

- The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

Tel: 01992-440986

Web-site: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon>

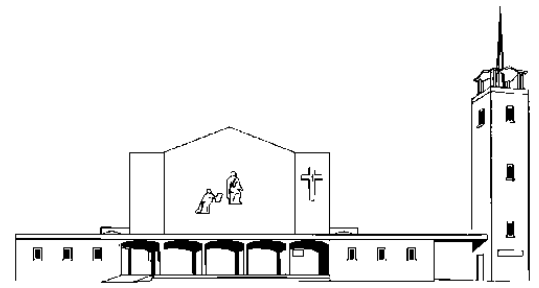
Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies

Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 9am-4pm)

Also in residence: Fr Mathews Valiyaputhenpura Joy (National chaplain to Knanaya community)

Safeguarding parish rep: Kathryn Hall – hoddesdonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Italian safeguarding rep: Rossetta Tona – italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk



E-mail: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon"

Year A

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

15TH JANUARY 2023

Gospel: *John: 1: 29-34 Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.*

This weekend the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children have their appeal. Contrary to what we may have heard in one of the recent Reith Lectures, there is no principled equivalence between abortion and the campaign against it. Principle is about first things, and the first thing is life not death, and certainly not murder. Jesus was born so that we may have life and have it more abundantly. We ought then to be unashamedly pro-life. There is a prevailing 'culture of death' (as St John Paul II termed it) which manifests itself not just in the destruction of life in the womb but in the promotion of assisted suicide, the fundamental



lack of care for the vulnerable and the denial of procreation. Embedding this culture is a relativistic attitude to life... 'a dictatorship of relativism' (in Pope Benedict words) where the principles of life, creativity and natural order are sold for the sake of individual choice and political expediency. Governments have moved away from the Judeo-Christian principles of life which were enshrined in law, acting as if, St John Paul II said, 'God did not exist'. Man, instead of God has taken upon himself to be the arbiter of right and wrong, and reinvented, as if he could, the foundational facts of life through social engineering. This political and cultural deficit leads to what Pope Benedict called 'a conscience that can no longer distinguish what is human'. The common good ceases to be common or good when it is uninformed by a sullied conscience that does not have the wellbeing of humanity at heart. We should not be surprised that some members of Parliament, following similar moves elsewhere, are seeking to enshrine assisted suicide in law. The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee have invited the public to consider the question. The bishops have asked us to inform ourselves of the debate and to respond to this urgent matter by answering the published questionnaire. As all life is sacred from conception till natural death, the need is for high quality palliative care and assistance in living, not assistance in committing suicide. God is the dispenser of life and popular pressures and predilections, or immoral laws should not determine the qualitative life of individuals. Laws establish precedents and before long the scope would widen from terminal illness to chronic physical issues, mental illness and disability. Physician-assisted suicide in Pope Francis' words reflects a 'throw away culture' that offers a 'false compassion' and treats a human person as a problem. The value of life is not dependant on whether we are weak, vulnerable, sick, old, unborn or poor. He continues, 'True compassion does not marginalise anyone, nor does it humiliate and exclude-much less considers the death of a person as a good thing'. We have no right to take away life. As the Book of Wisdom says, God did not make death. He formed man to be 'imperishable... the image of his own nature'. While bioethics is a complicated field, and while there is no justification to prolong natural life indefinitely, the divine and moral law teaches us that it is wrong to take the life of another, even if they request it. We are not the authors of our lives. The communion antiphon for much of this past week has been 'I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly'. This is the perennial good news which a society that has lost its moral compass needs to hear.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

MASS on Thursdays will now be at 8am and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be at 7.30am.

CRIB APPEAL: Our Crib offerings are donated to the Catholic Children's Society. The Society help local disadvantaged families facing severe hardship due to the cost of living crisis. Through the fund, they are providing immediate, practical support to families in need.

STEFANO DIESEI of Stortford Road, died recently aged 86. His Requiem will be on **Wednesday 18th January at 11.30am.**

May he rest in peace.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Stefano Diesi and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Antonio Riccardi, Biagio Cicchirillo, Kitty O'Rourke, Ian Laydon, Baby William O'Bryan & Kevin O'Bryan, Giuseppe Tambuzzo, Antonino and Giuseppa Cannatella and Baby Marie Hounslow. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Gabby will be resuming the Children's Choir at the 9.15am Mass on Sunday mornings. If your child would like to join the choir, Gabby will be playing **this Sunday & 29th January.** 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.

WARM SPACES PROJECT:

The Warm Spaces will be open until 31st March 2023. A number of warm spaces will be provided across the Borough. We will provide a warm space in our crypt on Tuesdays from 2.30pm-5.00pm. If you would like to donate to the Warm Spaces, there is now a GoFundMe page at: <https://www.gofundme.com/warm-spaces-in-broxbourne>.



