

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-1pm)

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

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

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Year B FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, 'LAETARE SUNDAY' 14th MARCH 2021

Gospel: John 3: 14-21 – *God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT IS *LAETARE SUNDAY*, and as the middle Sunday of our penitential season we allow ourselves to "Rejoice" at the prospect of Easter Sunday now being just 3 weeks away. It's also, of course, **MOTHERING SUNDAY** – so a very happy Mothers' Day to all our parish mothers; may God bless you!

We hear in the Gospel today the famous words that Our Lord utters during His night-time meeting with Nicodemus, a leading Pharisee:

"God so loved that world, that He sent His only Son" (Jn 3:16). These are words that should echo in our hearts every day, in thanksgiving. Our divine Lord is with us in this world: He has entered human history to be with us, to guide, teach, and save us. Yes, even in the most difficult of circumstances, therefore, and even in the middle of Lent, we should "*Laetare!*" – we should *rejoice* at all that He has done for us.

NOW THAT ALMOST HALF THE ADULT POPULATION has received its first vaccination dose – and the majority of our schoolchildren are back in the classroom – we need our parish families to be coming back now to Sunday Mass. Naturally there will be some parishioners medically 'shielding' owing to significant health issues, but otherwise we all need to be 'turning the corner' and in this 2nd half of Lent to be returning to the practice of Sunday Mass. There are 5 Sunday Masses including the Italian Mass, so there are plenty of opportunities, and plenty of room for spacing out in accordance with the protocol.

LENT PRAYING: Sunday & weekday Mass is the best possible prayer, and this week there are the great feasts of **St Patrick** (Wed) and **St Joseph** (Fri); also, twice-weekly **Stations of the Cross** (Fri & Sat); **quiet evening Adoration** (Mon-Fri 6-7pm); and I offer you the fourth of my [weekly prayer sheets](#).

LENT FASTING: if you've not yet settled on any 'giving up,' this Lent, then take some time to reflect now on what pleasure you might set aside in the coming 3 wks to honour the Lord with the gift of yourself.

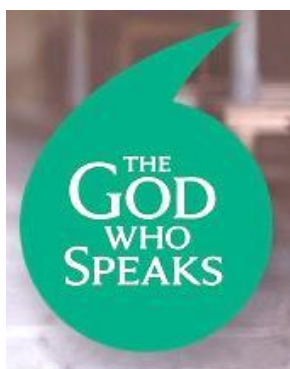
LENT ALMSGIVING: the **Cardinal's Lenten Appeal** is open throughout Lent. Envelopes for giving are by the Newsletters, or see online: <https://rcdow.org.uk/donations/cardinals-appeal/>

May the Lord give your hearts the grace to 'rejoice' this Lent!

Fr Philip

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

Saint Jerome speaks of the way we ought to approach both the Eucharist and the word of God: "We are reading the sacred Scriptures. For me, the Gospel is the Body of Christ; for me, the holy Scriptures are his teaching. ... When we approach the [Eucharistic] Mystery, if a crumb falls to the ground we are troubled. Yet when we are listening to the word of God, and God's Word and Christ's flesh and blood are being poured into our ears yet we pay no heed, what great peril should we not feel?"



PRAYER & LITURGY

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.

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH: Pope Francis declared that 8th Dec 2020–21 is to be a 'Year of St Joseph' – [prayer cards](#) are available for this, and in March, the month of Joseph, and with his feast-day this Friday, extra devotion to him would be very appropriate.

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

NEW BOXES OF OFFERTORY ENVELOPES will be available *after next weekend* in readiness for the new tax year which begins just after Easter. We will need you to collect your box from the Presbytery office this year.

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 The Governing Body has a vacancy for a Foundation Governor, ideally with legal skills. Training is provided. If you are interested in supporting the school in this way, please contact the Headteacher, Mrs Napier, via cbranch@staugustines.herts.sch.uk.

ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL – NURSERY ADMISSIONS 2021. Applications are now welcome from families whose child reaches their third birthday between 1st Sept 2020 and 31st Aug 2021 for nursery class starting in Sept 2021. There are

two forms of provision each day: a core offer of 15 hrs; and an extended offer of 30 hrs. COVID-19 restrictions prevent their offering visits to the school at this moment. However, they will be offering remote sessions to meet Headteacher Mrs Napier, and hear more about the school. For more details and to access a copy of the application form, please see: <https://staugustines.herts.sch.uk/herts/primary/staugustines/site/pages/ofsted/admissions>

ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASS has vacancies in Years 2, 3, 4 & 5. Please contact Herts in-year admissions team: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/in-year-admissions-change-schools-during-the-year/in-year-admissions-change-school-during-the-year.aspx> and the School Office for a school application form as you will need to complete both.

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 shortly.

200 CLUB WINNER for March is no. 48, Anna Salvo. Congratulations!

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip has discontinued his house visits for the time being owing to the national Tier-5 'lockdown' restrictions. He will resume them just as soon as it seems safe.

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 March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Elizabeth Connors' intention</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 162 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36: 14–16, 19–23 <i>The wrath and mercy of God are revealed in the exile and in the release of his people.</i></p> <p>Ps 136 — O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!</p> <p>2nd Reading: Ephesians 2: 4–10 <i>You who were dead through your sins have been saved through grace.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl.: <i>Glory and praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!</i></p> <p>Gospel: John 3: 14–21 <i>God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved.</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Lent II (p. 56) EUCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)</p> <p>1st Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31–34 2nd Reading: Hebrews 5: 7–9 Gospel: John 12: 20–30</p>
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>For the Parish</i> Sun 14th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass <i>Milly Yarwood RIP anniv.</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Dec'd members of Acosta Family</i> 5pm Mass <i>John & Fatimo Pinto RIP</i>	
Mon 15th March 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass <i>Anthony McGrath's intentions</i> 6pm Adoration 9am Morning Prayer	
Tues 16th March 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass <i>Ben Ighade's intentions</i> 6pm Adoration 9am Morning Prayer	
Wed 17th March ST PATRICK, bishop & patron of Ireland 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass <i>In honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus</i> 6pm Adoration 9am Morning Prayer	
Thurs 18th March 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass <i>Special intention</i> 6pm Adoration 9am Morning Prayer	
Fri 19th March ST JOSEPH, husband of Our Lady 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.45 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Eilish Doyle RIP anniv.</i> 12.30pm Stations of the Cross 6pm Adoration	<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>
Sat 20th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Gaetano Martorana RIP anniv.</i>	
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>Robert Cullen RIP</i> Sun 21st March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass <i>Dave Greenall RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 5pm Mass <i>Recovery of Carmen & Vitalia Acosta</i>	
<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 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.*