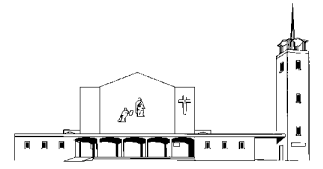




The Announcer



St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS Tel: 01992-440986

Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies

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

FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon" 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

Year A

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

29TH JANUARY 2023

Gospel: *Matthew 5: 1-12 How happy are the poor in spirit.*

The octave of prayer for Christian Unity may have drawn to a close, but the desire to pray for unity remains. It was one of the last prayers that Jesus prayed to his Heavenly Father before going to his death... *'may they all be one so that the world may believe that you have sent me'*. Unity however cannot be sought at the expense of truth. The temptation to seek popularity with the prevailing culture and to water down the faith is ever present. As the adage goes, the Church which is married to the spirit of the present age will be a widow in the next. The present age is obsessed by identity, and it seems that everyone is carving out their own identity. Our identity is found in Christ, not in the shifting sands of my assumed ability to re-invent myself. Through an encounter with Jesus, through his love, forgiveness and mercy we begin to understand that our true identity is fashioned only in relationship with him. We find who we really are only when we discover who He really is. This leads us to see also the dignity of others regardless of how they or we see themselves. All of us are damaged goods and we all need the heavenly make-over to restore our true identity. We have to give way therefore to the restoration process, and not bend truth, as if we could, to serve our own interest. Through the stripping away of ourselves before the cross, we are confronted with the identity of God and of ourselves. The word identity comes from *idem*, meaning the same, so we discover our true identity in our maker, in our sameness with him, that we are made in his image. God wants us to share the life of heaven and to seek his righteousness, instead of our own satisfaction. He calls us to sacrificially offer up our brokenness, and the world's. We find that divine happiness doesn't rest in trying to make myself happy by reinventing myself but in discovering my true self within the life of heaven. Since humans are made for heaven, it goes without saying that to be truly blessed is to be truly human. As the One who is above all truly blessed and truly human Jesus reveals pre-eminently the life of heaven and of a redeemed humanity. The Beatitudes, which he presents to us today, reflect the blessedness of that life. These beautiful attitudes, Jesus reveals pre-eminently, and he calls us to eagerly seek them. We find that our true happiness is found not outside of Christ, but only in communion with him. This is not what the world wants to hear. Governments and social pundits are endlessly trying to discover what makes people happy. Without reference to God they are wasting their time. It is like the search for the elusive elixir. If we find Jesus, or rather if he finds us, then we have found Beatitude itself. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus invites us to reject the apostasy of the age, the idolatry of false identifications and embrace the opposite of the world's values. Acknowledge instead the identity of the True Man, and the vision of a restored humanity. Though persecution comes, 'rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven'.

Fr Julian



PRAYER & LITURGY

FIRST FRIDAY MASS will be held on **Friday 3rd February at 7pm.**

CALOGERO BONOMO of Crossfield Road died recently, aged 70. His Requiem will be on **Wednesday 15th February at 11.30am** with Don Antonio.

MARY ROSALEEN NOLAN of Park View died recently aged 83. Her Requiem will be on **Monday 20th February at 12 noon.**

May they rest in peace.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Mary Nolan, Calogero Bonomo and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Frank Ciruolo, Paolo Guacci, Salvatore Orlando, Patricia Hume, John McDaid, Gaetana Lomanto, Nicola Giardina, Antonia Fantocchi, Madge Phelan, Joanne Smith, Mary Hourihan, Pietro Perzia and Caterina Re. *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 **29th January, 12th & 26th February.** 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>.



AYLESFORD PRIORY PILGRIMAGE DAY



will be on **Thursday 11th May.** More details will follow in due course. Please put the date in your diary.

MARRIAGE THANKSGIVING MASS: The Cardinal will be celebrating the annual Mass for

Matrimony at the Cathedral on **Saturday 13th May at 2.30pm.** More details to follow.

