

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

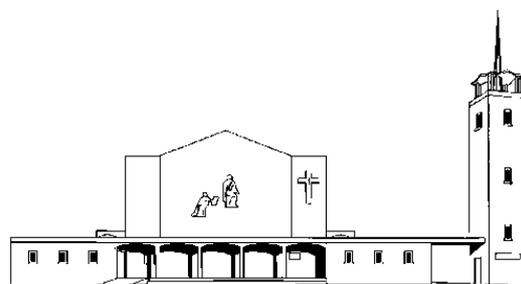
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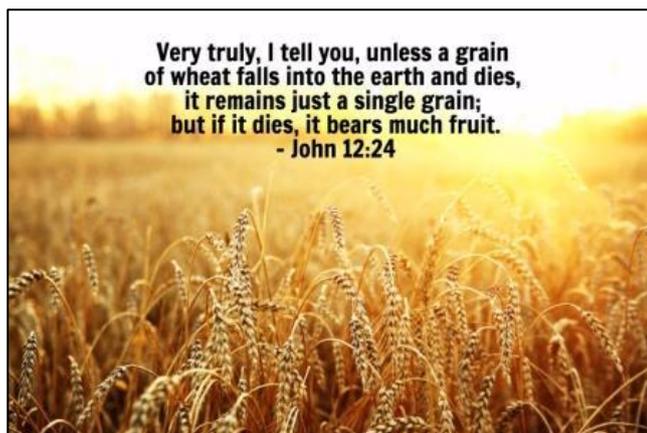
Year B

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

18th MARCH 2018

GOSPEL: John 12:20-30

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.



My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

WITH THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, TODAY, WE ENTER 'PASSIONTIDE' and we reflect more specifically on the sufferings of Our Lord Jesus as He approaches His saving sacrifice on Calvary. The crosses and statues are now covered, giving a more-sombre feel to the church's interior, and focussing our minds on the sorrowful events of Jesus's Passion. The Gospel passage from St John today prepares us for this, when Our Lord speaks of His death that is coming, but the Father affirms from heaven that this is also His glory. Jesus uses that image of the seed and the harvest: only the death of the seed in the ground can produce the 'resurrection' that is the harvest. His own death is to be life-giving for many. He offers up His own life so that we might live.

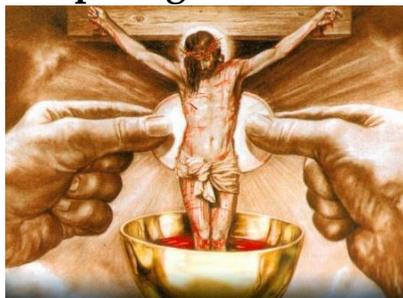
WITH REGARD TO THE LAST 2 WEEKS OF LENT, can I invite you warmly to the following events:

(i) **Lenten Half-Day of Recollection**, next Saturday (24th) from 10am Mass to 2pm. Fr Dominic Robinson, a Jesuit priest from Farm Street, will be coming to celebrate the Mass and lead us the reflections. Anyone and everyone invited – please just bring a packed lunch for the interval.

(ii) **Parish Penitential Service for Lent** on the Tuesday of Holy Week – 27th March – when about 6 priests will be here for you for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All our other Lenten disciplines point us towards Confession and the forgiveness of our sins by the merciful Lord. Let's make sure that we complete a good Lent with a grace-filled Confession.

