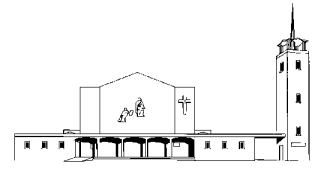




The Announcer



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 – hoddesdong@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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

Year A

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

26TH FEBRUARY 2023

Gospel: *Matthew 4: 1-11* *Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.*

Our readings today introduce us to the fall of man and our redemption through Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament reading we see paradise lost, and in the New Testament paradise regained. The disobedience of Adam and Eve is redeemed through the obedience of Jesus. The obedience of Jesus is also the main theme of our gospel reading, the temptation in the wilderness. Jesus undergoes a fierce spiritual battle in which he is tempted by the devil. In the first temptation, the devil tries to entice him not to trust God's word. In the second, he tempts him to put God to the test. In the third, he tries to allure Jesus away from the true worship of God. There is a logic in the progression and nature of these temptations. These were the very temptations to which the children of Israel succumbed, as they made their journey out of slavery towards the freedom of the promised land. Instead of trusting God's word for his promises, they grumbled against God and his kindness. Next, they put God to the test at the waters of Meribah. Finally, at Sinai, they bowed down before a false god, the golden-calf of their own making instead of worshipping the one and only God. The people of Israel were God's chosen children, but the children of Israel had failed. Their battle ground was the wilderness. The landscape of defeat now becomes the landscape of victory. Here is Jesus, not only God's beloved son, but also a child of Israel, who succeeds where Israel failed. It was as if the shame of the past was being effaced. Israel's Messiah obediently confronts the power of darkness to turn towards the field of mission and his ultimate act of obedience in Jerusalem. The temptation in the wilderness belongs to the larger tapestry of Jesus' life-giving passion for us. Just as it was God's will that he underwent the cross, so it was God's will that he underwent the temptation. It was not the devil who led him into the wilderness, but the Holy Spirit. His sacrificial victory in the wilderness, an intimation of his final victory on the cross, strengthens us against the onslaught of the enemy, whether in our daily struggles to be obedient, or whenever we find ourselves plunged into the valley of testing. The temptations of Jesus are unique and those we will face will not be the same in degree or nature, yet as we decide to put God first, we also will invite attack. This season of lent is an opportunity to enter willingly into the fray. If we take its invitation seriously then we can expect a time of testing. I'm writing this on Ash Wednesday. Its closing vesper prayer asks the Lord to support us, as *'we begin our Christian warfare, so that in doing battle against the spirit of evil we may be armed with the weapon of self-denial'*. Through repentance, confession and communion, and armed with the weapons of fasting, prayer and almsgiving, our spiritual muscle will be strengthened and hidden wells of rejuvenation will appear in the spiritual wilderness. We who have become the children of Israel by adoption, need not fall where they did, nor where our common ancestors Adam and Eve fell. Living on God's word (biblically and sacramentally), accepting His love wholeheartedly, rather than testing it or doubting it, and by rejecting the worship of false gods, we will grow in the midst of the spiritual conflict. After all Christ has already overcome the world, the flesh and the devil. Trusting in, what today's collect calls *'the riches hidden in Christ'*, we cannot but prevail.



Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

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

BARBARA HOFFMAN of Riverside Care Home died recently. Her funeral service will be at Woollensbrook Crematorium on **Monday 6th March at 11am.** *May she rest in peace.*

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Barbara Hoffman and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Denis James, Josephine Gibilaro, Joseph Phelan, Muriel Tear, Mario Vaccaro, Joseph Stephens, William Harte, Cecilia D'Abreu, Carmelo Ventura, Pauline Maffrett, Claudio Agnes, Joseph Willing, Salvatore Orlando and Delia Virgo. *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 **26th Feb & 12th & 26th 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 3rd 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 11th 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.



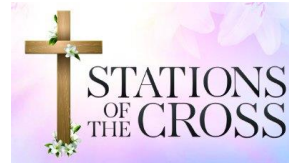
There will be Mass, Benediction and the Rosary. If you would like to go, please complete the tear off slip and return it to the presbytery together with the £22 to reserve your place. There are 35 spaces on the coach.

MARRIAGE THANKSGIVING MASS: The Cardinal will be celebrating the annual Mass for Matrimony at the Cathedral on **Saturday 13th May at 2.30pm.** All couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (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.

EUCHARISTIC 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 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 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 Friday 3rd 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 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. One group has already started meeting on Thursday mornings and we are looking to start another group at another time. You don't need to attend all sessions.

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

CAFOD'S LENT FAST DAY is on **Friday 3rd March.** The envelopes are attached to the newsletter and will be collected next weekend. Your donations will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that the Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Please give today using the envelope or at cafod.org.uk/give.



EXTRA CONFESSIONS IN LENT: Fr Julian will be available to hear confessions on Fridays in Lent during Exposition 6-7pm.

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 below <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**

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 28th February** at 7.30pm in the presbytery.



CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2023: The next meeting for candidates only will be held in the crypt on **Tuesday 7th March 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 18th 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>.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

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

BROXBOURNE CATENIANS are hosting a St Patricks dinner dance on Friday 17th March at Brickendon Grange Golf Club, Pembridge Lane, SG13 8PD. £32.50 Adults £16 children to include 2 course hot meal, wine, coffee, mints. From 6pm for sit down at 7pm. To book contact stevebritto@yahoo.com.



WARE CHORAL SOCIETY will be performing Brahms A German Requiem on **Sat 18th March 7.30pm** at Christ Church Ware. Tickets £15 and can be purchased from Theresa Casbard 301551 or Anne Byrne 467097.

UNDER 5'S 200 CLUB RENEWALS will take place on the **11th/12th March** after every Mass. Please note there are still spare numbers available.

NATIONAL WEEKEND FOR MEN 14th-16th July at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. The theme for the weekend is **"The Father's Love: Healing the Father Wound"**, which will be led by Father Eamonn Mulcahy. For more info and to book see www.harvesters.org.uk

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

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PILGRIMAGE DAY TO AYLESFORD PRIORY ON 11th MAY.

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.

PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY

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 rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 25th February 9.00am Exposition 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Giuseppina Gibilaro RIP anniv	Page 151 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7 <i>The creation and sin of our first parents.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* For the Parish	Ps 50 — Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.
Sun 26th February FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass Keith Newell RIP 11.15am Mass Salvatore Orlando RIP anniv	2nd Reading: Romans 5: 12-19 <i>However great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater.</i>
Monday 27th February St Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Dr 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Decd members of Delaney & Connors Family 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Tuesday 28th February 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass James Foley RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11 <i>Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.</i>
Wednesday 1st March ST DAVID, Bishop, Patron of Wales 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Teresa Delaney birthday intentions followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR A)</p> 1st Reading: Genesis 12: 1-4 2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1: 8-10 Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9
Thursday 2nd March 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass Terry Thompson RIP NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> 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 March LENT FAST DAY (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Paul Burke RIP NO 12.30pm Stations of the Cross 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6.30pm Stations of the Cross 7pm Mass Josephine Murphy RIP anniv	<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 March 9.00am Exposition 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Luigi Cattini 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 William Phelan 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 March SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass David Madsen & Salvatrice Castronovo 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 28th 1pm lunch club, crypt Tues 28th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Tues 28th 7pm RCIA, presbytery 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 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.*