

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

Tel: 01992-440986

Fax: 01992-440244

Web-site: www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon



E-mail: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon"

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon, Wed, Fri, 9am-12 noon)

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

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

Italian safeguarding rep: Rossetta Tona – italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Year A TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 13th SEPTEMBER 2020

Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35

I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy-seven times.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

OUR LORD'S CHALLENGE TO PETER REGARDING FORGIVENESS continues the theme begun in last week's Gospel concerning reconciliation. As Christians we are

to be people for whom forgiveness is a central matter in daily life. Every day in the 'Our Father' we say, "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." Our Lord Jesus has taught us without doubt that forgiving is something that we cannot set aside or ignore.

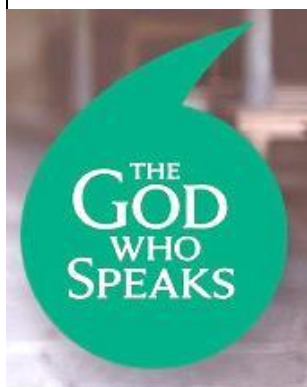
THE GOVERNMENT'S SLIGHT ADJUSTMENT IN NUMBERS PERMITTED IN SOCIAL SETTINGS does not affect the Church's liturgy, which is *not* a social setting. So, please be assured that our protocols in place across the Catholic Church for Mass and other services – specifically, hand sanitizing and the spacing-out of parishioners in church – allow us to congregate safely for the 'sacred mysteries,' which are our lifeline to God, the saving sacraments given to us by Jesus Christ. What is important is that we move back into a sense of Sunday Mass attendance being the norm again; there is no spiritual gift in this earthly life that surpasses the supreme gift of the Holy Eucharist.

WE HAVE PLENTY OF SPACE AT SUNDAY MASS, so I urge everyone to return to Sunday Mass, (unless you are 'shielding' because of health conditions). We have not yet exceeded 45 parishioners at any Sunday Mass in the past 10 wks, whereas we can easily fit 70-90 in the church even under current conditions. Please make sure that you come *in good time* for Mass (5 mins early minimum), because it is very difficult for the stewards to direct parishioners to seats once Mass has begun without causing great distraction to those already present. Saturday evening (6.30pm Mass) and Sunday evening (5pm) Mass are open to all, whilst Sunday-morning Masses are currently restricted to surnames as follows, on an alternating (fortnightly) basis: **9.15 & 11.15am Sundays ONLY: Surnames A-K: 13th Sept.** However, I will review the restriction after this weekend's Masses, and decide if it is still helpful or not.

May the Gospel of today help us be people of true forgiveness. Fr Philip

2019/20 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 41

"The New Testament is hidden in the Old and the Old is made manifest in the New", as Saint Augustine perceptively noted. It is important, therefore, that in both pastoral and academic settings the close relationship between the two Testaments be clearly brought out, in keeping with the dictum of Saint Gregory the Great that "what the Old Testament promised, the New Testament made visible; what the former announces in a hidden way, the latter openly proclaims as present. Therefore the Old Testament is a prophecy of the New Testament; and the best commentary on the Old Testament is the New Testament."



PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Tobias Moy who will be baptised this weekend.

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC MASS:

- **SURNAMES FOR Sun 13th Sept 9.15/11.15am Masses: A-K only.** Surnames L-Z on 20th Sept, but *this restriction is under review*. Attendance at Sat 6.30/Sun 5pm NOT restricted by surname.
- **Extra Sunday Mass: 5pm Sunday afternoon.**
- Parish volunteer stewards will ensure that those arriving at Mass adhere to the protocols regarding hygiene and distancing.
- *Please note that the toilets will remain CLOSED.*
- *Sunday Mass will be shortened*, to give time for sanitizing the church between Masses. There will be no congregational singing, no Offertory Procession and no Sign of Peace. Holy Communion will be distributed carefully and slowly. You can give your usual weekly donation as you *exit* the church, rather than in the middle of Mass.
- *The obligation to attend Sunday Mass continues to be suspended*, so those whose health is compromised may still feel it necessary to avoid coming to Mass.
- *Confessions* – available again in the usual confessional, but only *kneeling at the grille/curtain*, not face to face. Alternatively, ring Fr Philip for an appointment for confession in the open in the parish garden.

MASS INTENTIONS: there are many spare *weekday & some weekend dates* for intentions for you to request Mass in the coming weeks. Mass can be offered not only for the deceased, but also for the intentions of the sick, for special intentions, for thanksgiving etc. Intention can be published as 'Private Intention' if you so wish.

PARISH TIMETABLE: the church is open daily (c. 8am – 7pm) with Mass times and Adoration at the usual times. Additionally, **Adoration at the end of the day (6-7pm) will continue, Monday-Friday.** Low-level supervision operates throughout each day, to ensure that all is safe: Fr Philip or Fr Joshy, or volunteer parishioners, will be available in church/porch. There are hygienic facilities in place, and distancing (2m from any person other than from one's own household) is to be maintained.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY on Sundays is suspended for the time being.

FINANCE

PARISH FINANCE. The parish is grateful for the new Standing Orders that have helped parish finances during the pandemic. It is good to report that the parish now receives twice per month in SOs what it was receiving in January. However, the covering of parish costs is still a big problem. The parish bank a/c has decreased by about £17k since the start of the year.

