

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

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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)

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

Year A

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

27th SEPTEMBER 2020

Gospel: Matthew 21: 28-32

Tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

IT'S NOT EASY, IS IT, AS THE COUNTRY RESUMES FURTHER RESTRICTIONS on our social, cultural, and national life? We pray that the efforts of Government, Parliament, health services, and medical research – along with our own sensible efforts to contain the spread of the virus – all contribute gradually to overcoming this pandemic.

Thankfully the Church is able to continue its life of prayer and praise, uniting us in Church – or at home, if we are vulnerable – in the worship of Almighty God. As well as daily and Sunday Mass, and in the absence of so much else of parish life that is on hold (the groups, the faith formation, the social life), there is **daily Adoration on weekdays (Mon-Fri 6-7pm)** which is a quiet hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament to find some peace at the end of the day.

Also, I came across this lovely online retreat the other day, a series of reflections from Belmont Abbey, a monastery I know well. Dom Brendan leads it from in and around the monastery precincts and surrounding Herefordshire countryside. You might find it a gentle and helpful meditation on making holy our daily life. <https://www.belmontabbey.org.uk/heaven-at-home>

WE STILL HAVE PLENTY OF SPACE AT SUNDAY MASS – we had nearly 250 last weekend across all the Masses including the Italian Mass, but, by a long way, we have not reached the safe capacity: we can easily fit 70-90 in the church. Saturday evening (6.30pm Mass) and Sunday evening (5pm) Mass are open to all, whilst Sunday-morning Masses are restricted by surname, on an alternating (fortnightly) basis:

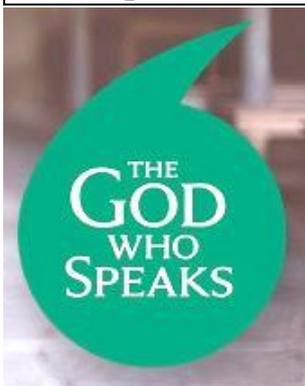
9.15 & 11.15am Sundays ONLY: surnames A-K for 27th Sept.; surnames L-Z for 4th Oct.

Let us place our needs as a parish and as a country before the Lord who loves us! Fr Philip

2019/20 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 43

Having considered the close relationship between the New Testament and the Old, we now naturally turn to the special bond which that relationship has engendered between Christians and Jews, a bond that must never be overlooked. Pope John Paul II, speaking to Jews, called them "our 'beloved brothers' in the faith of Abraham, our Patriarch." To acknowledge this fact is in no way to disregard the instances of discontinuity which the New Testament asserts with regard to the institutions of the Old Testament, much less the fulfilment of the Scriptures in the mystery of Jesus Christ, acknowledged as Messiah and Son of God. All the same, this profound and radical difference by no means implies mutual hostility. The example of Saint Paul shows on the contrary that "an attitude of

respect, esteem and love for the Jewish people is the only truly Christian attitude in the present situation, which is a mysterious part of God's wholly positive plan." Indeed, Saint Paul says of the Jews that: "as regards election they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers, for the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable!"



PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Ruben Gunputhram who will be baptised this weekend.

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC MASS:

- **SURNAMES FOR Sun 27th Sept 9.15/11.15am Masses: A-K only.** Surnames L-Z on 4th Oct, 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 is shortened*, to give time for sanitizing the church between Masses. There is 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 for the time being.
- *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. Chaplains are: Lister, John O'Neill 01438-285138 or 07876-526935; Princess Alexandra, Fr Leszek Gamracy 01279-426017</p>
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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

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 ccampany@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: Robinia Road, Macers Lane/Court, Vancouver Drive, and environs. Sorry that the rain prevented my visits last week.

BUDGETING COURSE: A 3-week course to help you set a household budget, manage your money, and save for the future is available locally. Daytime & evening courses are available at Rosedale Community Church, Andrews Lane, Cheshunt EN7 6LB. Please contact Bethany to book your place on 623835 or e-mail bethanyb2000@yahoo.com.

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.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

**SS MICHAEL,
GABRIEL, RAPHAEL,
Archangels
29th September**



The liturgy celebrates the feast of these three archangels who are venerated in the tradition

of the Church. Michael ("Who is like God") was the archangel who fought against Satan and all his evil angels, defending all the friends of God. He is the protector of all humanity from the snares of the devil. Archangel Gabriel ("Strength of God") announced to Zachariah the forthcoming birth of John the Baptist, and to Mary, the birth of Jesus. His greeting to the Virgin, "Hail, full of grace," is one of the most familiar and frequent prayers of the Christian people. Archangel Raphael ("Medicine of God") is the archangel who took care of Tobias on his journey.

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
<p>Sat 26th September SATURDAY MASS OF OUR LADY 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Dom Bernard Wassall OSB RIP rec. dec.</i></p>	<p>PAGE 134 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Ezekiel 18: 25–28 <i>When the sinner renounces sin, he shall certainly live.</i> Ps 24 — Remember your mercy, Lord.</p>
<p>4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>For the Parish</i></p>	<p>2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 1–11 <i>In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.</i></p>
<p>Sun 27th Sept TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF YR 9.15am Mass <i>Pasquale Ricotta RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Michael O'Reilly</i> 5pm Mass <i>J & B Hensman Diamond wedding int's</i></p>	<p>Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!</i></p>
<p>Mon 28th Sept 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Shean & Gay Dowling RIP</i> 6pm Adoration</p>	<p>Gospel: Matthew 21: 28–32 <i>He thought better of it and went. Tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.</i></p>
<p>Tues 29th Sept SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Molly & Bert Zwager RIP</i> 6pm Adoration</p>	<p>PREFACE TODAY: with Euch. Pr. 4 (p. 31) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 4 (p. 32)</p>
<p>Wed 30th Sept ST JEROME, Priest & Doctor 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Felice Comparetto RIP anniv.</i> 6pm Adoration</p>	<p>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 1st Reading: Isaiah 5: 1–7 2nd Reading: Philippians 4: 6–9 Gospel: Matthew 21: 33–43</p>
<p>Thurs 1st October ST THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Richard Collison RIP rec. dec.</i> 6pm Adoration</p>	<p>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>
<p>Fri 2nd October THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration / 11.45am Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Dom Cadfan Williams OSB RIP</i> 6pm Adoration</p>	<p>ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<p>Sat 3rd October SATURDAY MASS OF OIR LADY 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Witold Kozak RIP rec. dec.</i></p>	<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.</p>
<p>4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>Arnulfo Castilar RIP</i></p> <p>Sun 4th Oct TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF YR 9.15am Mass <i>Richard Pyper RIP anniv.</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Private intention</i> 5pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p>	<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. Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p>	
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.*