

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-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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

25th OCTOBER 2020

Gospel: Matthew 22: 34-40

Love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

THE GOSPEL PASSAGE TODAY IS SHORT AND TO THE POINT! Our Lord replies to His questioners not with a great parable such as those we have heard of late on Sundays, but with a direct, memorable, and important text, one that we should have inscribed on our hearts as Jesus's followers: "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind ... You shall love your neighbour as yourself.*"



DURING AN ONLINE MEETING WITH PRIESTS LAST WEEK, THE CARDINAL was at pains to convey his *immense* gratitude to volunteers across the diocese who are assisting, day-in, day-out, with supervising our open churches, and keeping them clean and safe for Mass. I would like to add my ongoing thanks to our parishioners who have been doing just that, now, for 4½ months. It is a 'long haul,' but to have our church open for Mass and for private prayer each day is vital, a *sacramental lifeline*, so we can be here with Our Lord Jesus here in the Blessed Sacrament.

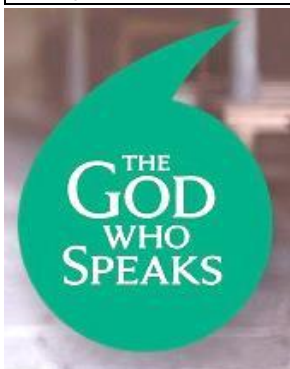
WE HAVE PLENTY OF SPACE AT SUNDAY MASS. We had c. 230 last weekend across all the Masses including the Italian Mass, but, by a long way, we have not reached safe capacity: we can easily fit 70-90 in the church. As a result, I am *removing* for a trial period the 'alphabet restriction' on surnames that we have had since July on Sundays for Mass. **All weekend Masses, therefore, are now once again open to all.** I will continue to monitor numbers, ensuring we gather safely for the sacred mysteries of the Holy Mass.

I SHALL BE AWAY FOR A BRIEF RETREAT THIS WEEK, Mon-Thurs, whilst it's half term, as I was unable to make my retreat this year back in May. I am very grateful to Fr Joshy for making himself available for the morning devotions and Mass each day, and the evening Adoration. I shall keep you all in my prayers.

May we live out the command of Jesus, "love God and love neighbour" each day. Fr Philip

2019/20 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 46

Listening together to the word of God, engaging in biblical *lectio divina*, letting ourselves be struck by the inexhaustible freshness of God's word which never grows old, overcoming our deafness to those words that do not fit our own opinions or prejudices, listening and studying within the communion of the believers of every age: all these things represent a way of coming to unity in faith as a response to hearing the word of God. The words of the Second Vatican Council were clear in this regard: "in [ecumenical] dialogue itself, sacred Scripture is a precious instrument in the mighty hand of God for attaining to that unity which the Saviour holds out to all."



PRAYER & LITURGY

FRANCESCA MARINO of Westgate Nursing Home, Ware, died last week at 84 yrs of age. Our sympathies go out to her family. Her funeral Mass will be held in church in private shortly.
May she rest in peace.

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Roman Pucino who will be baptised this weekend.

A DECADE OF THE ROSARY will be recited before each Sunday Mass in this month of October, month of the holy rosary.

NOVEMBER LIST OF THE DECEASED: lists for you to write the names of your departed relatives and friends are attached to the newsletter. Please return the lists to the presbytery, along with any Mass offering. During November, the lists will be kept on the altar and at least one Mass a day will be offered for the Holy Souls. Therefore, few other Mass intentions can be taken for November.

NOVEMBER PRAYERS AT CEMETERY: Fr Philip will lead the annual visit to the cemetery to pray the Rosary for the deceased members of the parish on **Sunday 1st Nov**. Please meet inside the main gate at Ware Road at **2pm**.

Fr Philip will also be attending Woollensbrook Cemetery on **Saturday 7th November at 11.30am** to pray and bless the graves.

Please note the "rule of 6" must be followed by each family group at a grave. Family groups must maintain distancing from one another. Mingling together is not permitted.

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC MASS:

- **The restriction by alphabet has been removed.** Attendance at all Sunday Masses is now NOT restricted by surname.
- 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.

