

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

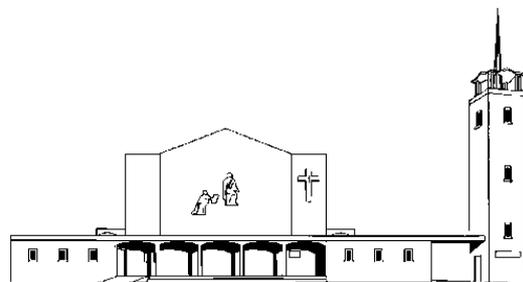
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Year A

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

26th MARCH 2017

John 9: 1-41 – *The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with sight restored.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

ON THIS FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, we hear the next great Lenten Gospel passage from St John: chapters 9, about the Man born Blind. The image of Jesus bringing light into a world of darkness is a powerful one: faith in Our Lord allows us to see the world in all its reality, i.e. not with our minds blind to God's intentions and plans for creation and human life. "As long as I am in the world," says Jesus, "I am the light of the world!" We celebrate His bringing us into the light of faith, so we may see our way clearly through life, illuminated by Him.

WITH NEWS OF THE DREADFUL DROUGHT AND FAMINE across 5 nations in East Africa, there is an 'East Africa Crisis Appeal' launched by the Disasters Emergency Committee, to which our own aid agency, CaFOD belongs. In this time of Lent, when almsgiving is a crucial part of our Lenten practice, I urge you to think of giving, to help the 16 million people who are threatened with starvation in these countries. You can either give by making a donation in our CaFOD collection boxes in the church porch, or online direct to the DEC as I have myself (<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/east-africa-crisis-appeal>).

THE CARDINAL IN RESPONSE TO THE MURDEROUS INCIDENT IN WESTMINSTER LAST WEEK says: "Let our voice be one of prayer, of compassionate solidarity, and of calm. All who believe in God, Creator and Father of every person, will echo this voice, for faith in God is not a problem to be solved, but a strength and a foundation on which depend." He asks for prayers for the victims, and in particular for Aysha Frade RIP, and her children who attend one of our Catholic primary schools in London.

A CONCERT OF MUSIC FOR LENT & EASTER performed by the 'Adoramus' choir is at the 'Spotlight' Civic Centre **next Saturday 1st April** at 7.30pm: 'The Glory of Easter.' I really encourage you to attend, as I shall. Tickets available from the Box Office (in person or on 441946) or online at www.adoramus.com.

A VERY HAPPY MOTHERING SUNDAY to the mothers of our parish! May this middle Sunday of Lent give you a moment to relax and give thanks to God for the joys of your children!

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. 10:



I invite priests once more to prepare carefully for the ministry of confession, which is a true priestly mission. I thank all of you from the heart for your ministry, and I ask you to be *welcoming* to all, *witnesses* of fatherly love whatever the gravity of the sin involved, *attentive* in helping penitents to reflect on the evil they have done, *clear* in presenting moral principles, *willing* to walk patiently beside the faithful on their penitential journey, *far-sighted* in discerning individual cases and *generous* in dispensing God's forgiveness. Just as Jesus chose to remain silent in order to save the woman caught in adultery from the sentence of death, so every priest in the confessional should be open-hearted, since every penitent is a reminder that he himself is a sinner, but also a minister of mercy.

PRAYER & LITURGY

DAVID GREENALL RIP of Beyers Gardens, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to his family. The funeral will be on **Friday 31st March at 12 noon.**

MAUREEN NORMAN RIP of Wallers Way, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. The funeral will be on **Monday 3rd April at 11am.**

May they rest in peace.

LATIN MASS: The monthly Latin Mass, with sung chants, will be held **next Sunday 2nd April at 5.00pm.**

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR will next take place **this Sunday, 23rd April** 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.

ALTAR SERVERS: Children (any age) who have at least made their First Holy Communion and wish to become altar servers, please contact the presbytery. Training sessions will be held in the church on **Sat 13th and 20th May 11am.**

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.**

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

HOLY WEEK – advanced notice of times:

PALM SUNDAY 9th April: Blessing of Palms will take place at every Mass. **Please note: the 9.15am Mass will begin at 9am** with the blessing of the Palms in the parish garden by the grotto, with procession from garden to church.

