

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

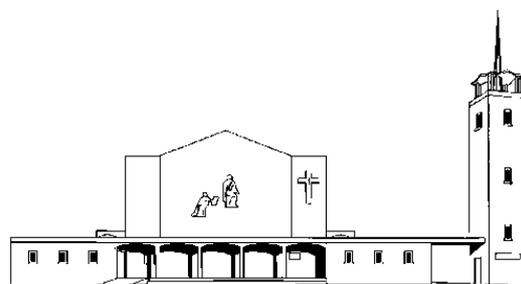
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Year B FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT ('LAETARE')

11th MARCH 2018

GOSPEL: John 3: 14-21

God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved.

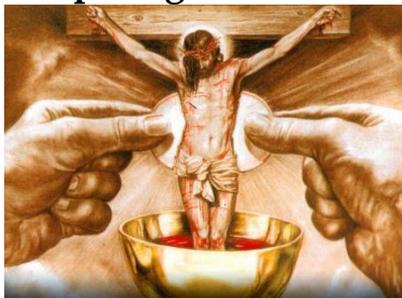
My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

A HAPPY LAETARE SUNDAY TO YOU! Happy Mothering Sunday! This mid-Lent point, celebrated with a slightly less penitential feel than the rest of Lent – hence the rose-pink vestments – is also traditionally in our country the opportunity to celebrate motherhood and to thank our mothers. Whether our mothers are alive with us, or whether they have been called by the Lord beyond this life, yet we honour them for their great sacrifices, and offer prayers for them this Mothering Sunday!

WE LOOK FORWARD NOW TO THE 2ND HALF OF LENT, and inserted in your Newsletter this week is the programme for the high-point of the season, namely the Sacred Triduum of Holy Week, the celebrations of Our Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. As I said last week in the homily, we need to be prepared for this through the forgiveness of our sins in the **Sacrament Reconciliation**, and so a special date to keep in mind is the **Tuesday of Holy Week – 27th March** – when several priests will be here for you at our parish Penitential Service for Lent. Please attend this service in great numbers, as it will truly make the spiritual efforts of Lent complete: to come to Easter with hearts washed clean by Christ's divine forgiveness is the best possible use of our Lenten devotions and disciplines.

May Christ drive out all that is unworthy of Him this Lent through our penance! Fr Philip

Preparing for the Eucharistic Congress 2018: John Paul II's *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 20:



Many problems darken the horizon of our time. We need but think of the urgent need to work for peace, to base relationships between peoples on solid premises of justice and solidarity, and to defend human life from conception to its natural end. And what should we say of the thousand inconsistencies of a 'globalized' world where the weakest, the most powerless and the poorest appear to have so little hope! It is in this world that Christian hope must shine forth! For this reason too, the Lord wished to remain with us in the Eucharist, making his presence in meal and sacrifice the promise of a humanity renewed by his love. Significantly, in their account of the Last Supper, the Synoptics recount the institution of the Eucharist, while the Gospel of John relates, as a way of bringing out its profound meaning, the account of the 'washing of the feet,' in which Jesus appears as the teacher of communion and of service. The Apostle Paul, for his part, says that it is unworthy of a Christian community to partake of the Lord's Supper amid division and indifference towards the poor.

A Prayer for Mothering Sunday

Loving God,
Thank you for mums and children
and for all the joy of family life.
Be with those who are grieving
because they have no mother;
Be close to those who are struggling
because they have no children;
Be near to those who are sad
because they are far apart from those they love.
Let your love be present in every home,
And help your church to have eyes to see
and ears to hear the needs of all who come.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



PRAYER & LITURGY

JOSEPHINE GIBILARO RIP of Reeves Lane, Roydon died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. **The funeral will be on Tuesday 13th March at 10.30am.** *May she rest in peace.*

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting 20th April.** 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 **Sunday 18th March at 5pm** with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction. A truly peaceful hour!

LENT

'WE ADORE YOU, O CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU,' the diocesan booklet for Lent, focuses on our love of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, the Mass, and our Mission. Some booklets still available from the back of the church for £3. **Reflection group based on this booklet continues – Wednesdays 10.15am (after coffee).**

LENTEN ALMS are collected each year in support of charitable causes: this year for the *Cardinal's Lenten Appeal* which was set up in 2015 to fund innovative work of Catholic parishes, schools and charities working within the Diocese. It contributes to 3 fundamental mission areas of the Church: Marriage & Family Life, Evangelisation and the Church's Social Outreach. **You will find the box throughout Lent in front of the lectern.**

HALF-DAY OF RECOLLECTION will be held on **Sat 24th March** starting with Mass at 10am and ending at 2pm in the crypt. All welcome.

