

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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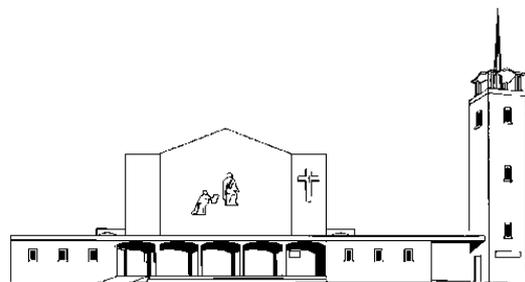
Fax: 01992-440244

Web-site: www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon & Wed-Fri, 9am-3pm)

Also in residence: Fr Mathew Kattiyangal (National chaplain to Knanayan community)



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Year A

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

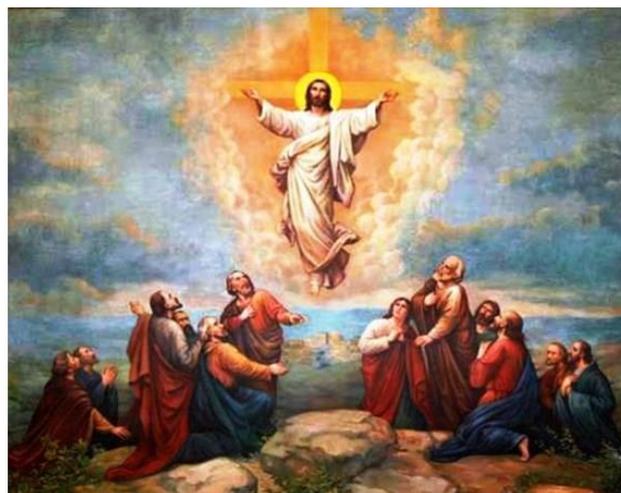
28th MAY 2017

GOSPEL: Matthew 28: 16-20

All authority, in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

OUR CELEBRATION TODAY OF OUR LORD'S ASCENSION TO HEAVEN brings us to the penultimate feast of the Easter season – to be completed next Sunday with the great event of Pentecost. Our Lord's return to heaven, and therefore His withdrawal from our physical sight, is most definitely *not* an abandoning of us. Last Sunday He said to us very clearly in the Gospel, "I do not leave you orphans." In fact, His departing from us in this physical way is precisely so that He can be with us more universally through the power of the Spirit across the whole Church at all times.



Additionally, it is important to note that Our Lord takes with Him, to heaven, *our flesh*. He does not shed it, and leave it behind on earth, as it were. He takes the humanity He has adopted with Him into the glory of the Father's home: so that, as He says to the apostles in St John's Gospel, "where I am, you may be too." He goes "to prepare a place for us," by entering heaven with our flesh, and going as Head where the Body, the Church, will follow.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY THE ASCENSION-TO-PENTECOST NOVENA mentioned last week, in the programme of prayer with other Christians in Britain and across the world, *Thy Kingdom Come*.

We join together in a global surge of prayer for more people to come and know Jesus Christ. Much more information is available to view at <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/> and a chance to register your participation and light up the world map of prayer with your pledge to join in this initiative.

May the Lord bless us as we honour His holy Mother in her month of May!

Fr Philip

Pope Francis, from *Misericordia et Misera*, closing the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' n. 14:



We have to remember each of us carries the richness and the burdens of our personal history; this is what makes us different from everyone else. Our life, with its joys and sorrows, is something unique and unrepeatable that takes place under the merciful gaze of God. This demands, especially of priests, a careful, profound and far-sighted spiritual discernment, so that everyone, none excluded, can feel accepted by God, participate actively in the life of the community and be part of that People of God which journeys tirelessly towards the fullness of his kingdom of justice, love, forgiveness and mercy.

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Arhlo & Alejandro Ayala and Santino Moruzzi who will be baptised this weekend.

ROBERT CULLEN RIP died recently. Our sympathies go out to his family. **His funeral will be on Tuesday 30th May at 10.30am.**

May he rest in peace.

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY: Mass will be at 10am; and the church will be closed after Mass.

FIRST FRIDAY: The first Friday Mass will be at 7.30pm on **Friday 2nd June.** This will be followed by the Holy Hour at 8pm, which is always prayed for the pro-life cause.

