



# The Announcer



## St Augustine's Catholic Church

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

**Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies**

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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 – [hoddesdons@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:hoddesdons@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

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**Year A**

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

Gospel: *Matthew 5: 17-37* *You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; but I say this to you.*

The terrifying impact of the earthquake in Turkiye and Syria reminds us of the power of nature and our vulnerability before it. Many people called upon the name of God, in fact upon his greatness, as buildings collapsed all around them. It is a natural instinct to cry out for mercy and to pray in the face of such adversity, for to whom can we turn but to One who is greater than all these things? Yet where is God in the face of such natural disasters? Jesus tells us that no sparrow falls to the ground without our 'Father knowing it'. We may assume therefore that no one perishes in an earthquake without God knowing it. Jesus doesn't say that God caused the sparrow to die, any more than God caused people to die in a natural disaster. The insurance world calls such disasters 'acts of God', but to what extent can we say they are acts of God? Even if they are, are there mitigating factors? An earthquake doesn't need to be particularly high on the Richter scale in order to cause maximum damage and loss of life... if an earthquake is shallow, if it happens when people are asleep, without warning and where there is poor infrastructure amidst a high density of population...all factors in this earthquake. In comparison, the earthquake in San Francisco in 1989, though relatively high on the scale, and in a heavily populated area, caused minimal damage and loss of life because of better infrastructure. The response to an earthquake is also important. Faced by natural disasters, in general, the poor suffer more often than the rich. Some of these disasters are certainly better described as acts of man, where human inequality and exploitation is at play. Disasters related to the climatic changes of recent years are directly the result of human activity. When the poor suffer disproportionately, people of faith should be particularly hesitant to rush to judgment and assume that God is punishing some city or people. Jesus warned us against assuming that the victims of disasters are sinners worse than ourselves. It is assumed similarly that there is a close corollary between sickness and sin, but the gospels carefully distinguish between those illnesses caused by sin and those which are not. When disaster or illness strikes our immediate response should be one of compassion and seeking to offer practical help, rather than an assumption that while we are safe, others have deserved what has come to them. This false sense of security is not unrelated to the attitudes of those whom Jesus comes up against in our gospel reading today. Jesus exposes their self-complacency as they assumed that they were fulfilling the demands of the commandments. His does this in three ways. In the first, he declares that he, rather than any person, is the fulfilment of the law. In the second, he extends what the law requires, such as in the case of divorce against the then easy granting of a divorce, and often to the detriment to the wife. In the third he shows that we cannot please God without a change of heart. He widens our capacity to infringe the ten commandments by showing that the offences which they dealt with, all extend from wrong attitudes in the heart. Their external demands have to be internalised. We need a change of heart if we are to be virtuous. In the light of this we are all law breakers and we need God's help. Consequently, Jesus invites us to develop an interior understanding of God's grace, mercy and love, to seek forgiveness and to free ourselves from the crippling tendency to measure ourselves against the performance of others. Only then can we seek to love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind and our neighbour as ourselves. May this devastating earthquake shake us out of our complacency and through God's grace may we be led to repentance and the virtuous exercise of compassion.



Fr Julian

## PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Athena Allen who will be baptised this weekend.

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

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

*May they rest in peace.*

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently including Mary Nolan and Calogero Bonomo and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Freda Porter, Christopher Reid, Giuseppe Galione, Alfredo Santaniello, Molly Zwager, Hester Counsell, Dorothea Nelson, Pietro Gaiteri and Bridget Tyrell, Stefano & Margherita Diesi and Eileen Moran. *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 **12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

**AYLESFORD PRIORY PILGRIMAGE DAY** will be on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July**. Booking forms should be prepared in a few weeks' time. 'Expressions of Interest' are sought from all who



intend to participate. Please visit [.](#)  to register your 'Expressions of Interest'. Forms are also available beside the newsletters in church.

