

The Announcer

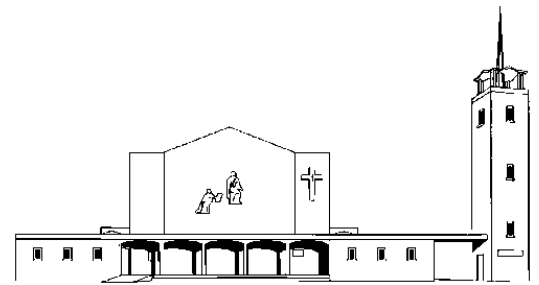
St Augustine's Catholic Church

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

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Year C

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

24th MARCH 2019

GOSPEL: Luke 13: 1-9

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT we hear St Luke describing Our Lord's impassioned plea for our repentance. In several ways, Jesus repeats that call for us to reflect on our lives, acknowledge our sins, and come back to Him with contrite hearts, ripe and ready for His forgiveness.



The parable of the Fig Tree is poignant – the Master is patient, but He cannot wait for ever! He does expect us to "bear fruit, fruit that will last" in our Christian lives. So, let's make sure that this Lent we 'dig around' our roots, and make sure that we open ourselves up the life-giving grace of the Spirit. If Jesus looks at us, does He find our bearing the sort of fruit that He would want? Does He find the works of mercy being fulfilled? Does He see a person of prayer and devotion? Does He see someone actively engaged with selfless acts of love? Let's ask Him this Lent to open our eyes and our hearts to where He can change us to be more fruitful!

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO CONTINUE TO GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE PARISH EACH WEEK! Those of you who use Offertory envelopes will find the new tax-year's set available on the table in the church porch. If you would like to *start* using Offertory envelopes – or, if possible, you would like to take out a Standing Order to the parish – and if you can sign a gift-aid declaration (so we can claim back the 25% extra on your giving, from the Inland Revenue), then please speak to a Finance-Committee member available for you after Mass in the church porch alongside the table of envelopes. The parish's running, week to week, depends on your gift!

May the Lord Jesus – showing us His divinity – guide us by His light this Lent! Fr Philip



St Augustine teaches: *Sermon for Catechumens on the Creed, 9:*

Of [Jesus's] cross what shall I speak, what say? This extremest kind of death He chose, that not any kind of death might make His Martyrs afraid. The doctrine He showed in His life as Man, the example of patience He demonstrated in His Cross. There, you have the work, that He was crucified; example of the work, the Cross; reward of the work, Resurrection. He showed us in the Cross what we ought to endure, He showed in the Resurrection what we have to hope. Just like a consummate task-master in the matches of the arena, He said, 'Do, and bear'; do the work and receive the prize; strive in the match and you shall be crowned. What is the work? Obedience. What the prize? Resurrection without death. Why did I add, "without death?" Because Lazarus rose, and died; Christ rose again, "dies no more, death will no longer have dominion over Him."

PRAYER & LITURGY

SALVATRICE CASTRONOVO RIP of Ware Road, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. Her funeral will be on **Friday 29th March at 12 noon.**

May she rest in peace.

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR will next take place **Sunday 24th April 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 Friday 12th April.** A semi-formal hour in the Lady Chapel to reflect together on Sunday Scriptures and bring our needs and prayers to the Lord.

AYLESFORD PRIORY PILGRIMAGE DAY will be on **Thursday 16th May.** More details will follow in due course. Please save the date!

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 4.30pm each Friday.

‘**REJOICE & BE GLAD**’ is the diocesan booklet for Lent on what it means to be a joyful missionary disciple of Jesus Christ. The booklet is available from the back of church for £3 (please place money in newspaper box.) Reflection group based on this booklet – **each Wednesday at 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 enter into this prayerfully.

LENTEN ALMS are collected each year in support of charitable causes: this year we’ll be supporting the **Cardinal Hume Centre** which works with homeless young people, badly housed families and others in need. It enables people to gain the skills they need to overcome poverty and homelessness. They. You will find the box throughout Lent in front of the lectern.

HALF DAY OF RECOLLECTION will be held on **Sat 6th April** starting with Mass at 10am and ending at 2pm in the crypt. All welcome.

EXTRA CONFESSIONS IN LENT: Fr Philip

will be available to hear confessions on **Tues 9th April 7–8pm** and **Friday 12th April 6–7pm.**

‘**LENT EXTRA**’ booklets with daily Lent meditations are now available to buy for £2.25 Please place your money in the newspaper box.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for our sick parishioners & friends: John Askew, Bridget Newson, 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 AT HOME.

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, John O’Neill 01438-285138 or 07876-526935; Princess Alexandra, Fr Leszek Gamracy 01279-426017

CATECHETICS

BAPTISM COURSE: The second part of the course will be held on **Tuesdays 26th March** from 7.30–9pm in church.

