

The Announcer

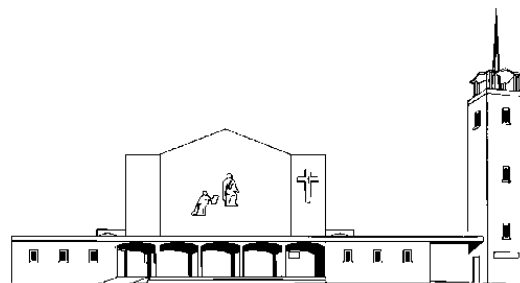
St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

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

Also in residence: Fr Joshy Philip (National chaplain to Knanayan community)

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Year C

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

31st MARCH 2019

GOSPEL: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

THIS IS LAETARE SUNDAY, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT and the rose-pink vestments announce to us that we are midway through this sacred season of penance, prayer and preparation for the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. It is a joyful moment – hence the "*Laetare,*" "Rejoice!" that comes through the liturgy of this midpoint of Lent.

The great parable of this Sunday's Mass – the 'Prodigal Son' – announces to us the immense joy of being reconciled to the Father as we seek the forgiveness of our sins. The set of parables of mercy in Lk 15 all announce that there is "great rejoicing in heaven" over the sinner that repents – so today we need to make the reflection on how and when we will seek God's holy forgiveness for our sins in the days between now and Easter. The inserted sheet available with today's Newsletter not only gives you the full set of Holy-Week services, but also gives you a chance to prepare for Confession, and lists the many opportunities, not only in this parish but also in other local parishes. Let us rejoice to know that the Lord is "full of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger and rich in graciousness."

A BLESSED AND HAPPY MOTHERING SUNDAY to all our parish mothers! *Laetare* Sunday is always, also, a chance to honour our mothers – with prayer and with a treat – and to ask God's blessing upon them for their great task of motherhood and of passing on the holy Catholic faith. We remember, too, with thanksgiving those mothers of ours who have died, and in God's great mercy we pray for their eternal salvation.

May the Lord Jesus – showing us His mercy – guide us to forgiveness this Lent! Fr Philip



St Augustine teaches: Sermon for Catechumens on the Creed, 10:

The end of the Lord we know. What end of the Lord? "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?" They are the words of the Lord hanging on the cross. He did as it were leave Him for present felicity, not leave Him for eternal immortality. In this is 'the end of the Lord.' The Jews hold Him, the Jews insult, the Jews bind Him, crown Him with thorns, dishonour Him with spitting, scourge Him, overwhelm Him with revilings, hang Him upon the tree, pierce Him with a spear, last of all bury Him. He was as it were left: but by whom? By those insulting ones. Therefore you shall but to this end have patience, that you may rise again and not die, that is, never die, even as Christ. For so we read, "Christ rising from the dead henceforth dies not."

PRAYER & LITURGY

ADORATION/MORNING PRAYER will not take place on Monday, but there will be Mass as usual at 9.15am.

FIRST FRIDAY: The first Friday Mass will be at 7.30pm on **Friday 5th April**. This will be followed by the Holy Hour at 8pm, which is always prayed for the pro-life cause.

LATIN MASS: The monthly Latin Mass, with sung chants, will be at 5.00pm next **Sunday 7th April**.

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 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.

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR will next take place **Sunday 14th April at 5pm** with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction. A truly peaceful hour!

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

LENT

'**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)**.

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.

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

HOLY WEEK – advanced notice of times:

PALM SUNDAY 14th April : 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 16th April: CHRISM MASS at Westminster Cathedral at 12 noon.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 18th April
8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer
8pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
9.30pm-Midnight: praying at Altar of Repose.

GOOD FRIDAY: 19th April
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: 20th April
9.45am Morning Prayer
9pm Mass of the Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY: 9.15am and 11.15am Mass

RECONCILIATION BEFORE EASTER

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

Penitential Services for the parish on Tuesday 16th April 7.30pm. Several priests will be available on these occasions.

Also there are other Penitential Services locally:
CHESHUNT: Wed 10th April 7.30pm.
BISHOPS ST'FORD: Fri 12th April 7.30pm
WARE: Monday 15th April 7.30pm
WALTHAM CROSS: Monday 15th April 7pm
HERTFORD parish (tel. 582019) has many extra confessions during Holy Week.

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

CATECHETICS

"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 1st April 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 fourth meeting for parents will be on **24th April 8pm** in the crypt. The sixth meeting for children will be on **Sat 11th May, 10am-3pm:** meet at the outside crypt door 10 mins before the class starts.

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

Any parent who hasn't yet paid the £40 for the 1st HC books, can you please post it through the presbytery letterbox as soon as possible.

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL is looking for a secretary to provide administrative and clerical support to the whole school. The role is for 5

days per week (27.5 hours spread across 5 days, 3 full days and 2 mornings which can be negotiated) working term time. Please contact Mrs Branch on 463549 or e-mail cbranch@staugustines.herts.sch.uk or visit <https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job.htm?keyword=School+Secretary>.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will continue his house visits this week, **Wednesday** afternoon, in: Winterscroft Road, Cillocks Close, 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.**

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

CHURCH CLEANING: Mima Salvo, Francesca Comparetto, Pat Kavanagh & Sue Alvey. 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: 14th April; 5th, 12th & 19th May.

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 30th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Rosina Malpelli RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 168 in the Mass books</p> 1st Reading: Joshua 5: 9–12 <i>The People of God keep the Passover on their entry onto the promised land</i>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Antonino & Franco Martorana RIP</i>	Psalm 33 — Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Sun 31st March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** <i>Enrio & Maria Rega RIP</i> 11.15am <i>For the Parish</i> ‡	2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 17–21 <i>God reconciled us to himself through Christ.</i>
Mon 1st April 9.15 Mass <i>Giuseppe Mezzullo RIP</i>	Gospel Accl: <i>Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.' Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!</i>
Tues 2nd April 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15 Mass <i>Don Tonino Cocchi RIP</i>	Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11–32 <i>Your brother here was dead and has come to life.</i>
Wed 3rd April 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Dec'd members of Mezzullo Family</i> — followed by coffee in the crypt	PREFACE TODAY: Lent II (p. 70) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)
Thurs 4th April NO Mass	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</p> 1st Reading: Isaiah 43: 16–21 2nd Reading: Philippians 3: 8–14 Gospel: John 8: 1–11
Fri 5th April <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Justina Ogbodu RIP</i> 12.30pm Stations of the Cross 7.30pm Mass <i>Mary Perrotta RIP</i> 8pm Holy Hour	<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>
Sat 6th April 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Private intention</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Dennis Dempsey RIP</i> Sun 7th April FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am** <i>Dave Greenall RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Paolo Conti RIP</i> 5pm Latin Mass <i>For the Parish</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.
<p style="text-align: center;">* 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 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
REGULAR EVENTS	
Mon 1st 7pm RCIA, presbytery Tues 2nd 12.30pm Lunch club, crypt	Tues 2nd 7pm Confirmation, crypt Wed 3rd 6pm Brownies, crypt

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.*