HOLY WEEK – advanced notice of times:

PALM SUNDAY 25th March: Blessing of Palms will take place at every Mass. **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 27th March: **CHRISM MASS** at Westminster Cathedral at 12 noon.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 29th March
8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer
8pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
9.30pm–Midnight: praying at Altar of Repose.

GOOD FRIDAY: 30th March
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: 31st March
9.45am Morning Prayer
9pm Mass of the Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY: 9.15am and 11.15am Mass

RECONCILIATION BEFORE EASTER

Penitential Services for the parish on Tuesday 27th March 7.15pm. Several priests will be available on these occasions.

Also there are other Penitential Services locally:
BISHOPS ST'FORD: Wed 21st March 7.30pm
WARE: Thursday 22nd March 7.30pm.
WALTHAM CROSS: Monday 26th March 7pm
HERTFORD parish (tel. 582019) has many extra confessions during Holy Week.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for our sick parishioners & friends: Bill Pollard, John Askew, Rosa Augello, Siobhan Fiorentini, Tallulah Scott & 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 07876-526935; Princess Alexandra, Fr Leszek Gamracy 01279-426017

CATECHETICS

CONFIRMATION 2018: The next session will be on **Tuesday 27th March 7.15pm** for

candidates and parents for the Penitential Service.

"RCIA" - 'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults' is the programme for preparation for adults wishing to become Catholics, or be prepared for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion). **The course continues on Mon 12th March.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: Next meeting for parents is on **Wed 14th March 8-9pm** in the crypt. The next session for children will be on **Mon 19th March, 6pm.** **Owing to the last session having been cancelled, this session will finish at 8pm.**

FIRST-HOLY-COMMUNION LEAD CATECHIST: After many years, Vicky Lee-Lozone has now decided to finish in September. We are grateful to Vicky for her many years of hard work. A new head catechist is therefore needed. No experience is necessary as training will be given and you will be able to shadow Vicky until June. For further information, please contact Vicky on 07747-485023.

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Tuesday 13th and Friday 23rd March 7.30-9pm.** To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged.

need to apply **immediately** to go on the list for requesting a 'Certificate of Catholic Practice' towards the end of 2018. 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 able to judge whether he can issue the Certificate you ask for.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip continues his house visits this week (Wednesday afternoon) to parish homes in: Essex Road, Parrottsfield, Dobbs Weir.

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.** 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 have changed and you pay less or no tax, simply inform a.s.a.p. the Gift-Aid Coordinator, Bill Pollard, c/o The Presbytery, and your Gift-Aid declaration will be cancelled.**

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: 11th, 18th & 25th March.

CHURCH CLEANING: Michele & Pelle De Luca and Kathleen Connors. Thank you for your help.



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 £27k available for our parish project, which is to employ a part-time worker in the area of catechetics and evangelization. Fr Philip is working with the diocese and seeking advice from other diocesan priests to draw up a job description to find the right person for this role.

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 2019, or if your child is looking to go into Reception year in a Catholic Primary school in autumn 2019, then you will

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 10th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Bridie McDaid RIP	<p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 162 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36: 14–16, 19–23 <i>The wrath and mercy of God are revealed in the exile and in the release of his people</i></p> <p>Psalm 136 — O let me tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!</p> <p>2nd Reading: Ephesians 2: 4–10 <i>You who were dead through your sins have been saved through grace.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <i>Glory and praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!</i></p> <p>Gospel: John 3: 14–21 <i>God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved.</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Lent II (p. 56) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 2 (p.24)</p>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* For the Parish Sun 11th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** Ted Leatherbarrow RIP 11.15am Agatha Chang Chin Yuen RIP ‡	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</p> <p>1st Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31–34 2nd Reading: Hebrews 5: 7–9 Gospel: John 12: 20–30</p>
Mon 12th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Patricia Bridgeman's intentions Tues 13th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Milly Yarwood RIP anniv. 10.30am Funeral Josephine Gibilaro RIP	<p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
Wed 14th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Phyllis Dolan RIP 11am Funeral Baby Angelo Licata RIP	
Thurs 15th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Deceased of Hudson & O'Malley families	
Fri 16th March <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Ben Ighade's intentions 12.30 Stations of the Cross	
Sat 17th March ST PATRICK BISHOP, Patron of Ireland 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Gaetano Martorana RIP	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Martin & Bridget Moriarty RIP Sun 18th March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** Dave Greenall RIP 11.15am For the Parish 5pm Holy Hour ‡	
<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>	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Mon 12th 7.00pm RCIA, presbytery Tues 13th 12 noon lunch club, crypt Tues 13th 7.30 Baptism course, presbytery	Wed 14th 6pm Brownies, crypt Wed 14th 8pm Parents 1st HC meeting

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.*