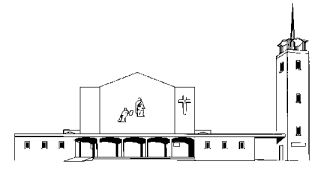




# The Announcer



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

Italian safeguarding rep: Rossetta Tona – [italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**Year A SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

Gospel: *Matthew 5: 38-48 Love your enemies.*

When we call God Our Father we are not saying that God is like a human father, though a human father may reflect something of God the Father. In a sense we have to lay aside notions of human fatherhood, otherwise we will have a distorted impression of what God is like, especially if we project onto God any variable experiences of our own human fathers. We call God our Father, because this is how Jesus called Him and told us to call Him. It tells us that we are lovingly created and connected. Through the Spirit of adoption, through our baptism into Christ, we are the Father's children, brothers and sisters and members of the same family. The Apocalypse tells us that we are also children of Mary, but this does not mean that in the Father we do not see maternal inclinations. The psalms and prophets sometime use maternal imagery of God. Isaiah for example likened God successively to a mother showing compassion for the child in her womb, crying out in labour and comforting her child. Jesus likened himself to a mother hen gathering her chicks, while some of the contemplatives likened his sacramental feeding of ourselves to a mother feeding its young. The pronouns for the Holy Spirit are sometimes male, sometimes female, sometimes neutral. Genesis tells us that God's image reflects the wholeness of gender. *'So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.'* To say that God is Father, Son and Spirit, then is not gender specific in the way that modernists read it.

Just as we surrender our preconceptions of fatherhood when we talk of God is our Father, we do the same of our preconceptions of love, when we say that God is Love. In today's gospel, Jesus challenges the ways in which we circumscribe God's love. Truly divine, authentic love is a rare commodity in a not very loving world. The disciples are called to change it. He tells them that if they are to model God's love, then they have to love the unlovely, to think and act differently from others and to stand against the ways of the world. Human love is conditional, and often grudgingly given, but God's love is unconditional and freely dispensed. *'Your Father I heaven...causes his sun rise on bad men as well as good, and the rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike'*. The guidelines for living 'the law' which God had given the children of Israel were essentially about love. The heart of the law, and in particular the ten commandments, as Jesus summarised it, was love.....love of God and our neighbour. The oral tradition, which had evolved to interpret and hedge these and other laws, made them less loving. In opposition to it, Jesus now gives his own oral dicta 'you have learnt how it was said... but I say this to you'. So instead of hating our enemies we are to love them. Instead of loving just those who love us, we are to love those most unlike us, and without any hope of reciprocity. We are to suffer insults, not to be vengeful, to respond with generosity and beyond the expected norm. Our natural instinct is inclined against doing this. Human love is characteristically an act of the emotions. Jesus shows us that the love which God looks for in you and me, is above all an act of the will. Through bringing our heart and mind into obedience to God's will, we are enabled to volunteer love in unlikely places and to unlikely people. This working out of God's unconditional love in our lives towards others, evidences Jesus says, God's perfection. It also seals our status as children of our Heavenly Father.



Fr Julian

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH** Lucas Sorrell and Santiago Amante who will be baptised this weekend.

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

**BARBARA HOFFMAN** of Riverside Care Home died recently. Her funeral service will be at Woollensbrook Crematorium on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 11am.**

*May they rest in peace.*

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently including Mary Nolan and Barbara Hoffman and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Francis Cassar, Luigi Lanza, Angelo Licvasta, Lucia La Corte, Terry McIntyre, Moyra O'Neill, Maria Rega, Salvatore Gambrone, Assunta Fonzo, Pietro Morreale, Dot Cooper, Ellen McElligott Nan Delaney and Maria & Onofrio Panepinto. *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 **26<sup>th</sup> Feb & 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March.** 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.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** service will be held in our church on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 1.30pm.** Lunch will be served in the crypt at 12.45pm. There will also be an evening service at 8pm at the United Reform Church, Broxbourne.

**AYLESFORD PRIORY PILGRIMAGE DAY** will be on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May** and the coach will leave the church at 9am.



The price of the coach is £22 each. You can either bring a packed lunch, or buy lunch at the café.

