinator, Bill Pollard, and the Gift-Aid declaration will be cancelled.

CHURCH CLEANING: Michele & Pelle De Luca & Kathleen Connors. Thank you!

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, 9th April.

Masses this week		Today's Liturgy	
Sat 11th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Joanne Fisher RIP</i>		PAGE 155 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Genesis 12: 1–4 <i>The call of Abraham, father of the People of God.</i> Psalm 32 — <i>May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.</i> 2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1: 8–10 <i>God calls and enlightens us.</i> Gospel Accl: <i>Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." Glory and praise to you, O Christ!</i> Gospel: Matthew 17: 1–9 <i>His face shone like the sun.</i> PREFACE TODAY: Transfiguration (p. 72) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28) NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 1st Reading: Exodus 17: 3–7 2nd Reading: Romans 5: 1–2, 5–8 Gospel: John 4: 5–42	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Pasquale Ricotta RIP</i> Sun 12th March SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** <i>Milly Yarwood RIP</i> 11.15am <i>For the Parish</i> †		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	
Mon 13th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Deceased members of the Byrne Family</i> Tues 14th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Kathleen Murphy RIP</i> Wed 15th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Patrick Bradley RIP</i> — followed by coffee in the crypt Thurs 16th March NO Mass Fri 17th March ST PATRICK, Bishop, Patron of Ireland <i>(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12noon Mass <i>Giuseppe Palminteri RIP & Giuseppe Dinoto</i> 12.30pm Stations of the Cross Sat 18th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Gaetano Martorana RIP</i>		REGULAR EVENTS Tues 14th Baptism course, presbytery Wed 15th 6pm Brownies, crypt Wed 15th 8pm 1st HC meeting, crypt Fri 17th 7.30pm Prayer group	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Paolo Conti RIP</i> Sun 19th March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** <i>Margaret & Peter White RIP anniv.</i> 11.15am <i>For the Parish</i> 5.00pm Holy Hour †			
* 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)			

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.*