18-25TH JANUARY is the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year's service on behalf of Churches Together will be held on **Sunday 22nd January at 6pm** at St Catherine's & St Paul's Church. All are welcome.

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

CONTACTLESS GIVING AT MASS: There is a device for giving your weekly offering to the parish for its upkeep contactlessly, by card. The device is at the LEFT-HAND exit door from church as you leave Mass.

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: 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: 'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:

If you are considering becoming a Catholic or are an adult Catholic wishing to be confirmed, our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 17th January** at 7.30pm in the presbytery.



CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2023: An initial meeting for candidates only will be held in the crypt on **Tuesday 31st January from 7-8pm.**



BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Saturday 21st January at 11.30am** in the church. The course must be completed before a Baptism is arranged.

To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL has tours for new Reception and Nursery Parents on **Tuesday 31st January at 9.15am, Thursday 9th February at 2pm and Tuesday 21st February at 9.15am.** Please use this [link](#) to book a visit, call or pop into the office.

GOVERNOR VACANCY: St. Augustine's School are looking for two Governors, one with SEND skills and one with personnel skills. The roll is a 4-year tenure and requires attendance at 3 meetings per term plus occasional visits to the school to meet with classes and subject teachers. Training is provided to help Governors fulfil their very important role. If you are a practising Catholic and are interested in giving something back to your local Catholic school, please let Father Julian know. More info can be found at www.rcdow.org.uk/education/governors/ser-ving-as-a-governor.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE



SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn

Children (SPUC) **will be holding its annual appeal this weekend.** SPUC wants a world where abortion is unthinkable, and is raising awareness of the widespread problem of abortion coercion. According to an independent poll, 87% of GPs are concerned that the Government's "pills by post" scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. SPUC is calling on the Prime Minister to condemn this abhorrent tragedy. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent crisis. Post cards are available beside the newsletters to fill out & send to SPUC who will then send them to the Prime Minister.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

ENQUIRY INTO ASSISTED SUICIDE: The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee has launched an inquiry into assisted

suicide and is inviting participation from the public through answering a consultative paper with six questions. Assisted suicide presents profound dangers to public safety and the common good, and so it is crucial that as many people as possible engage with the inquiry and oppose the introduction of assisted suicide into UK law. The public response must be in by **Friday 20 January**. To aid public engagement, the Anscombe Bioethics Centre has [produced a short two-page Briefing](#) (at the back of the church) to help anyone interested in responding, whether as an individual or as an organisation. The questionnaire has to be completed online <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/M66AML/>

SEPARATION SUPPORT

GROUP: The next meeting for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on the **2nd February at 4.30pm** in the presbytery. The group is working really well and if you need support and would like to join the group, please do contact the presbytery.



RETRouvaille: HELP YOUR MARRIAGE:

Help Your Marriage -Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, or a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

2022 PARISH MAGAZINE in full colour, 60 pages, is now available to buy **after Mass this weekend.** You can also buy it from the presbytery during the week. To cover the cost of printing, the price is £5.

CHURCH CLEANING: Elizabeth Nsonwah, Tina Pegna & Sophie Lenguito. Thank you for your help.

Liturgy this week		Today's Liturgy	
Sat 14th January Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass <i>Grace Henshaw RIP</i>		Page 125 in the Mass books	
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>Kevin O'Bryan RIP & Baby William O'Bryan</i>		1st Reading: Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6 <i>I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.</i>	
Sun 15th January 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Giuseppe Tambuzzo RIP & Antonino and Giusepa Cannatella RIP</i>		Ps 39 — Here I am Lord! I come to do your will. 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3 <i>May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.</i>	
Mon 16th January 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Private intention</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		Gospel Accl.: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!</i>	
Tuesday 17th January St Anthony, Abbot 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Patrick Griffin & family intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		Gospel: John 1: 29-34 <i>Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.</i>	
Wednesday 18th January 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Decd members of Soldano & Donato Families</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 11.30am Funeral Stefano Diesi RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)	
Thursday 19th January St Wulstan, Bishop 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Anne Coggins RIP</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		1st Reading: Isaiah 8: 23-9:3 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17 Gospel: Matthew 4: 12-23	
Friday 20th January St Fabian, Pope & Martyr (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Rose Callanan RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		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.	
Sat 21st January St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Private intention</i>		ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.	
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm* Mass <i>Margaret Mulligan RIP</i>		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.	
Sun 22nd January 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Andrew Kozlowski's intentions</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i>		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	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday			
REGULAR EVENTS			
Tues 17th	1pm lunch club, crypt	Tues 17th	7.30pm RCIA, presbytery
Tues 17th	2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Wed 18th	6pm Brownies, crypt

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.*