There will be Mass, Benediction and the Rosary. If you would like to go, please complete the tear off slip and return it to the presbytery together with the £22 to reserve your place. There are 35 spaces on the coach.

**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.** All couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2023 are invited. If you would like to attend, please contact the presbytery with the husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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+).**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be prayed in church each Friday (12.30pm, after Mass) & Saturday (9.30am before Mass.) Exposition will take place at 9am on Saturday mornings in Lent. **Please note on 3<sup>rd</sup> March the Stations will be at 6.30pm instead of 12.30pm.**

**LENTEN ALMS: Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2023** Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. You will find the box throughout Lent in front of the lectern.

**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.

**LENT WALK WITH ME** journey of prayer booklets for £1 and can be found at the back of church. Please place your money in the newspaper box. If you would like to join a faith sharing group, please contact Michel Jordan on 07479012984.

**LENT CTS** booklets are now available to purchase from the CTS stands.

## 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 the link <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>WRC DT Hoddesdon</b>
<b>Sort Code:</b>	<b>40-05-20</b>
<b>Account Number:</b>	<b>31264370</b>

**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 Gamracz 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.**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 'PRAYER PARTNERS'** are needed for all the children on the programme. Please print your name in capital letters on the blue sheets on the blue board at the back of the church.

**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**

**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** will be holding a coffee morning in the crypt on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February from 8.30am-11.00am** to raise funds. All are welcome.

**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.

**SUPPORTING ASYLUM SEEKERS** in Broxbourne. The Home Office has recently accommodated a significant number of people in the Borough of Broxbourne. A leaflet of how you can help them is inserted in the newsletter.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Pat Kavanagh, Sue Alvey and Val. Thank you for your help.

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<b>PILGRIMAGE DAY TO AYLESFORD PRIORY ON 11<sup>th</sup> MAY.</b>
Name: .....
Contact no: .....
Email address.....
Next-of-kin name & contact number: .....
Please return to the presbytery in an envelope with your name on together with the £22.
<b>PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY</b> Your personal details will be held on file. After the Pilgrimage day, your details will be securely destroyed. You can read the full privacy policy on <a href="http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy">rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy</a> .

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Sat 18<sup>th</sup> February Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday</b> 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass <i>Private intention</i>	<b>Page 139 in the Mass books</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Leviticus 19: 1-2, 17-18 <i>You must love your neighbour as yourself.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>Angela Kelly's intentions</i>	<b>Ps 102 — The Lord is compassion and love.</b>
<b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup> February 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Maria &amp; Onofrio Panepinto RIP anniv</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Corinthians 3: 16-23 <i>All are your servants, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.</i>
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Private intention</i> <b>12 noon Funeral Mary Nolan RIP</b> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel Accl.:</b> <i>Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!</i>  <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 5: 38-48 <i>Love your enemies.</i>
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February St Peter Damian, Bishop &amp; Dr</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Lloyd Grandison RIP</i> <b>5-6pm</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b>  <b>FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT</b>  <b>(YEAR A)</b></p>
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass with St Cross School <i>Justina Ogbodu RIP &amp; Justin Ighade's ints</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 2pm Mass with St Augustine's School <i>Patrick Brien RIP</i> <b>7pm</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8pm Mass <i>Private intention</i>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Romans 5: 12-19 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 4: 1-11
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February St Polycarp, Bishop &amp; Martyr</b> 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Bill Pollard RIP</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 10.30 – 11am &amp; 5.30 – 6.15pm            Sunday 8.45 – 9am &amp; 10.45 – 11am            or ask Fr Julian at any other time.</p>
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b> (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Private intention</i> 12.30pm Stations of the Cross 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROSARY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<b>Sat 25<sup>th</sup> February</b> 9.00am Adoration                      9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Giuseppina Gibilaro RIP anniv</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Any parishioner sick, frail, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.</p>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm* Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p>
<b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup> February FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Keith Newell RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Salvatore Orlando 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	

**REGULAR EVENTS**

<b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup></b> 1pm lunch club, crypt	<b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup></b> 7pm Confirmation, crypt
<b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup></b> 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	<b>Wed 22<sup>nd</sup></b> 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 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.*