“**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. **Course continues Mon 25th March at 7pm.**

CONFIRMATION 2019: The next meeting is **2nd April 7–8.30pm** for candidates only, with Bishop Paul. Please bring your copy of the St Mark’s Gospel to each session, and please read ch. 15 in preparation for next time.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The fifth meeting for children will be on **Sun 24th March 12.30–2pm** or **Mon 25th March 6–7.30pm:** meet at the outside crypt door 10 mins before the class starts. The fourth meeting for parents will be on **24th April 8pm** in the crypt.

First Confessions are **1st & 2nd April, 5-6pm in church**. The children will be allocated a day and time slot each, this next session.

SCHOOLS/INDER 5'S

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL NURSERY APPLICATIONS: Nursery applications are open and places will be given on a 'first come, first served' basis. Application forms can be picked up at the School Office, by following the link on the home page of the school website or under the 'Admissions' tab. An offer letter will be sent within a week of application received.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL is looking for a School Lay Chaplain/Chaplaincy Coordinator for 32.5 hours per week. More info can be found at www.stmarys.net under the vacancies section.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY: The amount collected was £728.26. Thank you! Any late donations will still be accepted.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will continue his house visits this week, **Wednesday** afternoon, in: Taverners Way, Foxton Road and environs.

PARISH ACCOUNTS: The income and expenditure for 2018 is now available to view on the noticeboard at the back of church.

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. During 2017/2018 we were able to claim £11,800 and then received a further £2,000 through the gift-aid small-donations scheme. **If your circumstances have**

changed and you pay insufficient or no tax, simply inform a.s.a.p. the Presbytery, and your Gift-Aid declaration will be cancelled.

APF: Mass will be said here **Fri 12th April at 12 noon** for all parish members, past and present. Please pray for the 35 priests, one seminarian and 4 lay people who died violently as shown in pp. 17-20 of Spring 2019 *Mission Today*. Ellen Bartlett.

NATIONAL WEEKEND FOR MEN will be held on **19th-21st July** at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon. This is a great opportunity to relax, hear truly inspirational Speakers, and join with other men on a refreshing Summer break with a difference. For further information and booking form go to www.harvesters.org.uk.

DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES can be viewed online <https://rcdow.org.uk/dioocese/jobs>.

CHURCH CLEANING: Filomena Mezzullo, Elizabeth Nsonwah & Tony & Linda Barrell. 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: 7th & 14th April.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD — 25th MARCH

The Solemnity of the Annunciation celebrates the coming of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce to her the special mission God had chosen for her in being the mother of His only Son. We are continually reminded of the importance of this feast to our salvation in various devotional prayers. Two examples that highlight the importance of this feast are the first joyful mystery of the Rosary, and the *Angelus* prayer. Our Catholic faith calls us constantly to give thanks to God for the trusting 'yes' of Our Blessed Lady.



Masses this week		Today's Liturgy	
Sat 23rd March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Paolo Conti RIP		PAGE 160 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Exodus: 3; 1–8, 13–15 <i>I Am has sent me to you.</i> Psalm 102 — The Lord is compassion and love. 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 1–6, 10–12 <i>The life of the people under Moses in the desert was written down to be a lesson for us.</i> Gospel Accl: <i>Glory to you, O Chirst, you are the Word of God! Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!</i> Gospel: Luke 13: 1–9 <i>Unless you repent you will perish as they did.</i> PREFACE TODAY: Lent I (p. 70) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28)	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* June & Ted Twigg RIP			
Sun 24th March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** For the Parish 11.15am Terry McIntyre RIP anniv. ‡		NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 1st Reading: Joshua 5: 9–12 2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 17–21 Gospel: Luke 15: 1–3, 11–32	
Mon 25th March THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15 Mass Vincent Byrne RIP			
Tues 26th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15 Mass Robert Cullen 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. ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass. 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. SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE 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	
Wed 27th March 9am Morning Prayer 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass Maria Teresa Distefano RIP — followed by coffee in the crypt			
Thurs 28th March NO Mass		REGULAR EVENTS	
Fri 29th March (Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.35 Benediction 12 noon Funeral Salvatrice Castronovo RIP 1pm Stations of the Cross			
Sat 30th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Don Tonino Cocchi RIP		Sun 24th 12.30pm 1st HC, crypt Mon 25th 6pm 1st HC, crypt	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Antonino & Franco Martorana RIP		Tues 26th 12.30pm Lunch club, crypt Wed 27th 6pm Brownies, crypt	
Sun 31st March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** Enrico & Maria Rega RIP 11.15am For the Parish ‡			
* 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)			

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.*