

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

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

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

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Year A FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 'LAETARE' SUNDAY 22nd MARCH 2020

GOSPEL: John 9: 1-41

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

AS SOMEONE RECENTLY QUIPPED: "I hadn't meant to give up quite *that* much for Lent!" It is with great sadness that as Catholic community across the country we are in the position of having had to suspend, probably for many weeks, the public celebration of Mass. I write with more details inside the Newsletter some suggestions for your ongoing celebration of your daily faith. Above all, we are lucky that a local church, St Joseph & English Martyrs in Bishops Stortford, has Mass streamed online every day. Sunday Masses can be followed at <http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford> at 6pm Sat; and 9am, 11am and 6pm Sunday. I know it 'Laetare Sunday' and also 'Mothering Sunday': I wish you the blessings of these celebrations – especially to our parish's mothers – even in the midst of the challenges of this time!

All sorts of online resources are rapidly springing up, such as www.lentinisolation.com to support the Catholic people from day to day, during this 'fast from Mass,' this 'long Good Friday.' Additionally, there is the crucial **Re-dedication of England to Our Lady** set for next Sunday, 29th March, at around midday: PLEASE take part in this, in your homes and families, to re-dedicate our land to Our Blessed Mother, and implore her motherly intercession, using the prayers with the Newsletter or available [here](#).

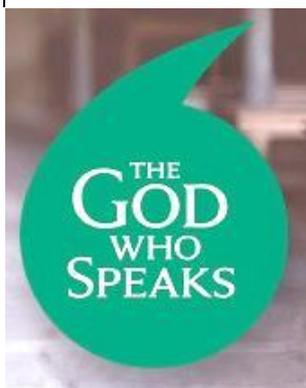
IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE 'LOOK OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER' in this present crisis. We have a number of parishioners who are offering to assist with shopping or running errands for anyone who is self-isolating, or elderly and choosing to remain safely at home. PLEASE, if you, or anyone you know, is in need of such help, then phone the Presbytery and we will co-ordinate it.

OUR RECENT 'PLANNED GIVING' CAMPAIGN brought in some much-needed new offers by Parishioners for Standing Orders or Offertory Envelopes, along with Gift-Aid declarations for which I thank you very much. I ask that all other parishioners whose income is not threatened by this virus outbreak also urgently consider their regular support for the parish, and maybe increase their giving, and doing so by Standing Order if at all possible. The form to print & complete is available here: [Financial-support form](#)

Let us live our faith even in this time of crisis, with ever-deeper prayer! Fr Philip

2019/20 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 17

The living Tradition is essential for enabling the Church to grow through time in the understanding of the truth revealed in the Scriptures; indeed, "by means of the same tradition, the full canon of the sacred books is known to the Church and the holy Scriptures themselves are more thoroughly understood and constantly made effective in the Church." Ultimately, it is the living Tradition of the Church which makes us adequately understand sacred Scripture as the word of God. Although the word of God precedes and exceeds sacred Scripture, nonetheless Scripture, as inspired by God, contains the divine word "in an altogether singular way."



PRAYER & LITURGY

CARDINAL VINCENT has written to us all a [Pastoral Letter](#) this weekend, explaining the inevitable decision to suspend temporarily the suspension of public celebration of Holy Mass. This is available on the **pink sheets** with your Newsletter, or online at the link above.

LITURGY DURING THE PUBLIC SUSPENSION OF MASS: pretty much all the public ceremonies have had to be suspended. Mass will be celebrated by Fr Joshy & Fr Philip in private before (or after) the church is open.

- The suspension of public Mass by the bishop means that the *obligation to attend Sunday Mass is removed* for the duration of the suspension.
- *All the parish Masses*, for the intentions requested, will be offered without fail, even though in private. Please continue to ask for Masses to be offered, and these will be published in the Newsletter as usual.
- *The church will be open* daily for prayer as usual, from about 8.45am until the evening. *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* will take place each day as much as possible.
- *Mass can be followed online* at the church of the Dean, Fr Peter Harris – St Joseph & English Martyrs, Bishops Stortford (<http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford>) – at the following times: Saturday 6pm; Sunday 9am, 11am, 6pm; and weekdays 9.30am. This is not an obligation, but would be a pious practice in order to stay in touch with the rhythm of the Church's seasons and her devotional life.
- *The readings for Mass* can be found every day on the 'Universalis' website <http://www.universalis.com/mass.htm>

RE-DEDICATION OF ENGLAND TO OUR LADY: this will take place across the country in parishes and homes on Sunday 29th March at around noon – or at any convenient time that day. It is *vitaly important*, especially at this time, that the rededication by each and every Catholic household and family goes ahead next Sunday, as it will be a powerful tide of prayer to Our Lady for the protection and blessing of England. The prayers are on the **blue sheets** inside the Newsletters at church or are available online here: <https://www.behold2020.com/> It is a simple 3-page prayer, promise and dedication. Please offer these prayers for the Church in our country, and for the re-conversion of England.

ANGELO ORSINI RIP of Stortford Road died recently. Our sympathies go out to his family. His funeral will be held in private with Don Antonio at the cemetery.

