

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

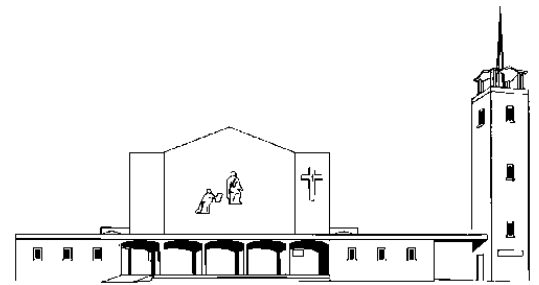
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Year A

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

19th MARCH 2017

John 4: 5-42 – *The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

ON THE THIRD, FOURTH & FIFTH SUNDAYS OF LENT in 'Year A,' we hear the great Lenten Gospel passages from the Gospel of St John: chapters 4, 9 & 11. These long passages treat the saving encounters of Our Lord Jesus with: the Samaritan Woman at the Well; the Man born Blind; and His friend Lazarus whom He raises from the Dead. These are opportunities to see how Jesus treats those who are sinners, those who are sick, and those who have died. In effect, He brings His saving grace most powerfully into their lives, and shows Himself to be the One and Only Saviour. As I said in last Sunday's homily, He brings us from sin to faith, from darkness to light, and from death to life – these are all central images of our Lenten journey together. So, let's be ready to listen carefully to these great Gospel passages, and to hear what divine wisdom Our Lord has to give in these lengthy dialogues. In a way, they should help us to focus on our drawing closer to Jesus in this season: what gets in the way of my closeness to Him? ... what do I need to change or repent of so as to be nearer to my Lord?



A SPECIAL EVENT THIS LENT is the Christian-themed concert of music for Lent & Easter that the 'Adoramus' choir is performing over the road at the 'Spotlight' Civic Centre on Saturday 1st April at 7.30pm; 'The Glory of Easter.' I really encourage you to attend, as I have met the man who organises these concerts, and he is very keen to make them events which truly announce the Gospel through the medium of beautiful music. Tickets are available from the Box Office itself (in person or on 441946) or online at www.adoramus.com. I shall attend myself, after evening Mass that Saturday, and I really hope to be seeing many of you also there.

May we continue to make special efforts this Lent to give the season to Our Lord! Fr Philip

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



In the *Sacrament of Forgiveness* God shows us the way to turn back to him and invites us to experience his closeness anew. This pardon can be obtained by beginning, first of all, to live in charity. The Apostle Peter tells us this when he writes that "love covers a multitude of sins." Only God forgives sins, but he asks that we be ready to forgive others even as he has forgiven us: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." How sad it is when our hearts are closed and unable to forgive! Resentment, anger and revenge gain the upper hand, making our lives miserable and blocking a joyful commitment to mercy.

PRAYER & LITURGY

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR will next take place **this 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 April 21st**. 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: this 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.

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.**

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**.

HALF-DAY OF RECOLLECTION will be held on **Saturday 1st April** starting with Mass at 10am and ending at 2pm in the crypt. Please do bring a packed lunch with you. All are welcome to attend.

‘**THE GLORY OF EASTER**’ will be performed by Adoramus choir and orchestra on **Sat 1st April** at 7.30pm at the Spotlight. Tickets £20, £18 or £16 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 The second part of the course will be on **Fri 24th March, at 7.30pm**.

CONFIRMATION 2017: next session **27th March at 7.15pm** is the Penitential service in church for candidates and parents.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The 7th meeting for parents will be on **Wed 3rd May 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.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

BROXBOURNE 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 **this weekend**.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY: The amount collected was £812.14. Thank you!



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

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

CHARITY CONCERT: John Warner school are holding a 'Golden Oldies' night on **28th March** at 7pm. Tickets £2.50 in aid of The Daniela Ruggiero Scholarship Fund.

CONTACT THE ELDERLY holds afternoon teas for those 75 and over, for free, once a month. Drivers are arranged to take you and bring you safely back home. A small group has just started in Cheshunt and we are looking to expand. Are you interested to attend? **VOLUNTEERS:** We need coordinators, drivers, hosts, people to bake, and most importantly people to befriend the elderly. DBS checks will be carried out to ensure a smooth running of the afternoons. For more info please contact Una Daly on 07801-572434.

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 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.

APF MEMBERS: The total raised in 2016 was £2009.25. My sincere thanks for all your support of the red-box and direct donations. Ellen Bartlett.

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip continues his house visits on **Wed 22nd March** in these streets: Stoneleigh Drive, Nursery Rd, Hertford Road.

CHURCH CLEANING: Maria Manzo, Charmaine Collins & Elizabeth Nsonwah. 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: 23rd, 30th April; 14th, 21st & 28th May.

Masses this week		Today's Liturgy	
Sat 18th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Gaetano Martorana RIP		PAGE 158 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Exodus 17: 3–7 <i>Give the water to drink.</i> Psalm 94 — O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.' 2nd Reading: Romans 5: 1–2, 5–8 <i>The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.</i> Gospel Accl: <i>Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Lord, you are really the saviour of the world; give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!</i> Gospel: John 4: 5–42 <i>The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.</i> PREFACE TODAY: Samaritan Woman (p. 72) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 2 (p. 25) NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6–7, 10–13 2nd Reading: Ephesians 5: 8–14 Gospel: John 9: 1–41	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Paolo Conti RIP			
Sun 19th March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** Margaret & Peter White RIP anniv 11.15am For the Parish 5.00pm Holy Hour †			
Mon 20th March ST JOSEPH 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass David Greenall's int's			
Tues 21st March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Bernard Holland RIP rec. dec.			
Wed 22nd March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Eric & Mollie Field RIP anniv — followed by coffee in the crypt			
Thurs 23rd March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Maureen Norman's int's			
Fri 24th March (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12noon Mass Rocchina Tedesco RIP anniv. 12.30pm Stations of the Cross			
Sat 25th March ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Dec'd members of Tremont Family, John Richards RIP, Virgilio & Sofia Aguilon 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 <i>any other time.</i>	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Antonino & Franco Martorana RIP		ROSARY Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.	
Sun 26th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** For the Parish 11.15am Maria-Teresa DiStefano †		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.	
* 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)		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 20th	6pm 1st HC session, crypt	Wed 22nd	6pm Brownies, crypt
Tues 21st	12.30pm lunch club, crypt	Fri 24th	7.30pm Baptism course, church

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.*