

- The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon"

Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies

Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 9am-3pm)

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

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

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Year C

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

27TH MARCH 2022

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

Today's gospel reading is the story of the Prodigal Son, but that's somewhat misleading for it's really a story about two sons. The younger son rejects his father and his family, goes off to squanders his money, falls upon hard times and returns to his father full of repentance. A relationship that is broken is restored. The problem with the second son is that his words and actions reveal that he never knew that he had a treasured position or



relationship in the first place. He uses no respectful words for his father... 'this son of yours... and loathes him for his generosity and mercy'. He recognises no familial ties with his brother. Being a member of the family means nothing to him. Friends not family were important to him... 'my friends'. Finally, his relationship with his father is not one of sonship but of slavery... 'all these years I have slaved for you'. The story of the prodigal son is a powerful parable without the appearance of the second son, so why did Jesus mention the second son? The context is important. Before Jesus told the parable, the religious leaders had criticised him for welcoming sinners. It is not coincidental therefore that the very word presbuteros used for the elder (son) is the same word which was used for the religious elders of the day. It's a classic case where Jesus turns the table on his opponents by showing that they were in a more desperate state than the prodigals and sinners who welcomed his message of grace. There is only one Gospel, that of mercy and grace. We cannot condition whether people repent but we must welcome one another regardless. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them'. There is something of the second son in each and every one of us. Sometimes wallowing in self-pity... not recognising that our soul is in a more desperate state than the other we judge... not acknowledging that we are sons and daughters of the kingdom... not recognising God as our Loving Heavenly Father... not seeing the family of the Church... and sometimes enslaved to the disordered affections of the world than truly free with the Spirit of the children of God.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

JOSEPH STEPHENS of McKenzie Road, died recently aged 89. His Requiem will be held on **Monday 28th March at 1pm.**

JOHN KELLY of Stains Close, died recently, aged 84. His Requiem will be held on **Wednesday 13th April at 12 noon.**

ROSALIND NEEDHAM of Rosehill Close, died recently, aged 86. Details of her Requiem will follow in due course.

May they rest in peace.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS will be held on **Friday 1st April at 7pm.**

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Gabby will be running a Children's Choir at the 9.15am Mass on Sunday mornings. If your child would like to join the choir, Gabby will be playing on the **3rd April.** Please ensure that your child arrives at church at 9am and goes straight to the organ loft, so there will be time to run through the hymns before Mass.

MAUNDY THURSDAY MASS: 12 volunteers, male or female, are needed to have their feet washed. If you can take part, please sign your name on the list at the back of the church. **During the Mass, there will also be a Rite of Re-commissioning for the Ministers of Holy Communion, so if you are a Minister, please attend the Mass at 8pm.**

MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION, READERS & ALTAR SERVERS: If you can assist at any of the services of Holy Week, please sign your name on the lists on the blue board in the porch.

LENT

LENTEN ALMS: Funds raised in this year's Cardinal's Lenten Appeal will be shared between parishes and Caritas Westminster. You will find the box throughout Lent in the church.

'**ENCOUNTERING THE SPIRIT**' is the diocesan faith-sharing resource for Lent and is offered to encourage and enable to the continuation of "spiritual conversations" begun in the synod process. The week 4 leaflet, entitled Home, is inserted in the newsletter this week.

EXTRA CONFESSIONS IN LENT: Fr Julian will be available to hear confessions on Fridays

in Lent during Exposition from 6-7pm in church.

LENT EXTRA magazines with daily Lent meditations are now available to buy from the back of the church for £2.25. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

FRIDAY LUNCHESES: During Lent, a simple lunch of soup & a roll will be served on a Friday after Mass in the crypt for a donation of £2.50.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE for the parish will be held on **Tuesday 12th April at 7.30pm.**

HOLY WEEK – advanced notice of times:

Tuesday 12th April: CHRISM MASS at Westminster Cathedral at 12 noon.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 14th April
8.30am Exposition
8pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
9.30pm–Midnight: praying at Altar of Repose.

GOOD FRIDAY: 15th April
9.45am Morning Prayer
c. 11am *Churches Together* Act of Witness –
Meet at Clock Tower in town.
12-3pm Adoration before the Cross
3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7pm Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY: 16th April
9.45am Morning Prayer
9pm Mass of the Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY: 9.15am and 11.15am Mass

UKRAINE

HELP UKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL: The Ukrainian Catholic Church in the UK and Ukrainian Cultural organizations have organized an appeal. The money will go directly to support the work in Ukraine & Poland. You can donate directly to the appeal fund at AUGB Ltd, 80038237, 20-65-89 ref HelpUkraine. You can also donate on the fundraising page GoFundMe by following the link or by scanning the QR code. You can also send a cheque payable to AUGB LTD -Central Appeal Fund & send it to Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London, Chancery Office, 21-22 Binney St, London W1K 5BQ.



