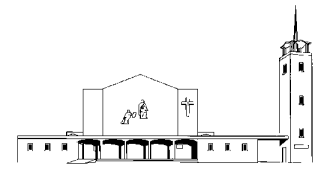




The Announcer



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

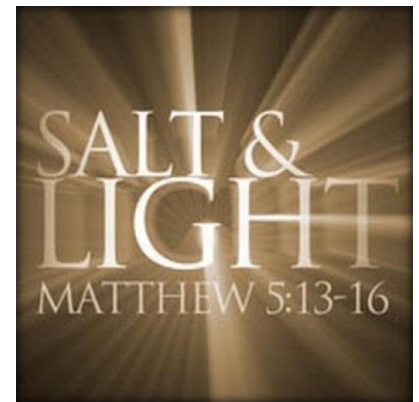
Year A

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 5TH FEBRUARY 2023

Gospel: *Matthew 5: 13-16 You are the light of the world.*

Today's gospel acclamation acknowledges Jesus as the 'Light of the World'. This is the title of a famous painting by Holman Hunt, which has been popularised many times, not least in the papal visit of 2010. The painting blends Jesus as light, with his invitation to respond to his knocking on the door of the human soul, as depicted in the one of the seven letters in the Apocalypse. Ironically this letter to Laodicea was addressed, not to non-Christians, but to those who already believed in Jesus Christ. It is as if Jesus is saying that you acknowledge me but that you have not welcomed me into your life. You say that you know me but your actions do not prove it. Of all the titles and descriptions of Jesus, 'the light of the world' is the only one which he specifically gave also to his followers. For example, he never said to us that you are the way, the truth and the life. Yet in our gospel reading today, Jesus tells his disciples that '*You are the light of the world*'. So how can we be light to the world? Surely this is more than mere reflection. It is as if we have to undergo a divine photosynthesis whereby Holy Spirit banishes the darkness within and around us, and enables us to live and work the virtuous and illuminating life that God wants. Living and working to God's praise and glory will mean that we will wish to uphold certain principles, which the Catholic Church calls virtues. Recently we have heard much about the general principles of the public arena. Recent problems in the health service, for example, have highlighted the four principles governing the provision of health: beneficence (doing good), non-maleficence (not doing harm), autonomy (freedom of choice for the patient) and justice (ensuring fairness). As guiding principles, they seem to work well, except where the life of the unborn is concerned. If they were rigorously adhered to, then three of these would rule out most abortions. More recently, we have heard of how some in public office have fallen short of the so-called Nolan principles, the 'seven principles of public life'. These are: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. Such principles are seen as normative not just for politicians but all in public life. As Christians, since our faith is to be lived out publicly in the sanctification of our vocations and places of work, we have more than an interest in them. From the vantage point of faith, we can see how these principles can bring God glory, as we invest them with our own Christian clothes. Positively we could say also that they are among the healthy values which God has instilled for the mutual wellbeing of society. In this respect they reflect something of 'the light which enlightens everyman', which God has planted within the public conscience as aspirations for humanity. If they have their origin in God, then Jesus' example and the gift of the Holy Spirit is their best interpreter. Virtuous as they are, through the exercise of Christian faith and the operation of grace, these principles, and hopefully ourselves, become even more virtuous. In fact, we would say that they are best realised through the means of grace. However, if my faith is just held just privately, and doesn't much impact upon my daily life and has nothing meaningful to contribute to the public arena, then my faith is stunted and is a caricature of what Jesus expects. How can that enlighten anyone or anything? '*You are the light of the world*'. So, I ask myself through God's grace, can I better illuminate these principles in my life so that I bring greater glory to God? And for us all? Such reflection will certainly lead to repentance on behalf of the collective errors of the past or where we may have denied Christ while outwardly professing Him by our manifest failure to put into practice what is publicly advertised. Let us repent. Otherwise our light is destined to be rather dim.

Fr Julian



PRAYER & LITURGY

MARIA GONZALEZ of Goodwood Close died recently aged 81. Her Requiem will be on **Wednesday 8th February at 1.30pm.**

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 Maria Gonzalez and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Angelo Cuffaro, Giuseppe Galione, Phyllis Dolan, Rosa Augello, Mary Davies, Filomena Tona, Maria Syed, Irene Willmer, Salvatore Di Maria and Mary Ryan. *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 **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.

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. 'Expressions of Interest' are sought from all who



intend to participate. Please visit <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> 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.

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

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 pray for our sick parishioners & friends: Marina Morris, Patricia Dempsey, Andrew, Kozlowski, Ian Witham & Frances Kearney.

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 7th February** at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2023: The next meeting for candidates only will be held in the crypt on **Tuesday 21st 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: 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.

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.

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL has tours for new Reception and Nursery Parents on **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 10th February from 8.30am-10.30am** to raise funds. All are welcome.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

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



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

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The total collected was £284. Thank you!

CRIB APPEAL: This year the amount collected was £595.45 for the Catholic Children's Society, Westminster. Thank you!

REFRESHMENTS will be served after Saturday 6.30pm Mass **this weekend** in the crypt. Breakfast will also be served after the 9.15am and 11.15am Masses on **Sunday.**



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

200 CLUB WINNER for February is no. 30 Janet Lampard. Congratulations!

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

CHURCH CLEANING: Elizabeth Nsonwah, Toni Iamarino, Penny Bengé & Antonia Di Piano. Thank you for your help.

PRAYER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

God of our past, present and future,
You created each one of us in your image and likeness. Help us to recognise you in each person as we pray for an end to suffering caused by racism. Lead us this day to walk with one another, pray with one another, and work together so that we will create a future based on justice and healing and fulfil the hope you have for all peoples. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Liturgy this week		Today's Liturgy	
Sat 4th February St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Dr 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass John Cullinane RIP		Page 133 in the Mass books	
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* Mary Ryan RIP		1st Reading: Isaiah 58: 7-10 <i>Then will your light shine like the dawn.</i>	
Sun 5th February 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Racial Justice Sunday 9.15am Mass Irene Willmer RIP 11.15am Mass For the Parish		Ps 111 — The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.	
Monday 6th February St Paul Miki & Companions 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Ester Carr's intentions 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5 <i>During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus as the crucified Christ.</i>	
Tuesday 7th February 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass In Thanksgiving 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		Gospel Accl.: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!	
Wednesday 8th February St Josephine Bakhita 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Kathleen Fitzpatrick followed by coffee in the crypt 1.30pm Funeral Maria Gonzalez RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-16 <i>You are the light of the world.</i>	
Thursday 9th February 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass Wang Xing Xiang intentions NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)	
Friday 10th February St Scholastica, Virgin (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Ada Brown RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 15: 15-20 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10 Gospel: Matthew 5: 17-37	
Sat 11th February Our Lady of Lourdes 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass Anne Hogan's intentions		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.	
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm* Mass Stefano & Margherita Diesi RIP		ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.	
Sun 12th February 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass Eileen Moran RIP 11.15am Mass For the Parish		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.	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday		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	
REGULAR EVENTS			
Tues 7th	1pm lunch club, crypt	Tues 7th	7.30pm RCIA, presbytery
Tues 7th	2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Wed 8th	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.*