

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

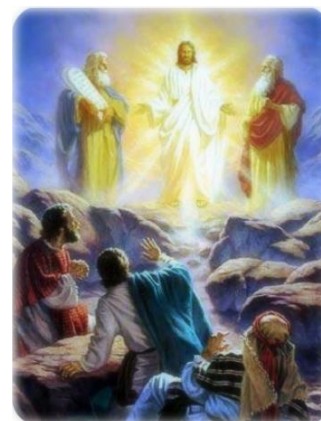
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

28th FEBRUARY 2021

Gospel: Mark 9: 2-10 – *This is my Son, the Beloved.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

NOW THAT OVER 1/3 OF THE ADULT POPULATION, including the vast majority of the most vulnerable, has received its first vaccination dose, we can thankfully begin the path back to restoring our parish life, especially through attendance at Sunday Mass. We had around 185 parishioners here last Sunday, so there is plenty of space, even whilst we still conform to the pandemic protocol of spacing ourselves out. In particular **the two evening Masses (Sat 6.30pm and Sun 5pm)** are currently under-attended, so offer great opportunities for coming again safely to Mass.



ON THIS SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, we are taken to the Mount of the Transfiguration, traditionally thought to be Mt Tabor, and we hear of Jesus's awesome revelation of His radiant divinity to three of the apostles. May this divine light of His really light up our souls this Lent!

PRAYING: in addition to what I mentioned last week – **weekday Mass**; twice-weekly **Stations of the Cross** (Fri & Sat); **quiet evening Adoration** (Mon-Fri 6-7pm); and [weekly prayer sheet](#) (enclosed) – I have re-stocked the **CTS racks with Lent publications**, including 'Stations of the Cross' booklets.

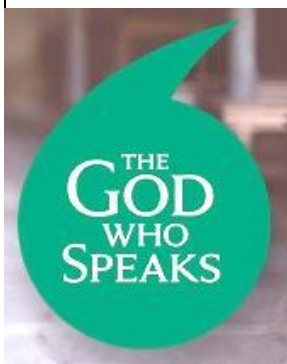
FASTING/ALMSGIVING: an especial focus for us this weekend is our annual Lent CaFOD Fast Day – you can either give using the envelope attached to the Newsletter, or via CaFOD's own website: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Lent-Appeal>.

I HAVE TAKEN OUR GREAT PASCHAL CANDLESTICK to be restored by a young Catholic artist over in Dunstable. She will be completing this in good time for Easter, and has some great ideas about how best to refurbish it. The cost is a few £100s, and we have already received donations in excess of 1/3 of this amount. After you've given your Lenten alms, if you can also afford a donation towards our Candlestick restoration, it will be gratefully received: please address an envelope to me at the Presbytery. Thank you!

May the Lord shine His glorious light into your heart this Lent! Fr Philip

2020/21 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 56

We come to see that at the heart of the sacramentality of the word of God is the mystery of the Incarnation itself: "the Word became flesh," the reality of the revealed mystery is offered to us in the "flesh" of the Son. The Word of God can be perceived by faith through the "sign" of human words and actions. Faith acknowledges God's Word by accepting the words and actions by which he makes himself known to us. The sacramental character of revelation points in turn to the history of salvation, to the way that word of God enters time and space, and speaks to men and women, who are called to accept his gift in faith.



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. Below is the link for the service which you can access from 10.15am on the 5th March: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88171583197?pwd=Q0dVRXVGbTVIT0FaZDRlR1d2bUNVZz09> Meeting ID: 881 7158 3197, Passcode: 907581

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.**

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY was on **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 with the envelope provided with the Newsletter, or 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.

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 summary 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/bishopstortford>

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.

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 ..." (*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). 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 25-yr-old carpet will be replaced with 2 types of flooring, one part like 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 in March.

BUDGETING COURSE: A free 3-week course is being held on **Mon 8th March** 7.30–9pm & **Wed 10th March** 10–11.130am. Please contact Bethany for more info & to book your place: 623835 or e-mail bethanyb2000@yahoo.com.

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 |
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| Sat 27th Feb 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Peter Cope RIP anniv. | PAGE 151 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Genesis 22: 1–2, 9–13, 15–18 <i>The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.</i> |
| 4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* For the Parish Sun 28th Feb SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass George Dixon RIP 11.15am Mass Adoracion Matienza RIP 5pm Mass Deceased members of Acosta Family | Ps 115 — I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. 2nd Reading: Romans 8: 31–34 <i>God did not spare his own Son.</i> Gospel Accl: <i>Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Glory and praise to you, O Christ!</i> |
| Mon 1st March ST DAVID, Bishop, Patron of Wales 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer Private Mass Lloyd Grandison RIP 6pm Adoration | Gospel: Mark 9: 2–10 <i>This is my Son, the Beloved.</i> |
| Tues 2nd March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Molina Hooper RIP 6pm Adoration | PREFACE TODAY: Transfiguration (p. 58) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18) |
| Wed 3rd March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Paul & Deirdre McGrath 6pm Adoration | NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 1st Reading: Exodus 20: 1–17 2nd Reading: 1 Cor 1: 22–25 Gospel: John 2: 13–25 |
| Thurs 4th March 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Dorothea Nelson RIP rec. dec. 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 5th March WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.45 Benediction 12 noon Mass Private intention 12.30pm Stations of the Cross 6pm Adoration | ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass. |
| Sat 6th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass John Darby RIP rec. dec. | 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. |
| 4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* Denis O'Donovan RIP & William Phelan RIP | SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date. |
| Sun 7th March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass Antonio & Teresa Mercurio RIP 11.15am Mass Salvatrice Castronovo RIP anniv. 5pm Mass For the Parish | Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699 |
| * 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.*