

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

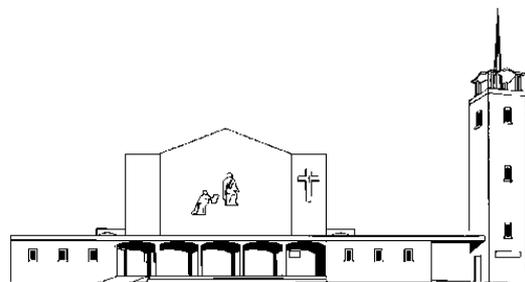
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Year A

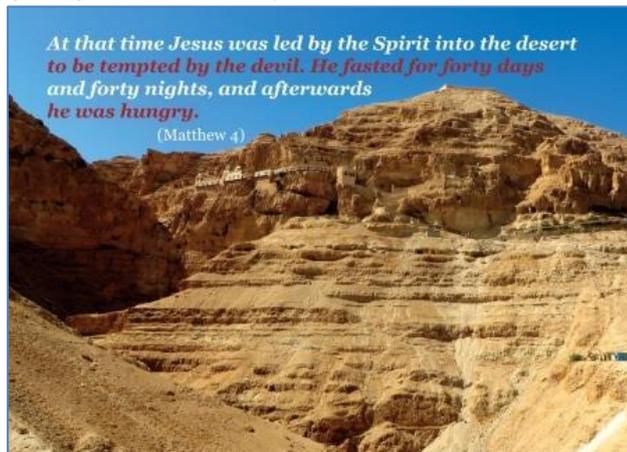
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

5th MARCH 2017

Matthew 4: 1-11 — *Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

WE HAVE HAPPILY BEGUN LENT! — our beautiful season of preparation for the greatest feasts of the year, in 6 weeks' time, the commemoration of Jesus's Death and Resurrection. We begin Lent, as always, considering Our Lord's own 40 days' fasting and prayer in the Judaeen wilderness, which are the pattern for our 40 days of penitential practices in Lent. Our Lord's resistance to the devil's temptations to greed, despair and honour are countered strongly, and in our own lives are best resisted through the practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. As I often say, "giving up" some things in Lent (i.e. fasting) helps us both to have more time (to pray) and more money (to give to charity): this is the great dynamic of Lent. Our Archbishop, Cardinal Vincent, added to our Lenten discipline, when he addressed us last week in his pastoral letter: to make sure that we visit the sick. So please reflect on that dimension of your daily Christian life, also, as you keep Lent this year. (You can re-read his pastoral letter on the parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon/fr-philips-homilies/>)



I really urge you to make good use of this season, and to take some bold and creative decisions as to how you will keep Lent. There are some obvious easy ways in which to give extra time to the Lord, in prayer, through **Daily Mass**; **Stations of the Cross** (Fri/Sat); **Friday Adoration** (11-12); **Holy Hour** (1st Friday, and 3rd Sunday, of the month); and in just popping in to the church for a few minutes whenever you pass, or park in the car park. Often, it's simple, regular acts of devotion, done with love, that make the most impact, long-term, in our spiritual lives.

May the Lord inspire us to begin our Lenten practices well, out of love for Him! Fr Philip

Pope Francis, from *Misericordia et Misera*, closing the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' n. 7:



The *Bible* is the great story of the marvels of God's mercy. Every one of its pages is steeped in the love of the Father who from the moment of creation wished to impress the signs of his love on the universe. Through the words of the prophets and the wisdom writings, the Holy Spirit shaped the history of Israel as a recognition of God's closeness and love, despite the people's infidelity. Jesus's life and preaching decisively marked the history of the Christian community, which has viewed its mission in terms of Christ's command to be a permanent instrument of his mercy and forgiveness. Through Sacred Scripture, kept alive by the faith of the Church,

the Lord continues to speak to his Bride, showing her the path she must take to enable the Gospel of salvation to reach all mankind. I greatly desire that God's word be increasingly celebrated, known and disseminated, so that the mystery of love streaming from this font of mercy may be ever better understood. As the Apostle tells us clearly: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."

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!

“THE BIG PICTURE”: An inspiring step-by-step, easy-to-use guide through the Bible. The 6 sessions on the New Testament will begin after a Lent break, after Easter (from 25th April).