Tuesday 11th April: CHRISM MASS at Westminster Cathedral at 12 noon.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 13th April
8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer
8pm Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper
9.30–Midnight: praying at Altar of Repose.

GOOD FRIDAY: 14th April
9.45am Morning Prayer
10am Stations of the Cross
c. 11am *Churches Together* Act of Witness –
Meet at Clock Tower in town.
3pm Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
7pm Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY: 15th April
9.45am Morning Prayer
9pm Mass of the Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY: 9.15am and 11.15am Mass

RECONCILIATION BEFORE EASTER

In addition to the regular times for Confession, there will be the additional availability of the Sacrament: **Friday 31st March 6.30-8pm**
Penitential Services for the parish on Monday 10th April at 11.30am and 7.30pm. Several priests will be available on these occasions.

Also there are other Penitential Services locally:
BISHOPS STORTFORD: 3rd April 7.30pm
WARE: Thursday 6th April 7.30pm
WALTHAM CROSS: Mon 10th April at 8pm
HERTFORD parish (tel. 582019) has many extra confessions during Holy Week.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for our sick parishioners & friends: John Askew, Rosa Augello, Helen & Michael Sherman, Annette Pinto, Siobhan Fiorentini, 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

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 7th session for children will be on **Mon 8th May 6-7.30pm**.



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 a possible candidate for this role, who has been recommended to us by the diocesan youth-ministry team. Let's pray that this will come to fruition!

www.rcdow.org.uk/growing-in-faith

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.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

PLANNED GIVING: For those who make regular donations through weekly envelopes, **there are still some boxes of envelopes for the new financial year to be collected** (and thank you to those who have done so already). These are available from the back of the church this weekend. If you would like to start donating through the envelopes/standing orders, forms are available for completion. **GIFT AID:** Please note that Gift Aid forms will also be available. Many parishioners have already signed Gift Aid declarations, enabling the parish to claim £1 for every £4 donated through envelopes or standing orders, at no further cost to the donor. You need to be a UK taxpayer to sign the declaration. If your circumstances change, and you start to less or no tax simply inform the Gift Aid coordinator, Bill Pollard, and the declaration will be cancelled

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip is unable to make house visits this week, but will resume on **Wed 5th April**.

CHURCH CLEANING: Filomena Mezzullo, Elizabeth Nsonwah, Laura Harwood & Tony & Linda Barrell. 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
<p>Sat 25th March ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Dec'd members of Tremont Family, John Richards RIP, Virgilio & Sofia Aguilon RIP</i></p>	<p>PAGE 164 in the Mass books 1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6–7, 10–13 <i>David is anointed king of Israel.</i></p>
<p>4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Antonino & Franco Martorana RIP</i></p> <p>Sun 26th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am <i>Maria-Teresa DiStefano</i> ‡</p>	<p>Psalm 22 — <i>The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.</i></p> <p>2nd Reading: Ephesians 5: 8–14 <i>Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <i>Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!</i></p>
<p>Mon 27th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Johnny Curran RIP Anniv</i></p> <p>Tues 28th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Salvatore Russo RIP</i></p>	<p>Gospel: John 9: 1–41 <i>The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.</i></p>
<p>Wed 29th March NO Adoration NO Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Deceased members of Mezzullo Family — followed by coffee in the crypt</i></p>	<p>PREFACE TODAY: Man Born Blind (p. 72) EUCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28)</p>
<p>Thurs 30th March NO Mass</p>	<p>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12–14 2nd Reading: Romans 8: 8–11 Gospel: John 11: 1–45</p>
<p>Fri 31st March <i>(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.35 Benediction 12noon Funeral David Greenall RIP 1.00pm Stations of the Cross</p> <p>Sat 1st April 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Ken Parker RIP</i></p>	<p>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>
<p>4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Terry McIntyre RIP</i></p> <p>Sun 2nd April FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** <i>Aidan & Owen Doyle RIP anniv.</i> 11.15am <i>Kathleen Martin RIP</i> 5.00pm Latin Mass <i>For the Parish</i> ‡</p>	<p>ROSARY Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>* 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>	<p>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</p>
REGULAR EVENTS	
<p>Mon 27th 7.15pm Confirmation, crypt</p>	<p>Wed 29th 6pm Brownies, crypt</p>

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.*