

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

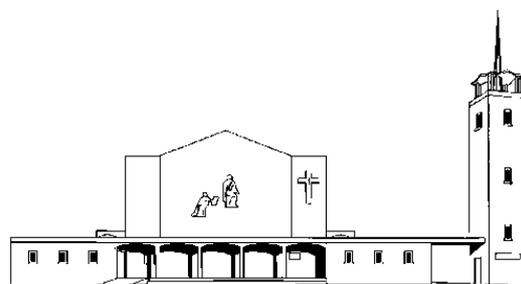
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Year B

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

4th MARCH 2018

GOSPEL: John 2: 13-25

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

ON THIS THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT we hear what for me is one of the great images of Lent: Jesus's clearing-out of the Temple of all the distractions to prayer and worship. Surely that is what we are supposed to be doing in Lent, isn't it? – allowing Christ to clear out the space in our lives / our hearts to permit the proper worship of God that should be centred there. Lent is about using assiduously the pious practices of Fasting and Almsgiving to prepare the ground for the Lord to do that clearance.

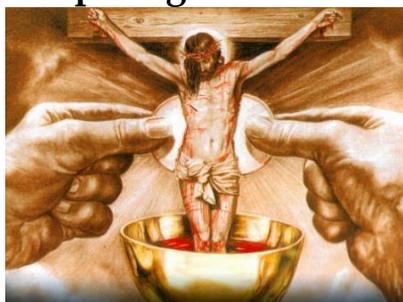


In particular, we need Him to take away the many obstacles – our sins – that are preventing our being truly temples of prayer and goodness. So, let's begin to focus, as Lent draws towards its mid-point, on when we will be availing ourselves of the **all-important Sacrament of Reconciliation**. I always make myself available in the Confessional immediately after Saturday evening and Sunday Masses; and have added a number of extra weekday occasions (Wed 7th March, this week, 6pm). The parish Penitential Service, with a number of priests in attendance for Confessions, will be on the Tuesday of Holy Week, 27th March, at 7.15pm. The 1st Reading today, a recitation of the 10 Commandments, is not a bad way to start making our examination of conscience for a good Confession this Lent. Pray and ask the Lord to help you examine your life, so that He can clear away the obstacles and make you once again a holy temple.

OUR WEDNESDAY LENT REFLECTION USING THE DIOCESAN FAITH-SHARING LENT BOOKS about the Holy Eucharist continues – please feel free to come and join us any time in the next 4 weeks after Wednesday coffee (c. 10.15am). A few spare copies of the book remain on sale.

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*, 19:



The eschatological tension kindled by the Eucharist *expresses and reinforces our communion with the Church in heaven*. It is not by chance that the Eastern Anaphoras and the Latin Eucharistic Prayers honour Mary, the ever-Virgin Mother of Jesus Christ our Lord and God, the angels, the holy apostles, the glorious martyrs and all the saints. This is an aspect of the Eucharist which merits greater attention: in celebrating the sacrifice of the Lamb, we are united to the heavenly 'liturgy' and become part of that great multitude which cries out: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" The

Eucharist is truly a glimpse of heaven appearing on earth. It is a glorious ray of the heavenly Jerusalem which pierces the clouds of our history and lights up our journey.

PRAYER & LITURGY

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30-8.30pm: **next meeting 9th March.** (NOT THIRD FRIDAY THIS MONTH.) 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!

MARRIAGE THANKSGIVING MASS: The Cardinal invites couples in the Diocese who are celebrating 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018 to Mass on **Sat 19th May at 3pm** at Westminster Cathedral. If you would like to attend, please communicate to the presbytery these details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email or telephone number by 19th March.

LENT

'WE ADORE YOU, O CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE YOU' is the diocesan booklet for Lent and 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 (money in the newspaper box). **Reflection group based on this booklet continues – Wednesdays 10.15am (after coffee).**

PARISH "PENANCE" FOR LENT: In Lent, we will 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. Please abide by this!

EXTRA CONFESSIONS IN LENT: Fr Philip will be available to hear confessions on **Wed 7th March 6-7pm. Penitential Service 27th March.**

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.**

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 6th March 7.15pm** for candidates. Candidates will need to have read chs. 14 & 15 of the Gospel of Mark.

"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 5th 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.



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 £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.

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL has an Open Morning for prospective Nursery parents for 2018/9 academic year on **Tuesday 6th March** at 2pm in the school hall. Please call 463549 to book a place.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY: The amount collected was £948.66. Thank you! Any late donations still accepted.

BROXBORNE FOODBANK: In 2017 we donated over a tonne – 1105 kg – to the foodbank. Thank you for all your generosity.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip continues his house visits this week (Wednesday afternoon) to parish homes in: Stortford Rd and environs.

200 CLUB RENEWALS will take place on **3rd/4th & 10th/11th March** after all Masses. The winners for March are Carlo Fiorentini £125, Pam McCarthy £75 and Claire Mason £50. Congratulations!

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 next 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.**

BROWNIES will be taking orders after Mass this weekend for Mother's Day flowers in a china cup for £10.

CHARITY AFTERNOON TEA held at The Manor of Groves hotel, Sawbridgeworth in aid of the Nadia Miragliotta Brighter Future Fund, **Sun 29th April 2.30pm-6pm.** Tickets £40. Please contact Steph Miragliotta on 07958-951214. Funds raised go to Great Ormond St Hospital.

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, 11th, 18th & 25th March.

CHURCH CLEANING: Mima Salvo, Tanya McAteer & Francesca Comparetto. Thank you for your help.

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 3rd March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Mary Harrison's intentions</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 154 in the Mass books</p> 1st Reading: Exodus 20: 1–17 <i>The Law was given through Moses.</i>
<hr/> 4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>William Phelan RIP & Denis O'Donovan RIP</i> Sun 4th March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** <i>Rina Beschizza RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Francesco Cannatella RIP</i> 5.00pm Latin Mass <i>For the Parish</i> ‡	Psalm 18 — You, Lord have the message of eternal life. 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 22–25 <i>Here we are preaching a crucified Christ, an obstacle to men, but to those who are called, the wisdom of God.</i> Gospel Accl: <i>Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, whoever believes in me will never die. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!</i>
Mon 5th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>John Mitchell RIP</i>	Gospel: John 2 13–25 <i>Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.</i>
Tues 6th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Virginia Orgar RIP</i>	PREFACE TODAY: Lent I (p. 56) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)
Wed 7th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Terry McIntyre RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</p> 1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36: 14–16, 19–23 2nd Reading: Ephesians 2: 4–10 Gospel: John 3: 14–21
Thurs 8th March NO Mass	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at any other time.
Fri 9th March <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Mary O'Brien RIP</i> 12.30 Stations of the Cross	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Sat 10th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Bridie McDaid RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> 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.
<hr/> 4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i> Sun 11th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** <i>Ted Leatherbarrow RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Agatha Chang Chin Yuen RIP</i> ‡	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</p> 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>* 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>REGULAR EVENTS</p>	
Mon 5th 7.00pm RCIA, presbytery Tues 6th 12 noon lunch club, crypt Tues 6th 7.15pm Confirmation, crypt	Wed 7th 6pm Brownies, crypt Fri 9th 7.30pm Prayer group, church

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 parroccchiani 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 vicino alla statua di Sant'Antonio.*