

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon"

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon, Wed, Fri, 9am-1pm)

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

Safeguarding parish rep: Rhian Hanson – hoddesdonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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

Year B

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

14th FEBRUARY 2021

Gospel: Mark 1: 40-45 – *The leprosy left him at once and he was cured.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

OUR PERIOD OF SUSPENSION OF MASS DURING THE 'SURGE TESTING' IN EN10 comes to an end on Monday, and we resume public Mass on *Tuesday* and then the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday:

******* Ash Wednesday Mass: 9.30am, 12noon, 4pm Italian, 6pm *******

Until then, the church will still be open daily 8.30/8.45am till 7pm for private prayer, and for some of that time each day there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

ON ASH WEDNESDAY ITSELF, ashes will be blessed, but this year they will not be distributed at the customary place after the Gospel; instead they will be distributed *at the end of Mass, outdoors in the portico, as you leave Mass*, and they will be sprinkled (dry) on the head in the way followed traditionally in other countries (such as Italy), and not (wet) on the forehead as usual here in England.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS A DAY OF PENANCE, which means Fasting (reduced intake of food for those aged 16-60) and Abstinence from eating any meat (for those aged 14+). Lent is a penitential season, and it is right that we keep this first day in keeping with the Church's discipline. We should be thinking, too, about how we will keep the whole 40 Days of Lent in terms of Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving. The [Cardinal has written to us](#) regarding our keeping of Ash Wednesday and Lent (enclosed in the Newsletter).

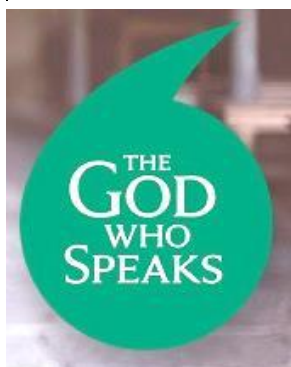
THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL FROM MK 1 continues the theme of Our Lord's healing miracles, as we hear of His cure of a man with leprosy, who was not only ill with the disease, but isolated by being an 'outcast.' We have just celebrated (Thurs 11th) the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the 'World Day of Prayer for the Sick,' and so these days are an ideal opportunity to continue to keep the sick of our families and our acquaintance closely in prayer for their healing and patient reliance on God's goodness. You might like to use this prayer card to help you: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon/prayers-for-the-sick-card/>



May the Lord bless the beginning of your Lent! Fr Philip

2020/21 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 54

Luke's account of the disciples on the way to Emmaus enables us to reflect further on this link between the hearing of the word and the breaking of the bread. Jesus approached ... and, joining them on their journey, "interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." ... The Gospel of Luke relates that "their eyes were opened and they recognized him" only when Jesus took the bread, said the blessing, broke it and gave it to them ... The presence of Jesus, first with his words and then with the act of breaking bread, made it possible for the disciples to recognize him.



PRAYER & LITURGY

KEITH NEWELL of Wulfrath Way, Ware, died recently, aged 76.

WILLIAM COLLINS of Belmont View died recently, aged 91.

MADGE PHELAN of Park Road died recently, aged 88.

FILOMENA TONA of Stanstead Road died recently, aged 87.

Their funerals will be held in private. Our sympathies go out to their families.

May they rest in peace.

CHURCH OPENING: open daily (c. 8.30am-7pm), with **Adoration** at the beginning and at the end of the day (Mon-Fri only after 17th). 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.

CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC MASS:

- Parish volunteer stewards ensure that those arriving at Mass adhere to the protocols regarding hygiene and distancing.
- *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.
- *Please note that the toilets will remain CLOSED.*
- *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.
- Funerals will go ahead as arranged, for those invited. Parishioners cannot at present just 'turn up' for a funeral, since there is a cap of 30 mourners for funerals, and these 30 will generally be invited directly by the family.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be held on **Friday 5th March at 10.30am** and will be live-streamed on the Churches Together website. If you would like a service booklet in order to follow it, please contact Judith Lloyd-Jones on 465372 or judithlloydjones@btinternet.com.

LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY (17th Feb): Mass will be at **9.30am, 12 noon and 6pm**. It is a day of fasting (for those aged 16-60) and abstinence (for those aged 14+). This means that we consciously choose to eat less – one main meal only – and (as on Fridays) we eat no meat whatsoever.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: the "Way of the Cross" is prayed in church each Friday (12.30pm after Mass) & Saturday (9.30am, before Mass). **Please note: you will need to remain in your place in the pews and not follow the priest.**

LENTEN ALMS in support of the Cardinal's Lenten charity: you will find envelopes by the newsletters. Please post envelopes through Presbytery door, or sacristy door by St Anthony.

FINANCE

PARISH FINANCE: covering parish costs still remains a big problem, and the parish bank a/c decreased by about £12k across 2020. Thank you so much to all who continue to give regularly by S.O., or by envelope through this time. We do ask 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:



PARISH ACCOUNTS: income and expenditure for 2020 is now available to view on the noticeboard at the back of the church.