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*, 21:



The Evangelists specify that it was the Twelve, the Apostles, who gathered with Jesus at the Last Supper. This is a detail of notable importance, for the Apostles "were both the seeds of the new Israel and the beginning of the sacred hierarchy." By offering them his body and his blood as food, Christ mysteriously involved them in the sacrifice which would be completed later on Calvary. By analogy with the Covenant of Mount Sinai, sealed by sacrifice and the sprinkling of blood, the actions and words of Jesus at the Last Supper laid the foundations of the new messianic community, the People of the New Covenant. The Apostles, by accepting in the Upper Room Jesus's invitation: "Take, eat", "Drink of it, all of you," entered for the first time into sacramental communion with him. From that time forward, until the end of the age, the Church is built up through sacramental communion with the Son of God who was sacrificed for our sake: "Do this in remembrance of me ... Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

PRAYER & LITURGY

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

MAUNDY THURSDAY MASS: In keeping with the symbolism of the washing of feet of the 12 apostles, 12 men or boys are required for the washing of feet. If you can take part, please sign your name on the list at the back of the church. **During the Mass, there will also be a Rite of Re-commissioning for the Ministers of Holy Communion so, if you are a Minister, please attend the Mass at 8pm.**

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION, READERS & ALTAR SERVERS: if you can assist at any of the services during Holy Week, please sign your name on the lists in the porch.

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.

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. **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.**

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 this occasion.

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.

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/bishopstortford>

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 19th March.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: 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.** Next meeting for parents is on **Wed 25th April 8-9pm** in the crypt

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.



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 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

PILGRIMAGE DAY TO AYLESFORD PRIORY will now be on **Thursday 3rd May**, not 17th May. More details to follow in due course.

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip continues his house visits this week (**Monday** afternoon) to parish homes in: Alamein Close, Pulham Avenue.

CRYPT: We apologise for the ongoing disruption to the crypt kitchen. Unfortunately, damp has been found, preventing an immediate kitchen re-fit, and we are awaiting the damp-prevention work to be done. Thank you for your patience.

PLANNED GIVING: Boxes of envelopes for the new financial year are now available from the back of the church. If you would like to start donating through the envelopes/standing orders, forms will be available and members of the Finance Committee will be available to help. **GIFT AID** 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 is aware that even after 10yrs there are many parishioners he has never visited. Sunday lunch (c. 1.30-3pm) is a good (but by no means only) time. Free dates: 18th & 25th March.

CHURCH CLEANING: Elizabeth Nsonwah, Toni Iamarino & Michel & Jacky Jordan.

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
<p>Sat 17th March ST PATRICK BISHOP, Patron of Ireland 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Gaetano Martorana RIP</p>	<p>PAGE 169 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31–34 <i>I will make a new covenant and never call their sin to mind.</i></p> <p>Psalm 50 — A pure heart create for me, O God.</p>
<p>4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Martin & Bridget Moriarty RIP</p> <p>Sun 18th March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** Dave Greenall RIP 11.15am For the Parish 5pm Holy Hour †</p>	<p>2nd Reading: Hebrews 5: 7–9 <i>He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <i>Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!</i></p>
<p>Mon 19th March ST JOSEPH, Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Maureen Norman RIP 1st anniv.</p>	<p>Gospel: John 12: 20–30 <i>If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.</i></p>
<p>Tues 20th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Dave Greenall RIP 1st anniv.</p>	<p>PREFACE TODAY: Lent I (p. 56) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p.28)</p>
<p>Wed 21st March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Sheila Aylward RIP</p>	<p>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS PALM SUNDAY</p>
<p>Thurs 22nd March NO Mass</p>	<p>1st Reading: Isaiah 50: 4–7 2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 6–11 Gospel: Passion according to Mark, 14: 1–15:47</p>
<p>Fri 23rd March <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Kevin Byrne RIP 12.30 Stations of the Cross</p> <p>Sat 24th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Deceased members of Soldano Family</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>ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<p>4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* For the Parish</p> <p>Sun 25th March PALM SUNDAY 9.15am** Deceased members of Mercurio Family 11.15am Jim O'Neill RIP †</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 style="text-align: right;">* 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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
REGULAR EVENTS	
<p>Mon 19th 6pm 1st HC meeting, crypt Mon 19th 7.00pm RCIA, presbytery Tues 20th 12 noon lunch club, crypt</p>	<p>Wed 21st 6pm Brownies, crypt Wed 21st 7.30pm All Saints, crypt Fri 23rd 7.30pm Baptism course, church</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.*