

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

21st MARCH 2021

Gospel: John 12: 20-32 – *If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

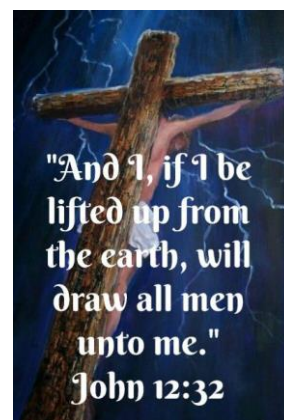
WITH THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, TODAY, WE ENTER INTO PASSIONTIDE. The statues are covered with their purple drapes, and we begin the most reflective, most sombre period of the Church's year. In the Gospel passage from Jn 12, Our Lord speaks of openly of His death, and of His being "lifted up from the earth," a direct reference to His crucifixion. He offers His life as a sacrifice, not as a mere victim of circumstance; His self-giving unto death is His loving choice *for our salvation!*

TUESDAY'S NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION: the Cardinal, along with the Archbishop of Liverpool, has addressed a [Letter to Catholics](#) to commemorate in prayer, along with the whole country, the anniversary of the initial 'lockdown' last March. His text is also broadly contained within my fifth [Lenten prayer sheet](#), included with your Newsletter today.

NOW THAT WE APPROACH THE MOST SACRED TIME OF THE YEAR, I urge all of you are not 'shielding' for medical reasons to come back to Sunday Mass. It's a year, now, since the pandemic restrictions were first imposed to control the outbreak, but with the vaccine rollout proceeding well, and with new weekly infections in our area down to very low levels (24 per 100k – that's under 1 in 4000), we should be confident again in attending 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. At the moment we are still only seeing 30-40 parishioners at each of the English Sunday Masses; many more parishioners can and should be coming, now; so have the confidence to return to your regular Mass. The Lord – and the parish – will be so pleased to see you here at prayer again at the Sacred Mysteries.

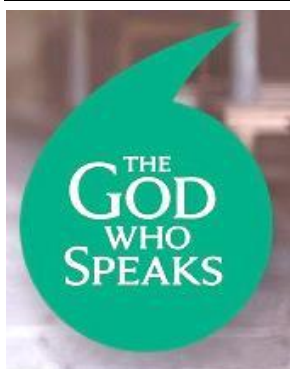
THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION for you to receive forgiveness before Easter will be offered by Fr Joshy & me at extra times before Easter: this week, that will be **Tuesday 6-7pm, and Friday 11-11.45am**. These times will take place during Adoration; Fr Joshy will be in the Lady Chapel; I will be in the Confessional.

May we enter prayerfully into Passiontide recalling the Lord's suffering & sacrifice! Fr Philip



2020/21 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 57

In stressing the bond between word and Eucharist, ... I wish to mention the importance of the Lectionary. The reform called for by the Second Vatican Council has borne fruit in a richer access to sacred Scripture, which is now offered in abundance, especially at Sunday Mass. The present structure of the Lectionary not only presents the more important texts of Scripture with some frequency, but also helps us to understand the unity of God's plan thanks to the interplay of the Old and New Testament readings, an interplay "in which Christ is the central figure, commemorated in his paschal mystery."



PRAYER & LITURGY

CHURCH OPENING: 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.

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH: Pope Francis declared that 8th Dec 2020–21 is to be a 'Year of St Joseph' – [prayer cards](#) are available, and in March, the month of Joseph, 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.**

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY collection amounted to £423.50. **Thank you!**

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.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HODDESODON will be hosting Easter Praise on **Sunday 4th April at 7.30pm**. Please view on their FaceBook page

<https://www.facebook.com/CTHBW> for this special Easter event.

HOLY WEEK – advanced notice of times:

PALM SUNDAY 28th March: Blessing of Palms will take place at every Mass.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 1st April
8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer
6pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY: 2nd April
9.45am Morning Prayer
10am Stations of the Cross
3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7pm Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY: 3rd April
9.45am Morning Prayer
9pm Mass of the Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY: 9.15, 11.15am & 5pm Mass

NOTE: The Triduum ceremonies will be simplified because of the current pandemic protocols: e.g. there will be no washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday, and no kissing of the Cross on Good Friday. The Easter Vigil will also be more streamlined.

RECONCILIATION BEFORE EASTER

Fr Philip & Fr Joshy will both be available to hear confessions in church on:

Tues 23rd March, 6–7pm
Friday 26th March, 11am–11.45am.
Monday 29th March, 6–7pm
Wed 31st March, 10–11am.

FINANCE

NEW BOXES OF OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are now available to collect from the Presbytery office **Mon, Wed & Fri, 9am–1pm**. If you would like to **START** using envelopes, please contact the Presbytery for a form.

PARISH FINANCE: Thank you so much to all who continue to give regularly by S.O., or by envelope throughout this critical 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:



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. As soon as it seems safe to resume classes and preparation for these sacraments, we will do so. This may be the case after Easter, but attendance at Sunday Mass would be a pre-requisite.

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.

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL 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 welcome for Nursery Class (Sept 2021) from families whose child reaches their third birthday between 1st Sept 2020 and 31st Aug 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 visits to the school at this moment, but the school will be offering remote sessions to meet Headteacher, Mrs Napier, and hear more. For details and to access 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.

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 20th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Gaetano Martorana RIP anniv.	<p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 169 in the Mass books</p> 1st Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31–34 <i>I will make a new covenant and never call their sin to mind.</i> Ps 50 — A pure heart create for me, O God.
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* Robert Cullen RIP Sun 21st March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass Dave Greenall RIP anniv. 11.15am Mass For the Parish 5pm Mass Recovery of Carmel & Vitalia Acosta	2nd Reading: Hebrews 5: 7–9 <i>He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.</i> Gospel Accl.: <i>Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!</i>
Mon 22nd March 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass Eric & Mollie Field RIP 6pm Adoration 9am Morning Prayer	Gospel: John 12: 20–32 <i>If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.</i>
Tues 23rd March 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass Oge & Toye Oyelude's intentions 6pm Adoration 9am Morning Prayer	PREFACE TODAY: Lent I (p. 56) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28)
Wed 24th March 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass Maria-Teresa Distefano RIP 6pm Adoration 9am Morning Prayer	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS PALM SUNDAY (YEAR B)</p>
Thurs 25th March THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass David & Alex Burke RIP 6pm Adoration 9am Morning Prayer	1st Reading: Isaiah 50: 4–7 2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 6–11 Gospel: Mark 11: 1–10
Fri 26th March <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.45 Benediction 12 noon Mass Sr Xavier RIP 12.30pm Stations of the Cross 6pm Adoration	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at any other time.
Sat 27th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Mr Renolds RIP	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* John & Wendy Buttigieg RIP Sun 28th March PALM SUNDAY 9.15am Mass Dec'd members of Mezzullo Family 11.15am Mass Jimmy Hurley RIP 1st anniv. 5pm Mass For the Parish	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> 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 style="text-align: right;">* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</p> 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

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.*