Outgoings were cut enormously during the past 6 months, but many costs are ongoing, such as the safe upkeep of our buildings and grounds. We do those of you whose finances are stable at present to consider your parish giving, to help the parish out at a difficult time. Please see <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon/donate/> for the details, or fill in [this form](#). For a Standing Order, here are the necessary details:

Account Name:	WRCDT Hoddesdon
Sort Code:	40-05-20
Account Number:	31264370

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

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>

<p>IF YOU GO IN TO HOSPITAL: Catholics in hospital are unlikely to receive an <i>automatic</i> 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.</p> <p>Chaplains are: Lister, John O'Neill 01438-285138 or 07876-526935; Princess Alexandra, Fr Leszek Gamracy 01279-426017</p>

CATECHETICS

"RCIA" / FIRST HOLY COMMUNION / CONFIRMATION: classes suspended for now. Thought will be given to how these catechetics courses can be safely resumed. But participants do now need to return to Sunday Mass in order for this to be possible.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER: The current situation has made planning very difficult due to the uncertainties resulting from the coronavirus. Last year's model, using dormitory style overnight accommodation in churches, will not be possible because of the high risks it poses to guests and volunteers alike. Single-venue options are currently being explored by the Council and the Night Shelter Core Team. It may turn out that we need significantly fewer volunteers compared to last year but we will keep you updated when we know more.

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 NON-PERISHABLE foods: dry food, tins, and long-life milk etc. The FoodBank collection boxes are in the church porch.

SCHOOLS

ST CROSS SCHOOL Governing Body has vacancies for Foundation Governors, ideally with experience in: Risk, Health & Safety, Business Management or HR. If you are interested in supporting the school in this way, please contact Chair of Governors, Cate Campany, on ccompany@stcross.herts.sch.uk.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL Governing Body has vacancies for Foundation Governors, ideally with skills in these fields: Legal, Health & Safety and Marketing. If you are interested in supporting the school in this way, please contact the Headteacher, Mrs. Napier, via her PA on: cbranch@staugustines.herts.sch.uk

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

THE CATHOLIC HERALD is now back on sale in the church porch. No longer a weekly magazine, it is now *monthly*, price £5. September issue now available.

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will be making house visits (door-step visits) this week (**Wednesday afternoon**) in: Hollyfields, St Laurence Drive, Orchard Sq, Wharf Road, Rowan Drive.

CHURCH CLEANING – a special rota will be devised now that the church is open again.

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

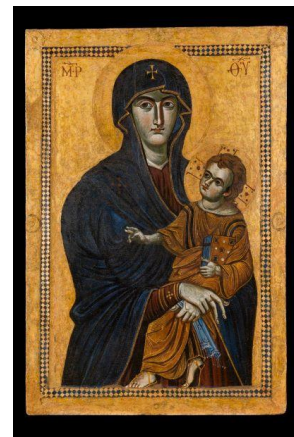
POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER TO OUR LADY at this time of the virus outbreak

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. Amen.



FEAST OF THE WEEK THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 14th SEPTEMBER

This feast was observed in Rome before the end of the seventh century. It commemorates the recovery of the Holy Cross, which had been

placed on Mt. Calvary by St. Helena and preserved in Jerusalem, but then had fallen into the hands of Chosroas, King of the Persians. The precious relic was recovered and returned to Jerusalem by Emperor Heraclius in 629. This day is also called the Exaltation of the Cross, Elevation of the Cross & Holy Cross Day. Our Mother Church sings of the triumph of the Cross, the instrument of our redemption. To follow Christ we must take up His cross, follow Him and become obedient until death, even if it means death on the cross. It is also, of course, the patronal feast of St Cross School.



Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 12th September HOLY NAME OF MARY 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Patricia Grant RIP rec. dec</i>	PAGE 128 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:30–28:7 <i>Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.</i>
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>Patricia Connell RIP rec. dec.</i> Sun 13th Sept TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF YR 9.15am Mass <i>John Kelly RIP rec. dec.</i> 11.15am Mass <i>David Green RIP rec. dec.</i> 5pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	Ps 102 — The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. 2nd Reading: Romans 14: 7–9 <i>Alive or dead we belong to the Lord.</i>
Mon 14th Sept EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Fr Philip's intentions</i> 6pm Adoration	Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening; you have the message of eternal lie. Alleluia!</i> Gospel: Matthew 18: 21–35 <i>I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy-seven times.</i>
Tues 15th Sept OUR LADY OF SORROWS 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Kathy & Jean Isham RIP</i> 6pm Adoration	PREFACE TODAY: Sundays no. 8 (p. 68) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 27)
Wed 16th Sept SS CORNELIUS & CYPRIAN 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Tony Ogbodu's intentions</i> 6pm Adoration	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 1st Reading: Isaiah 55: 6-9 2nd Reading: Philippians 1: 20-24, 27 Gospel: Matthew 20: 1-16
Thurs 17th Sept 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Ken Parker RIP</i> 6pm Adoration	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.
Fri 18th September <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration / 11.45am Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Henryk & Assunta Nolewajka RIP</i> 6pm Adoration	ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Sat 19th September SATURDAY MASS OF OUR LADY 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Dec'd members of the Giamalva Family</i>	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.
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>For the Parish</i>	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
Sun 20th Sept TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF YR 9.15am Mass <i>Bill Anthony RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Giovanni & Providenza Cicchirillo RIP anniv.</i> 5pm Mass <i>Private intention</i>	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
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 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.*