

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

21st FEBRUARY 2021

Gospel: Mark 1: 12-15 – *Jesus was tempted by Satan, and angels looked after him.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

LENT HAVING BEGUN ON ASH WEDNESDAY – encouragingly with about 190 parishioners across the 4 Masses – we continue our journey into this sacred season with the Gospel passage in Mk 1 concerning Jesus's 40 days in the wilderness, and His temptations. It reminds us that we too need to focus on this 'retreat' that the Church provides us in preparation for Easter:

PRAYING: **weekday Mass** is an ideal opportunity (and numbers present are lower, if you are concerned about Sunday Mass); **Stations of the Cross** (Fri & Sat); **quiet evening Adoration** (Mon-Fri 6-7pm); [weekly prayer sheet](#) (enclosed).

FASTING: you might need to think *creatively* about what to 'give up' this year, given the many things we are still prevented from doing in daily life! Even so, fasting and 'giving up' are healthy spiritual exercises.

ALMSGIVING: as well as the **Cardinal's own Lenten charity** (see inside Newsletter) and **CaFOD** (also, see inside), good charities to research and support would be: [Mary's Meals](#), [Aid to the Church in Need](#), and [Friends of the Holy Land](#). Let's be generous in our giving, this Lent, to these or other needy causes.

FINALLY, IN PREPARATION FOR EASTER, I am asking a local Catholic artist/restorer to strip and re-paint our great Paschal Candlestick. Its gold paintwork is in a bad state, and it takes pride of place at the Easter ceremonies and throughout Eastertide, holding the 'Resurrection light' of the Paschal Candle. I have already received some generous donations towards this work, which will cost a few £100s. After you've given your Lenten alms, if you can also afford a donation towards our Paschal Candlestick restoration, it will be gratefully received – please address an envelope to me at the Presbytery. Thank you!

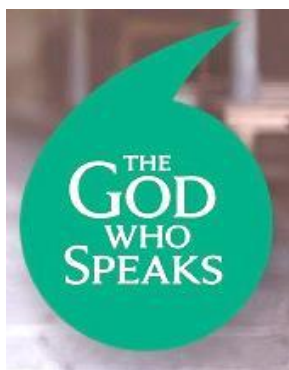
May the Lord bless your prayer and reflections you make on how to keep this Lent! Fr Philip



2020/21 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 55

It is clear that Scripture itself points us towards an appreciation of its own unbreakable bond with the Eucharist. "It can never be forgotten that the divine word, read and proclaimed by the Church, has as its one purpose the sacrifice of the new covenant and the banquet of grace, that is, the Eucharist." Word and Eucharist are so deeply bound together that we cannot understand one without the other: the word of God sacramentally takes flesh in the event of the Eucharist. The Eucharist opens us to an understanding of Scripture, just as Scripture for its part illumines and explains the mystery of the Eucharist. Unless we acknowledge the Lord's real presence in the Eucharist, our understanding of Scripture remains imperfect. For this reason "the Church has honoured

the word of God and the Eucharistic mystery with the same reverence, although not with the same worship, and has always and everywhere insisted upon and sanctioned such honour."



PRAYER & LITURGY

MADGE PHELAN of Park Road died recently, aged 88.

FILOMENA TONA of Stanstead Road died recently, aged 87.

GIUSEPPINA RICOTTA of Hailey Lane died recently, aged 89.

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). Low-level supervision from volunteer parishioners operates throughout each day, to ensure that all is safe. 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:** 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

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 LENT FAST DAY is this **Friday 26th February**. CaFOD writes: "Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him 10 hours to collect water. Please give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water & to provide other vital support." Please donate at www.cafod.org.uk/give or text "LENT 5" to 70460 to give £5, text "LENT 10" to give £10 or text "LENT 20" to give £20. You can also donate over the phone on 0303 303 3030.

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)

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 22nd Feb – 7th March. *Choose the World you Want* festival runs through 2021: <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/> Together with the global Fairtrade community and the wider movement for climate and social justice, there is a need to push governments and businesses to go further and faster on tackling climate change and supporting the people most affected by the current climate crisis.

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL NURSERY 2021: applications opened on Mon 18th January. Now offering **up to 30 hrs provision** (subject to availability). Video & 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 20th Feb 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Maria Rega RIP anniv.</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 148 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Genesis 9: 8–15 <i>God's covenant with Noah after he had saved him from the waters of the flood.</i></p> <p>Ps 24 — <i>Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.</i></p> <p>2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3: 18–22 <i>The water is a type of the baptism which saves you now.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <i>Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!</i></p> <p>Gospel: Mark 1: 12–15 <i>Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Temptation (p. 57) EUCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28)</p>
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>John & Wendy Buttigieg RIP</i> Sun 21st Feb FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass <i>Keith Newell RIP rec. dec.</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Giuseppina Gibilaro RIP anniv.</i> 5pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)</p> <p>1st Reading: Genesis 22: 1–2, 9–13, 15–18 2nd Reading: Romans 8: 31–34 Gospel: Mark 9: 2–10</p>
Mon 22nd Feb THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer Private Mass <i>Special Intention</i> 6pm Adoration Tues 23rd February 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Bill Pollard RIP</i> 6pm Adoration Wed 24th February 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Keith Newell RIP rec. dec.</i> 6pm Adoration Thurs 25th February 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Hester Counsell RIP anniv.</i> 6pm Adoration Fri 26th February CaFOD LENT FAST DAY 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.45 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Josephine Murphy RIP</i> 12.30pm Stations of the Cross 6pm Adoration Sat 27th February 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Peter Cope RIP anniv.</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>For the Parish</i> Sun 28th Feb SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass <i>George Dixon RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Adoracion Matienza RIP</i> 5pm Mass <i>Deceased members of Acosta Family</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 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.*