

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

7th MARCH 2021

Gospel: John 2: 13-25 – *Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

NOW THAT 40% OF THE ADULT POPULATION has received its first vaccination dose – and infections, hospitalizations and deaths are all thankfully falling – we can begin to build up again our Catholic practice of weekly Sunday Mass. We had 195 parishioners here last weekend (all Masses incl. Italian Mass) so, as you can see, that there is plenty of room, even whilst spacing ourselves out. In particular **the two evening Masses (Sat 6.30pm & Sun 5pm)** are currently under-attended, so offer great opportunities for coming again safely to Mass.

ON THIS THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, we move away from the Gospel of St Mark for a few weeks, and hear from St John. We first hear of the striking event in the Temple, when Jesus clears out, with some stridency, the market traders and money-changers. What is it that we need Our Lord to be clearing out of our lives/hearts, in order that we can be restored to being dedicated to prayer? Here are some ongoing reminders for ways in which to keep Lent well ...

PRAYING: Sunday & weekday Mass is the best possible prayer; also, twice-weekly **Stations of the Cross** (Fri & Sat); **quiet evening Adoration** (Mon-Fri 6-7pm); and I offer you the third of my **[weekly prayer sheets](#)**. Re-stocked are the **CTS racks with Lent publications**, including 'Stations of the Cross' booklets.

FASTING: what is it that we might give up for a period this Lent – if we have not already found appropriate ways? Our lives have been rather dominated by our laptop/PC/iPad screens in the past year! Perhaps we could 'fast' from those for some point each day, limiting their use to what is necessary.

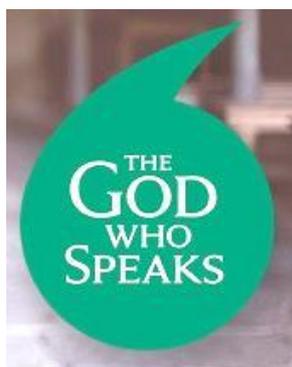
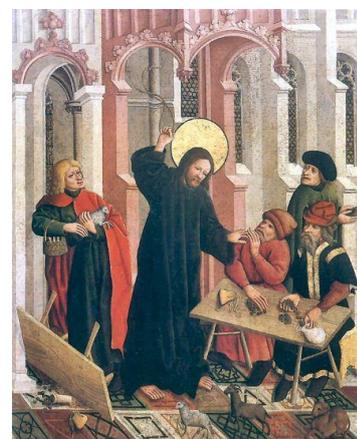
ALMSGIVING: you can still give to our annual Lent CaFOD Fast-Day collection: you can either give using the envelopes distributed last weekend – we will keep collecting them until Friday – or via CaFOD's own website: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Lent-Appeal>.

OUR GREAT PASCHAL CANDLESTICK is being restored in readiness for Easter, and I am very grateful for generous donations from parishioners such that 80% of the cost is already covered. After you've given your Lenten alms, if you can also afford a donation towards our Candlestick restoration, 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

The sacramentality of the word can thus be understood by analogy with the real presence of Christ under the appearances of the consecrated bread and wine. By approaching the altar and partaking in the Eucharistic banquet we truly share in the body and blood of Christ. The proclamation of God's word at the celebration entails an acknowledgment that Christ himself is present, that He speaks to us, and that He wishes to be heard.



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.

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH: Pope Francis declared that 8th Dec 2020 – 2021 is to be a 'year of St Joseph' – a [prayer card](#) for this year is enclosed, as we keep the month of St Joseph each March.

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 post any remaining envelopes in the presbytery door by Friday 12th March**, or 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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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 6th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass John Darby RIP	PAGE 154 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Exodus 20: 1–17 <i>The Law was given through Moses.</i> Ps 18 — You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* Denis O'Donovan RIP & William Phelan RIP 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	2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 22–25 <i>Here we are preaching a crucified Christ, an obstacle to men, but to those who are called, the wisdom of God.</i> Gospel Accl: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, whoever believes in me will never die. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Mon 8th March 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass Tony Clayton RIP 6pm Adoration	9am Morning Prayer Gospel: John 2: 13–25 <i>Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.</i>
Tues 9th March 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass Justina Ogbodu RIP 6pm Adoration	9am Morning Prayer PREFACE TODAY: Lent I (p. 56) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 2 (p. 25)
Wed 10th March 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass Bill Martin RIP 6pm Adoration	9am Morning Prayer NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)
Thurs 11th March 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass Giuseppe Mattaliano RIP 6pm Adoration	9am Morning Prayer 1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36: 14–16, 19–23 2nd Reading: Ephesians 2: 4–10 Gospel: John 3: 14–21
Fri 12th March 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.45 Benediction 12 noon Mass Angelo & Franca Mercurio RIP 12.30pm Stations of the Cross 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.
Sat 13th March 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Private intention	ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* For the Parish Sun 14th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass Milly Yarwood RIP anniv. 11.15am Mass Dec'd members of Acosta Family 5pm Mass John & Fatimo Pinto RIP	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.
<p style="text-align: right;">* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p>	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

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.*