LATIN MASS: monthly Latin Mass, with sung chants, will be at 5.00pm **next Sun 4th June.**

THE BIG PICTURE, an inspirational Bible course, continues at 7.30 in the crypt on **6th & 13th June** (no meeting next week). Please **NOTE** the extra date on the end to complete our reflections.

AYLESFORD PRIORY: The Knights of St Columba have organised a coach to Aylesford on **Sunday 11th June.** Adults £15, school children £7. For further info. Please contact John McKenna on 07806478974.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30-8.30pm: **next meeting June 16th.** A semi-formal hour in the Lady Chapel to reflect together on Sunday Scriptures and bring our needs and prayers to the Lord.

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR will next take place on **Sunday, 18th June** at 5pm with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction. A truly peaceful hour!

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for our sick parishioners & friends: John Askew, Rosa Augello, Helen & Michael Sherman, Annette Pinto, Siobhan Fiorentini, Toni Randazzo, Doreen Willis, Alan Connolly & 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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The final meeting for parents will be on **Wed 7th June 8-9pm** in the crypt **and all parents are expected to attend.** The final session for children will be on **Mon 12th June 6-7.30pm.**

CONFIRMATION 2018: Fr Philip wishes to see each candidate (in next year's year 9 or above) and a parent for a short chat (20-30 minutes) before the summer. **Applications will close for this programme on 7th July.** Please contact the presbytery for an appointment. In general, these will be between 3.30pm and 6pm on the following days: 5th, 6th, 13th, 19th, 20th and 26th June.

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Monday 5th June and Tuesday 13th June 7.30-9pm.** The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.



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 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

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL is looking for Foundation Governors. To be considered as a

governor you must be a practising Catholic and be committed to putting the children's welfare at the forefront of everything you do at the school. If you are interested, please contact the Headteacher, Mrs Gillian Napier on 463549 or the Chair of Governors, Adam Tackley 07852-167935.

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 need to continue signing the weekly sign-in-sheet in the church porch on the noticeboard. **Please note that the system for applying for a Certificate of Catholic Practice is now closed.**

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

TRAIDCRAFT STALL will be at the back of the church **this weekend.**

MISCELLANEOUS

TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB held in the crypt: dates are 6th & 20th June; and 4th & 18th July 12.30-2.30pm. Price £4. Anybody & everybody welcome!

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will continue his house visits this **Friday** afternoon in these streets: Middlefield Road, Dorchester Avenue.

THANK YOU: A big thank you to all our supporters in the parish who donated to our Moonwalk Challenge which we completed last Sunday at 9.a.m after 9 hours of walking through the streets of London in cold, and sometimes wet conditions but left feeling exhausted, emotional and proud of our team effort. We have raised **£2,033.42** which will go towards the fight against Breast Cancer, those living with Cancer and research. Thank you, Janet, Jeanine, Debbie & Lisa.

ISABEL HOSPICE SUNFLOWER APPEAL: Volunteers are needed for Brookfield Park, Cheshunt on **2nd & 3rd June**, 10-4pm. We now need 4 collectors per hour which is outside the stores only. Please contact Ellen Bartlett on 464677 if you can spare an hour.

THERE'S NO HEALTH LIKE MENTAL HEALTH: A one day workshop exploring mental health in parish communities will be held on **Saturday 1st July 10-3pm** at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City. The

day will be facilitated by Ben Bano and supported by *Caritas* Westminster. For further info contact caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk.

NATIONAL WEEKEND FOR MEN will be held **21st-23rd July** at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon. This is a unique time away to join with other men on a refreshing Summer break with a difference. For further information and booking form go to www.harvesters.org.uk.

QUIZ NIGHT in aid of UK Aid Felsted will be held on **Friday 23rd June** at 7.30pm in the crypt. £5 per person, max 8 per team. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. To book a table contact Margaret Byrne on 443351 or Vicky Lee-Lozone on 07747-485023.

CHURCH CLEANING: Mima Salvo, Josie Warren, Barbara Wright and Tanya McAteer. Thank you for your help.

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: 4th June & 16th July.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY PRAYER



O God, whose word is truth and in whose light we see light, guide those who tell the story of our times through word and image. Make them seekers after truth and advocates of human dignity. Grant discernment to all who rely on their labours, and, as we confront the pain and promise of this world, awaken in us a sense of wonder at your presence and of longing for your peace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