GIFT AID: Many parishioners have already signed Gift-Aid forms, which enables the parish to collect the tax on the donations they have made through envelopes or standing orders. There is no further cost to the donor but the parish is able to claim another £1 for every £4

donated under Gift Aid. You will need to be a UK taxpayer to sign a Gift-Aid form and you will find some forms at the back of the church beside the newsletters. **If your circumstances have changed and you pay insufficient or no tax, please inform the Presbytery a.s.a.p., and your Gift-Aid declaration will be cancelled.**

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/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. As soon as it seems safe to resume classes and preparation for these sacraments, we will do so, but it is clear that for now this is not yet the case.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

CORONAVIRUS - FOODBANK: Thank you to parishioners who give so generously for the local FoodBank! 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. FoodBank collection boxes are in the church porch.

CAFOD: This Lent, why not challenge yourself by doing a *Walk for Water* to fight poverty, in solidarity with people who must walk to collect clean water? This year, CAFOD's aim is to help people like 23-yr old Abdella, who lives in Afar, Ethiopia, one of the hottest places on earth. Like 100s of people there, he spends up to 10 hrs. every day, walking to get water for his family to drink! <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

CATHOLIC CLIMATE MOVEMENT – LENT COURSE: in 2015, Pope Francis published *Laudato Si'* on the environment. This Lent, there is a series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film resource 'Global Healing.' These documentaries will inform and challenge us to respond to Pope Francis's call to "care for our common home."

When? 6 Thursdays 18th Feb – 25th March, 7.30–8.30pm. **How to join?** To register click [HERE](#) or e-mail jane@catholicclimatemovement.global

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience ... Truly, much can be done!" (Laudato Si', 217, 180)

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL NURSERY 2021: applications opened on Mon 18th January. Now offering **up to 30 hrs provision** (subject to availability). Videos of nursery-class environment and application form here:

<https://www.staugustines.herts.sch.uk/herts/primary/staugustines/site/pages/ofsted/admissions>

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS



GOOD NEWS!! 'Awards for All' from the National Lottery, has awarded us a £9k+ grant to complete the upgrade of our crypt-hall flooring. The very 'tired' 25-yr-old carpet will be replaced with 2 types of flooring, one part matching the crypt-kitchen floor, for easily-cleaning areas where food is served, and the other for the remainder of the crypt. The work will commence as soon as possible.

EU CITIZENS: the diocese would like to remind any parishioners who are EU citizens (other than Irish), who were resident before 30th Dec 2020, and who do not already have 'permanent right to remain,' that they need to have applied via the EU Settlement Scheme before the **30th June 2021** in order to continue living in the UK. If you have not yet applied, you should do so now:

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip has discontinued his house visits for the time being owing to the

national Tier-5 'lockdown' restrictions.

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

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

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS 2021 available to buy for £4.50 from the back of the church. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

**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 13th Feb SATURDAY MASS OF OUR LADY Private Mass <i>Mary O'Donovan RIP rec. dec.</i>	PAGE 137 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Leviticus 13: 1–2, 44–46 <i>The leper must live apart: he must live outside the camp.</i> Ps 31 — You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation. 2nd Reading: 1Cor 10: 31–11:1 <i>Take me for your model, as I take Christ.</i> Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia! Gospel: Mark 1: 40–45 <i>The leprosy left him at once and he was cured.</i> PREFACE TODAY: Sundays no. 6 (p. 55) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 2 (p. 25)
NO Italian Mass* Private Mass* Etong Alfonso RIP & Rizalina Gonzales RIP Sun 14th Feb SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YR Private Mass Molly Zwager RIP anniv Private Mass For the Parish Private Mass Michael Warby RIP rec. dec.	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 1st Reading: Genesis 9: 8–15 2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3: 18–22 Gospel: Mark 1: 12–15
Mon 15th February Private Mass Keith Newell RIP Tues 16th February 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Danny White RIP Wed 17th February ASH WEDNESDAY (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+; fasting for those aged 16–60) 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass Madge Phelan RIP 12 noon Mass Nan Connors & Patrick Connors RIP annivs. 4pm Italian Mass 6pm Mass Fr Mark Langham RIP rec. dec. Thurs 18th February 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Madge Phelan RIP rec. dec. Fri 19th February 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.45 Benediction 12 noon Mass Wright Family intentions 12.30pm Stations of the Cross Sat 20th February SATURDAY MASS OF OUR LADY 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Maria Rega RIP anniv.	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. ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass. 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. 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
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* John & Wendy Buttigieg RIP Sun 21st Feb FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass Keith Newell RIP 11.15am Mass Giuseppina Gibilaro RIP anniv. 5pm Mass For the Parish	
* 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 ciascuna 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.*