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.**

‘LENT EXTRA’ booklets with daily Lent meditations are now available to buy for £1.75 by the newspapers. Please place your money in the newspaper box

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY: CAFOD has been standing alongside poor communities working with them to end poverty and injustice across the world. **Lent Fast Day is on Friday 10 March and the fast day envelopes will be attached to the newsletter next weekend and will be collected after Mass next weekend also.** . 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 and generosity

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**.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for our sick parishioners & friends: John Askew, Rosa Augello, Helen & Michael Sherman, Annette Pinto, Siobhan Fiorentini, Marina Morris, 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 **6th March at 7.15-8.45pm** for **candidates**. Candidates need to have read chs. 14 & 15 of the Mark’s Gospel.

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 SCHOOL VACANCIES. The Governing Body is currently advertising for: a Class Teacher from Sept and for an experienced Higher Level Teaching Assistant from April. For more info contact the school or visit <https://www.teachinherts.com/>.

ST AUGUSTINE'S NURSERY is looking into offering flexible hours within the Nursery provision to help support parents' needs <https://staugustines.herts.sch.uk/herts/primary/staugustines/> is the link to go to, 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**. This will help in assessing how the school can offer a flexible service that meets parents' requirements. Please note there will be a tour of the school for new Nursery parents on **14th March 1pm**. If you would like to attend, please register with the school office 463549.

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 will be held next in the crypt on **7th & 21st March** and 4th April 12.30-2.30pm. Price £4. Anybody & everybody welcome!

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip continues his house visits on **Wed 8th March** in these streets: Danemead, Glenester Close, Tunfield Road.

CHARITY WALK: A team of ladies from the Parish has signed up to 'The Moon Walk,' to raise money for vital breast cancer causes. To read more about what they are about to do and also how you can sponsor them, please visit their online fundraising page: <https://moonwalklondon2017.everydayhero.com/uk/team-jd-s>. Thank you, Janet Pearce, Debbie Cummings, Lisa Moran, Jeanine Percival.

200 CLUB RENEWALS take place after Mass on these weekends: **4th/5th & 11th/12th March**. If you would like to join, please contact Theresa Casbard: t.casbard@ntlworld.com or 301551.

200 CLUB WINNERS for March are: 1st prize Mrs Ingrao; 2nd Mrs Pollard; 3rd Miss L Pearce.

THANK YOU to the lady who donated knitted baby clothes. They have now been passed onto the baby unit at the Lister Hospital.

CHURCH CLEANING: Josie Warren, Barbara Wright, Mima Salvo & Tanya McAteer. Thanks for your help!

CHURCH CLEANERS are **still 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 2 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: 19th & 26th March, 9th April.



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

Masses this week		Today's Liturgy	
Sat 4th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Terence Bartlett RIP rec. dec.</i>		PAGE 151 in the Mass books	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* William Phelan & Dennis O'Donovan RIP		1st Reading: Genesis 2: 7–9, 3: 1–7 <i>The creation and sin of our first parents.</i>	
Sun 5th March FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** Anna & Angelo Mercurio RIP 11.15am Bridie & Maurice Cooper RIP & Fred & Dolly Dale RIP 5.00pm Latin Mass For the Parish ‡		Psalm 50 — Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.	
Mon 6th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Henryk & Assunta Nolewajka RIP anniv.		2nd Reading: Romans 5: 12–19 <i>However great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater.</i>	
Tues 7th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Desmond Kelly's intentions		Gospel Accl: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!	
Wed 8th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Gina Gullo RIP — followed by coffee in the crypt		Gospel: Matthew 4: 1–11 <i>Jesus fasts for 40 days and is tempted.</i>	
Thurs 9th March NO Mass		PREFACE TODAY: Temptation (p. 71) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)	
Fri 10th March CAFOD LENT FAST DAY <i>(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12noon Mass Jim O'Brien RIP 12.30pm Stations of the Cross		NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	
Sat 11th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Joanne Fisher RIP		1st Reading: Genesis 12: 1–4 2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1: 8–10 Gospel: Matthew 17: 1–9	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Pasquale Ricotta 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.	
Sun 12th March SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** Milly Yarwood RIP 11.15am For the Parish ‡		ROSARY Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday		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.	
** 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.	
REGULAR EVENTS			
Mon 6th	7.15pm Confirmation, crypt	Wed 8th	6pm Brownies, crypt
Tues 7th	12.30 Lunch club, crypt	Wed 8th	7.30pm All Saints, 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.*