**WARM SPACES PROJECT:** We will provide a warm space in our crypt on Tuesdays from 2.30pm-5.00pm.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READER** rota for the period March-June is due to be drawn up shortly. Please advise Pat Kavanagh (telephone 07485 284007 or 01992 449282 or email [patandcarolkav@btinternet.com](mailto:patandcarolkav@btinternet.com)) by **Wednesday 1st March 2023 AT THE LATEST** of any dates in this period that you are **NOT** available. Please also advise of any changes in your personal contact details e.g. address, telephone number etc. Once drawn up, rotas will be dispatched by email unless you advise me otherwise"

### LENT

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is on **22<sup>nd</sup> February** and Mass will be at 9.15am with St Cross School, 2pm with St Augustine's School and 8pm. **Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting (for those aged 16-60) and abstinence (for those aged 14+)**. This means that we consciously choose to eat less – one main meal only – and that (as on all Fridays) we eat no meat whatsoever.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** If anyone is interested in leading the Stations during Lent, please do contact the presbytery.

### 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:

<b>Account Name:</b>	<b>WRCDT Hoddesdon</b>
<b>Sort Code:</b>	<b>40-05-20</b>
<b>Account Number:</b>	<b>31264370</b>

**PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES:** We are now preparing to issue new sets of offertory envelopes. If you no longer use your envelopes or would like to move to a standing order, please contact the presbytery. Thank you.

**CONTACTLESS GIVING AT MASS:** The device for giving your weekly offering

contactlessly, by card 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/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

### 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 28<sup>th</sup> February** at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2023:** The next meeting for candidates only will be held in the crypt on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 7-8pm.**

**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:** The register begins this weekend and can be found on the blue board in the porch.

**BAPTISM COURSE** will be held on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30am** in church. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.

### JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

**CAFOD: Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal.** CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors.. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows the Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

### SCHOOLS

**ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL** has tours for new Reception and Nursery Parents on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 9.15am.** Please use this [link](#) to book a visit, call or pop into the office.

**ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5's** is looking for enthusiastic early years practitioners to join their team. Applicants to be qualified to level 3 in Early Years Childcare and Education or equivalent. Please email the Under 5's at [staugustinesunder5s@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:staugustinesunder5s@hotmail.co.uk) or call 460614. Apply with covering letter and CV to Charlton Close Hoddesdon EN11 8DR. CLOSING DATE **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February.**

### SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

**SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP:** The next meeting for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 4.30pm** in the presbytery. If you need support and would like to join the group, please do contact the presbytery.



**MISSIO RED BOXES:** Please return your red box to the presbytery. My sincere thanks to all who have made donations. Ellen Bartlett.

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

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Sat 11<sup>th</sup> February Our Lady of Lourdes</b> 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass <i>Anne Hogan's intentions</i>	<b>Page 136 in the Mass books</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Ecclesiasticus 15: 15-20 <i>He never commanded anyone to be godless.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>Stefano &amp; Margherita Diesi RIP</i>	<b>Ps 118 — They are happy who follow God's law!</b>
<b>Sun 12<sup>th</sup> February 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Eileen Moran RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10 <i>God predestined wisdom to be for our glory before the ages began.</i>
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Patrick Bradley</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel Accl.:</b> <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!</i>
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February SS CYRIL, Monk &amp; METHODIUS</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Private intention</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7pm Mass <i>Paddy Brien RIP</i>	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 5: 17-37 <i>You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; but I say this to you.</i>
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Teresa Delaney's ints</i> followed by coffee in the crypt <b>11.30am Funeral Calogero Bonomo RIP</b> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b>  <b>7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>  <b>(YEAR A)</b></p> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Leviticus 19: 1-2, 17-18 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Corinthians 3: 16-23 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 5: 38-48
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b> 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Ann O'Rourke RIP</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b></p> Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.45 – 9am & 10.45 – 11am or ask Fr Julian at any other time.
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February</b> (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Love &amp; protection of Mother &amp; child</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROSARY</b></p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
<b>Sat 18<sup>th</sup> February Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday</b> 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Private intention</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b></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 <i>Angela Kelly's ints</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b></p> Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.
<b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup> February 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Maria &amp; Onofrio Panepinto RIP anniv</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust</b>  <b>Registered Charity No. 233699</b></p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	
<b>Tues 14<sup>th</sup></b> 1pm lunch club, crypt	<b>Tues 14<sup>th</sup></b> 2.30pm Warm Spaces, 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 in the porch. 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.*