SHEILA BARRY RIP of Belmont View, died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. Her funeral will be held in private at the cemetery. *May they rest in peace.*

AYLESFORD PRIORY PILGRIMAGE DAY will be on **Thursday 14th May**. Please save the date, though its going ahead is under review.

LENT

DESPITE the suspension of public Mass, we can still exercise our Lenten disciplines with fervour.

Prayer: e.g. Following **Mass online** (see front page of Newsletter); reading our pocket copies of **St Matthew's Gospel** 'day by day'; **Stations of the Cross** (privately, in church or at home, with CTS booklets for sale in church porch); **Scripture Prayer Group** (Wed 10.15am in crypt – this can go ahead by our exercising 'physical distancing').

Fasting: e.g. refraining from meat on extra day(s) in the week, not just Friday; 'giving up' some of the classic treats such as sugar, cakes, chocolate, alcohol; fasting from the use of TV, social media, internet, etc.

Almsgiving: e.g. **Broxbourne FoodBank** (collection box in porch); establishing a '**Charity account**' with C.A.F. for regular charitable giving; **wall boxes** for 'CaFOD,' 'Poor & Needy,' and 'World Missions.'

Reconciliation: all the regular times on Saturday & Sunday, or at request during the weekdays.

FINANCE

THANK YOU to those parishioners who took part in the appeal last weekend with regard to 'planned giving.' All those cards which were filled out to set up Standing Orders have already been delivered to the relevant banks. This is a vital contribution that you are making to our parish finances at this time.

APPEAL FOR YOUR GENEROUS HELP: the Finance Committee invites your participation in the Planned-Giving campaign even if you were unable to attend Mass here last weekend. At this time it is particularly helpful if parishioners can donate to the parish by *Standing Order* if at all

possible. Please print the relevant inside pages from the [Financial-support form](#) on our parish website, and return the completed form to the Presbytery. The parish continues to rely solely on the parishioners' donations. THANK YOU!

BOXES OF OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: those of you who give via Offertory envelopes weekly, or who have just requested them, please continue to deliver your offering at church on Sundays if you visit (collection box in porch) or through the Presbytery letter-box. We still rely on your giving! **NEW BOXES FOR APRIL ONWARDS** are now available for collection from the porch Sat evening / Sunday morning, or from the Presbytery in the week.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for our sick parishioners & friends: Ian Witham, John Lumley, Bridget Newson, Judith Lloyd-Jones & 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. The meetings have been suspended for the time being.

CONFIRMATION 2020: Classes have been suspended for the time being. The celebration of Confirmation is subject to the Bishop's decision.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE: Classes have been suspended for the time being.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

CORONAVIRUS - FOODBANK: In light of the uncertainty over the Coronavirus, it is understandable that we want to ensure our kitchen cupboards are well stocked. However, we must not forget that this can leave foodbanks struggling. Hundreds of people rely on generous donations from our parishioners. This includes the need for hygiene items, toilet paper, sanitary products etc., as well as sealed packages of dry food, tins, and long-life milk etc.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will make house visits ('door-step visits') **on Wednesday afternoon** in Station Road, Church View, Riverside, Old Nazeing Road, Crownfield.

TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB has had to be suspended for the time being.

BROWNIES is suspended for the time being.

THANK YOU to everyone who attended Molly Zwager's funeral and to all those who sent cards and made donations. A total of £1,100 was raised for the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance. Theresa Casbard.

CHURCH CLEANING: Filomena Mezzullo, Elizabeth Nsonwah, Tony & Linda Barrell & Tina Pegna. Thank you!

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

POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER at this time of the virus outbreak

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus's pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of us who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 21st March Private Mass Gaetano Martorana RIP anniv.	PAGE 164 in the Mass books 1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13 <i>David is anointed king of Israel.</i>
Private Mass For the Parish	Psalm 22 — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Sun 22nd March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Private Mass Dave Greenall RIP anniv. Private Mass Terry McIntyre RIP	2nd Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14 <i>Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.</i>
Mon 23rd March Private Mass Martin & Lisa Ward intentions	Gospel Accl: <i>Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!</i>
Tues 24th March Private Mass Marie McGrath RIP anniv	Gospel: John 9: 1-41 <i>The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.</i>
Wed 25th March ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Private Mass Maria-Teresa Distefano RIP	PREFACE TODAY: Man Born Blind (p. 72) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)
Thurs 26th March Private Mass Sheila Barry rec. dec.	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Fri 27th March (Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+) Private Mass Angela Coffey rec. dec.	1st Reading: Ezekiel 37: 12-14 2nd Reading: Romans 8: 8-11 Gospel: John 11: 1-45
Sat 28th March Private Mass Giuseppina Gibilaro 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.
Private Mass Martin & Bridie Moriarty RIP & John Francis Curran Sun 29th March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT Private Mass Kevin O'Bryan RIP Private Mass For the Parish	ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
<p style="text-align: center;">* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p> <p>** With Children's Liturgy (nursery-age to year 2 only)</p> <p>‡ There are also Sunday evening Masses in English in Hertford (6pm) and Waltham Cross (6.30pm)</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.
REGULAR EVENTS	SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.

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.*