FAITH SHARING GROUP: If you would be interested in joining a Lent Faith Sharing group, please contact the presbytery.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES will be on **Friday 21st to Friday 28th July.** Booking forms should be prepared in a few weeks' time. Until the booking forms and portal are available, '*Expressions of Interest*' are sought from all who intend to participate in the Pilgrimage. Visit <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> to register your '*Expressions of Interest*'. Forms are also available beside the newsletters in church.

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 7th February** 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 7-8pm**. An email has been sent to parents with the list of dates. If you have not received the email, please contact the presbytery.

CONFIRMATION 'PRAYER PARTNERS' are needed for all the candidates on the programme. A prayer partner prays for a candidate at least twice a day, whilst they are preparing to make their Confirmation. If you would like to become a prayer partner, please print your name in capital letters on the white sheet on the blue board at the back of the church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 'PRAYER PARTNERS' are needed for all the children on the First Holy Communion programme. A prayer partner prays for a child at least twice a day, whilst they are preparing to make their First Holy Communion. If you would like to become a prayer partner, please print your name in capital letters on the blue sheets on the blue board at the back of the church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE MAY 2024: Applications forms for children currently in Year 2 and who will be going into Year 3 in September to prepare to receive Holy Communion in 2024 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 **February 10th**. From **February 12th** there will a register to sign in the church lobby as evidence that you are attending Mass.

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.

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S will be holding a coffee morning in the crypt on **Friday 3rd**

February from 8.30am-10.30am to raise funds. All are welcome.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

CAFOD, are looking for people to join them as volunteers. Find out by joining a meeting on **Wednesday 1st February from 2.30-4.30pm** in Oakwood, North London, N14 4HE. Please contact Tony at CAFOD for further details. westminster@cafod.org.uk or 0208 449 6970

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

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.



2022 PARISH MAGAZINE in full colour, 60 pages, is still available to buy from the presbytery during the week. To cover the cost of printing, the price is £5.

REFRESHMENTS will be served after Saturday 6.30pm Mass on **4th February** in the crypt. Breakfast will also be served after the 9.15am and 11.15am Masses on **Sunday 5th February**. All are welcome.

TABLE TENNIS table is now being used in the crypt at Tuesday lunch club, but two new wheels are needed for it. Can anyone help with replacing the wheels? If so, please contact the presbytery.

CHURCH CLEANING: Michele & Pelle De Luca, Sophie Lenguito & Alex Thomson. Thank you for your help.

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

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please take a parish membership form and information leaflet from the box attached to the noticeboard at the back of church, in the corner by the emergency door. Please return the completed form to the presbytery.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 28th January St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Dr 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass Thomas Griffin & Family intentions	Page 130 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Zephaniah 2: 3, 3: 12-13 <i>In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* Joanne Smith RIP anniv	Ps 145 — How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Sun 29th January 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass For the Parish 11.15am Mass Pietro Perzia RIP	2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31 <i>God chose what is foolish by human reckoning.</i>
Mon 30th January 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Margaret Healy & Family intentions 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl.: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!</i>
Tuesday 31st January St John Bosco, Priest 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Alexander Taylor 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12 <i>How happy are the poor in spirit.</i>
Wednesday 1st February 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Christopher Whelehan RIP followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)</p> 1st Reading: Isaiah 58: 7-10 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5 Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-16
Thursday 2nd February PRESENTATION OF THE LORD 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass Jimmy McNicholas intentions NO 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.
Friday 3rd February Ss Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Mary Wall & Family intentions 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7pm Mass Private intention	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Sat 4th February Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass John Cullinane RIP	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> Any parishioner sick, frail, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm* Mass Mary Ryan 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.
Sun 5th February 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass Irene Willmer RIP 11.15am Mass For the Parish	<p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 31st 1pm lunch club, crypt Tues 24th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Tues 31st 7pm Confirmation, crypt Wed 1st 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 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.*