

The Announcer

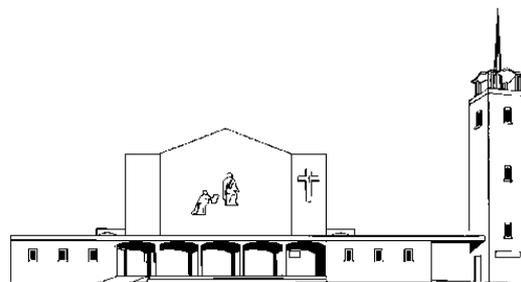
St Augustine's Catholic Church

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)

Safeguarding parish rep's: Claire Hay / Joy Ighade – hoddesdonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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Year A

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

17th MAY 2020

Gospel: John 14: 15-21

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE we may at least be allowed to open our church again for parishioners too come in for private prayer. This was the thrust of Cardinal Vincent's plea on national news in the week, when interviewed by the BBC, and we pray that that, at least, comes to fruition soon in the negotiations with Government. As for when the public celebration of Mass can safely resume, this is a bigger question, and the answer is further off. Meanwhile we all pray for the virus outbreak to subside.

THE SOLEMN FEAST OF OUR LORD'S ASCENSION occurs this week (Thurs 21st), another moment in our Church's calendar when, though we are unable to come to holy Mass, we can focus on the sacred mysteries of our faith: Our Lord, re-entering heaven, takes our human flesh to glory!

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE CONTINUING TO DONATE TO THE **FOODBANK!** Some weeks the Presbytery porch has been almost overflowing with these much-needed gifts of foodstuffs etc. which are supporting those of our local area who are struggling even with the necessary items. Do keep bringing FoodBank donations to the Presbytery door. As you would expect, I am in the vast majority of the time.

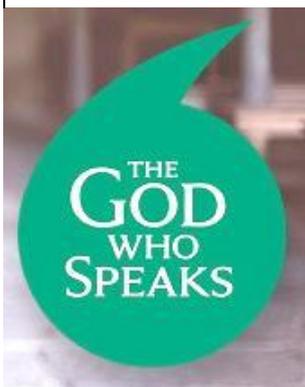
I thank all parishioners for continuing to support our parish regularly by dropping in when possible your offertory envelopes, or by setting up or increasing a Standing Order. Whilst outgoings have fallen for the time being, it's still hard without the Sunday collection for the parish to maintain sufficient income. If you are in a position to, do fill out this [Financial-support form](#) or visit <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon/donate/>. Thank you so much for remembering your parish!

Let us pray to the glorified, ascended Jesus for His blessing! Fr Philip

2019/20 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 23

Each of us is enabled by God to *hear and respond* to his word. We were created in the word and we live in the word; we cannot understand ourselves unless we are open to this dialogue. The word of God discloses the filial and relational nature of human existence. We are indeed called by grace to be conformed to Christ, the Son of the Father, and, in him, to be transformed. In this dialogue with God we come to understand ourselves and we discover an answer to our heart's deepest questions. The word of God in fact is not inimical to us; it does not stifle our authentic desires, but rather illuminates them, purifies them and brings them to fulfilment. How important it is

for our time to discover that *God alone responds to the yearning present in the heart of every man and woman!*



PRAYER & LITURGY

PUBLIC SUSPENSION OF MASS: Mass is celebrated by Fr Joshy & Fr Philip in private, plus they pray for the needs of the parish in their twice-daily Holy Hours with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. **Benediction takes place at 10am & 7pm every day, 7 days/week**, with the intention of blessing and protecting our whole parish – and the sick and the staff of our local hospital at Harlow – with the radiant presence of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

- The suspension of public Mass by the bishop means that the *obligation to attend Sunday Mass is removed* for the duration of the suspension.
- *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.
- *Sunday Mass can be followed online* e.g. at St Joseph & English Martyrs, Bishops Stortford <http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford> at: Sat 6pm; Sun 9am, 11am, 6pm; & weekdays 9.30am; or Westminster Cathedral <https://www.churchservices.tv/westminster> at: Sat 5.30pm, Sun 10.30am/5.30pm. 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>
- You don't have to be a FaceBook user to view our parish page, as it's open-access: www.facebook.com/CatholicHoddesdon – I am adding a *video* of my homily to this page, so that I can continue to offer you my reflections on the Sundays and feasts of this holy season.
- A *resource for daily spiritual nourishment* is the '[Pause for Faith](#)' YouTube channel hosted by Westminster priest Fr Stephen Wang: 30-min reflections, very accessible.

FRANCESCO BORELLI of Gladstone Road died recently. His funeral will take place in private, when arranged.

MARY WILSON of Bell Lane died recently. Her funeral will take place in private at the Cheshunt Cemetery.

*Our sympathies go out to their families.
May they rest in peace.*

FINANCE

APPEAL FOR YOUR GENEROUS HELP: the Finance Committee thanks all who participated in the Planned-Giving campaign. Please could 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 possible. Print the relevant inside pages from the [Financial-support form](#) on our parish website, and return the completed form to the Presbytery. The parish relies solely on parishioners' donations. THANK YOU!

BOXES OF OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: those who give via Offertory envelopes weekly can continue to deliver your offering through the Presbytery letter-box – 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, if you are passing, if you haven't received yours through your letter-box.

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" / FIRST HOLY COMMUNION / CONFIRMATION: classes all suspended for now. The celebration of Confirmation will be rescheduled by Bp McAleenan in the autumn.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

CaFOD WRITES: "*Laudato Si'* week" – In May it will be five years since Pope Francis wrote his letter to the world, *Laudato Si'*, on care for our common home. We invite everyone to participate in "*Laudato Si'* week" 16th – 24th May from wherever you are. We invite you to use this time to reflect on how we can all think more deeply, live more wisely and love more generously. Visit www.cafod.org.uk/encyclical for resources you can use at home.

CORONAVIRUS - FOODBANK: Hundreds of people rely on generous donations to the local FoodBank from our parishioners and other local people. The need is 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.

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY APPLICATIONS 2020/21: We are still accepting applications for places in our Nursery commencing September 2020. Application forms available from the School Office or to download from the school website. Visits to the Nursery are – in due course – warmly welcomed and can be arranged by contacting the School Office on 463549 or by e-mailing admin@staugustines.herts.sch.uk

ST IGNATIUS SCHOOL, ENFIELD has a number of teacher vacancies coming up for the autumn term. The NQT positions are: Teacher of Computer Science; Teacher of English; Teacher of Mathematics; Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish with French); Teacher of Physics; Teacher of PE and Sports Science. Website for details of the roles and application pack: <http://www.st-ignatius.enfield.sch.uk/291/careers-at-st-ignatius-college>

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

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

200 CLUB: the April and May draws for the 200 Club have produced the following winners: April – no. 24, Kay Reddington; May – no. 51, Claire Kilduff. Congratulations to them both!

CHURCH CLEANING is suspended whilst the church is closed.

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



