

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

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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 A

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

29th MARCH 2020

GOSPEL: John 11: 1-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

I PRAY THAT YOU ARE KEEPING SAFE AND WELL during this period of unprecedented restrictions on our national and Catholic life. We all know how important it is to make the sacrifices that we are, to keep as many people – not least the older and frailer members of society – free from the virus outbreak. Be assured that Fr Joshy & I are keeping a fervent routine of prayers offered in our church – despite its being closed to you – and are including you in the daily Mass and prayers. In general, he &/or I offer an 8am Mass, followed by 8.30-10am Adoration; and a 2nd Holy Hour in the evening 6-7pm. When a second Mass is scheduled (Sat/Sun) then he or I offer that in the evening. We pray the Pope's prayer to Our Lady (see inside) twice a day. Please join your daily prayers to ours, from the safety of your home.

A local church, St Joseph & English Martyrs in Bishops Stortford, has Mass streamed online in high-quality audio & video every day. Sunday Mass there can be followed at <http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford> at 6pm Sat; 9am, 11am & 6pm Sunday. Another excellent alternative is to follow Mass live from the basilica at Walsingham: <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/>. **This Sunday, 29th March** is the national day of **Re-dedication of England to Our Lady, 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 available [here](#). It could not come at a more crucial time for us all.

An excellent resource, shared to our parish [FaceBook](#) page every day, is www.lentinisolation.com which presents the daily Scripture readings, an excellent reflection from a priest, followed by the recitation of an '[Act of Spiritual Communion](#).'

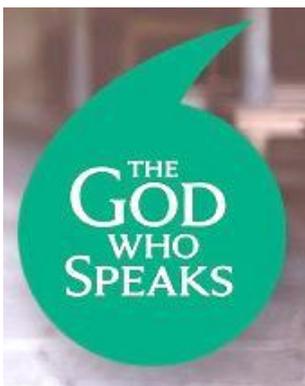
FOLLOWING OUR RECENT 'PLANNED GIVING' CAMPAIGN – for which, once again, I

thank all participants – I ask that all other parishioners whose income is not threatened by this virus outbreak consider their regular support for the parish, and maybe increase their giving, doing so by Standing Order if at all possible. The form to print & complete is available here: [Financial-support form](#)

Let us live this Lent with sacrifice & invoking Mary's prayers! Fr Philip

2019/20 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 18

It might be helpful to recall the analogy drawn ... between the word of God which became "flesh" and the word which became a "book." This ancient tradition holds ... that "the body of the Son is the Scripture which we have received", and declares that "the words of God, expressed in human language, are in every way like human speech, just as the word of the eternal Father, when he took on himself the weak flesh of human beings, became like them."



PRAYER & LITURGY

LITURGY DURING THE PUBLIC SUSPENSION OF MASS: all the public ceremonies have had to be suspended. Mass will be celebrated by Fr Joshy & Fr Philip in private, and they will be praying for the needs of the parish in their twice-daily Holy Hours with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

- 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.
- *Mass can be followed online* at the church of 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. Or at midday at the Walsingham shrine <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/>. 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 **this 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 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.

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 she 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 fervent Lenten disciplines.

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, at home); **Rosary**.

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 PRESBYTERY – ring the doorbell); establishing a '**Charity account**' with C.A.F. for regular charitable giving.

Reconciliation: in case of real necessity, contact Fr Philip for an appointment which would probably have to take place in the parish garden, exercising due distance.

FINANCE

THANK YOU to those parishioners who took part in the recent appeal with regard to 'planned giving.' Almost all those cards which were filled out to set up Standing Orders have already been delivered to the relevant banks. A few signatures etc. were missing, which will be followed up when possible. 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 that 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, can continue to deliver your offering through the Presbytery letter-box – but **ONLY** if you are passing. Please make **NO** special outing. We still rely on your giving! **NEW BOXES FOR APRIL ONWARDS** available for collection from the Presbytery in the week, if you are passing.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

It is vitally important that we 'look out for one another' in this present crisis. We have a number of parishioners 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.

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, and those being prepared for Reception into the Catholic Church, and Confirmation, at Easter, will be received and confirmed as soon as is reasonably possible when the current restrictions are lifted.

CONFIRMATION 2020: classes suspended for now. Sadly, the celebration of Confirmation is unlikely to take place on 26th April.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE has 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. PLEASE BRING ANY ITEMS FOR THE FOODBANK TO THE PRESBYTERY FRONT DOOR – as long as Fr Philip is in, he will add them to the FoodBank box which is now moved to the Presbytery entrance hall.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will resume make house visits when it is safe to do so.

MISSIO: Our total parish giving to the Church's *Missio* charity (for the work of the missions) for 2019 was £2384.10, which is a great amount Thank you to our parish's Red Box collectors, and all parishioners! Ellen Bartlett.

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

BROWNIES is suspended for the time being.

CHURCH CLEANING is suspended whilst the church is closed.

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

POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER TO OUR LADY

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 28th March Private Mass Giuseppina Gibilaro RIP	PAGE 170 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Ezekiel 37: 12–14 <i>I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.</i>
Private Mass* Martin & Bridie Moriarty RIP & John Francis Curran	Psalm 129 — With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
Sun 29th March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT Private Mass Kevin O'Bryan RIP Private Mass For the Parish	2nd Reading: Romans 8: 8–11 <i>The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.</i>
Mon 30th March Private Mass Molly Zwager RIP	Gospel Accl: <i>Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!</i>
Tues 31st March Private Mass Thanksgiving – Byrne Family	Gospel: John 11: 1–45 <i>I am the resurrection and the life.</i>
Wed 1st April Private Mass Bridget Newson's ints	PREFACE TODAY: Lazarus (p. 72) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28)
Thurs 2nd April Private Mass Angelo Orsini RIP	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS PALM SUNDAY
Fri 3rd April <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> Private Mass Nalda Cattini RIP Private Mass Marion Corrigan RIP	1st Reading: Isaiah 50: 4–7 2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 6–11 Gospel: Matthew 26: 14–27:66
Sat 4th April Private Mass Justina Ogbodu RIP	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) Saturday 10.30 – 11 am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11 am or ask Fr Philip at any other time.
Private Mass* Connie Murphy RIP	ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Sun 5th April PALM SUNDAY Private Mass William Anthony RIP Anniv Private Mass Benedetto & Vincenza Provenzano RIP Private Mass For the Parish	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 style="text-align: right;">* 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 MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.
REGULAR EVENTS	
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: <i>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.</i>	