<https://rb.gy/dcqgcc>

FINANCE

PARISH FINANCE: Thank you so much to all

who continue to give regularly by S.O., or by envelope. For those whose finances are more stable at present, please consider your parish giving, to help the parish out. 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

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: 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

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently including John Kelly, Joseph Stephens, Rosalind Needham & Trisha Hunt and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Calogero Bellanca, Susan Harwood, Robert Cullen, Rosalia Castagna, Baby Angelina Rodia, Maria Di Stefano, Antonino Martorana, Antonino Cuffaro, Salvatore Russo, Rocchina Tedesco, Esther Blake, Ellen Higgins, Rosa Leto, Roberta Copuroglu & Nicholas Lamb. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

CATECHETICS

RCIA: 'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Come and explore if you are considering becoming a Catholic or are an adult Catholic wishing to be confirmed. We will meet at the presbytery on **Tuesday 29th March at 7.30pm.**

CONFIRMATION 2022: The date for the next class will be on **Monday 28th March at 7.00pm** for candidates in the church. Parents will need to sign the register this weekend.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE 2022-2023: Application forms for children currently in

Year 2 and who will be going into Year 3 in September to prepare to receive Holy Communion in May 2023 are now available to collect from the presbytery during the week (before 3pm) on any day except Tuesday. You can also email the presbytery to request a form. Details of the course will be given with the form. The form should be returned to the presbytery by **April 4th 2022**. From **April 10th** there will a register to sign in the church lobby as evidence that you are attending Mass.

SCHOOLS

ST CROSS SCHOOL currently have places in Reception, Year 4 & 5 classes. If you are interested, please contact the school on 467309 or email admin@stcross.herts.sch.uk.

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL There is limited availability for 30-hour Nursery places and, some places available in our afternoon Nursery session. Please contact the School Office for more information on 01992 463549.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

PLANNED GIVING: Boxes of envelopes for the new financial year are available from the back of the church from this weekend. If you would like to start donating through the envelopes/standing orders, forms will be available beside the boxes. Gift Aid forms will also be available. Many parishioners have already signed Gift-Aid forms, which enables the parish to collect the tax on the donations. There is no further cost to the donor but the parish is able to claim another £1 for every £4 donated under Gift Aid. **If your circumstances have changed, and you pay less or no tax, please inform the presbytery asap.**

UNDER 5'S 200 CLUB RENEWALS will take place **this weekend**. Please note there are still spare numbers available.

DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES can be viewed online <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs>.

CHURCH CLEANING: Michele & Pelle De Luca, Kathleen Connors & Sophie Lenguito. Thank you for your help. **More cleaners are still needed to help for 1 hour per month. If you can help, please contact the presbytery.**

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 26th March BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ON SATURDAY 9.00am Adoration 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass Antonino Cuffaro RIP	Page 168 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Joshua 5: 9-12 <i>The People of God keep the Passover on their entry into the promised land.</i> Ps 33— Taste and see that the Lord is good. 2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21 <i>God reconciled us to himself through Christ.</i> Gospel Accl.: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.' Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus! Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32 <i>Your brother here was dead and has come to life.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass Helen Lonergan Sun 27th MARCH FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass For the Parish 11.15am Mass John & Fatimo Pinto RIP	Ps 33— Taste and see that the Lord is good. 2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21 <i>God reconciled us to himself through Christ.</i> Gospel Accl.: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.' Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus! Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32 <i>Your brother here was dead and has come to life.</i>
Mon 28th March 8.30am Exposition 9.15am Mass Melville Pereira RIP 1.00pm Funeral Joseph Stephens RIP 6pm Exposition	Gospel Accl.: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.' Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus! Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32 <i>Your brother here was dead and has come to life.</i>
Tues 29th March 8.30am Exposition 9.15am Mass Vincent Byrne RIP 6pm Exposition	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)</p>
Wed 30th March 8.30am Exposition 9.15am Mass Mary McCarvill RIP followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition	1st Reading: Isaiah 43: 16-21 2nd Reading: Philippians 3: 8-14 Gospel: John 8: 1-11
Thurs 31st March 8.30am Exposition 9.15am Mass Deceased people of Ukraine 6pm Exposition	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.45 – 9am & 10.45 – 11am or ask Fr Julian at any other time.
Fri 1st April (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Thanksgiving from Nsonwah Family 12.30pm Stations of the Cross 6pm Exposition 7pm Mass Bridget Newson RIP	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass. SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK Any parishioner sick, frail, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.
Sat 2nd April ST FRANCIS OF PAOLA, Hermit 9.00am Adoration 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Aidan & Owen Doyle	<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
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass Marion Miller RIP Sun 3rd April FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass For the Parish 11.15am Mass Jimmy Hurley RIP	<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
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Mon 28th 7pm Confirmation, church Tues 29th 1pm lunch club, crypt	Tues 29th 7.30pm RCIA, presbytery

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 ciascun 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.*