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: volunteer parishioners or Fr Philip or Fr Joshy, are available in church/porch. There are hygienic facilities in place, masks are to be worn, and distancing (2m from any person other than from one's own household) is to be maintained.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY on Sundays must still be suspended for the time being.

FINANCE

PARISH FINANCE is greatly helped by the many new Standing Orders set up this year. However, covering parish costs is still a big problem. The parish bank a/c has decreased by about £13k since the start of the year.

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

You can also give by Virgin Money Giving: by using this link tiny.cc/8xn0tz, or by using the QR code alongside:



HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for our sick parishioners & friends: Ian Witham, John Lumley, 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" / FIRST HOLY COMMUNION / CONFIRMATION: classes suspended for now. Despite looking at options for a suitable space to take classes, there seems still no safe way to pursue **First Holy Communion** class with the children, so this will continue to be suspended until the New Year 2021, after which we will try to resume their preparation.

Confirmation: Fr Philip is thinking of inviting those who have already returned to Mass to be confirmed in groups of 3 or 4 at parish Sat eve / Sun Masses in the coming months. But there's no hurry for this – the door will not 'close.'

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.

CAFOD HARVEST DAY: The amount collected was £600. Thank you for your generosity!

SCHOOLS

ST CROSS SCHOOL HEADTEACHER, Mrs Joanne Walsh, writes re Reception Intake September 2021: Due to the current restrictions with COVID-19 visits for prospective parents of the Reception intake 2021 are not feasible at present. I am delighted to share with you a video clip of 'a typical day in the life of a St. Cross pupil' which has been uploaded to our school website www.stcross.herts.sch.uk. Applications for the September 2021 intake open on 2nd November 2020 and the deadline for return is 15th January 2021. Application Forms for St Cross School can also be downloaded at

www.stcross.herts.sch.uk/_site/data/attachments/P42/St-Cross-School-SIF-2021.214052967.pdf.

ST AUGUSTINE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL Reception Class Admissions 2021-22. If your child was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, you can apply for a Primary School place to start in September 2021. The application process opens 2nd November 2020 and closes on 15th January 2021. The school will be providing a virtual video of the Reception-class environment and will be setting up remote meetings. Please check school website www.staugustines.herts.sch.uk for the link to the sign-up form, dates, and times.

ST CROSS SCHOOL has a small number of spare places for children in year 3. Please contact the school on 467309 for further information.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will resume his house visits after half term.

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.



Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 24th October SATURDAY MASS OF OUR LADY 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Rosalia Dilena RIP</i>	PAGE 146 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Exodus 22: 20–26 <i>If you are harsh with the widow, the orphan, my anger will flare against you.</i> Ps 17 — I love you, Lord, my strength.
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>Vincenzo Graffato RIP</i> Sun 25th Oct THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF YR 9.15am Mass <i>Eileen & Patrick Carolan</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Francesco Borrelli RIP</i> 5pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1: 5–10 <i>You broke with idolatry and became servants of God; you are now waiting for his Son.</i> Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 22: 34–40 <i>You must love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.</i>
Mon 26th October 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Decd members of Sidoli, Beschizza & Venturini families</i> 6pm Adoration	PREFACE TODAY: Sundays no. 6 (p. 67) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 27)
Tues 27th October 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Wendy Moore RIP</i> 6pm Adoration	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS ALL SAINTS 1st Reading: Apocalypse 7: 2–4, 9–14 2nd Reading: 1 John 3: 1–3 Gospel: Matthew 5: 1–12
Wed 28th October SS SIMON & JUDE, Apostles 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Antonio Sidoli 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.
Thurs 29th Oct BL. MARTYRS OF DOUAI COLLEGE 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Private intention</i> 6pm Adoration	ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Fri 30th October <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration / 11.45am Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Bill Pollard RIP</i> 6pm Adoration	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.
Sat 31st October SATURDAY MASS OF OUR LADY 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Annie Doyle</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
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>Denis, Teddy & Anna Tobin RIP</i>	
Sun 1st Nov ALL SAINTS 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 5pm Mass <i>William Blake RIP anniv.</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.*