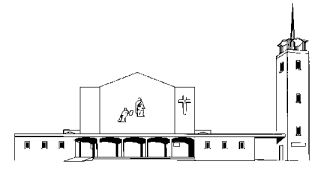




The Announcer



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 OF LENT

19TH MARCH 2023

Gospel: *John 9: 1-41 The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.*

'I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see'.

Amazing Grace was penned by John Newton, a former slave trader and inspired in part by today's gospel of the man born blind whose sight Jesus restores. After his conversion, Newton with others, encouraged William Wilberforce to strive for the abolition of the British slave trade. He lived to see the Act passed in 1807. For us who see slavery as abhorrent, we may fail to understand the fierce opposition which the abolitionists faced from the establishment of the day. Admiral Nelson the victor of Trafalgar, for one, said that he would do his best to counter the *'damnable and cursed doctrine of Wilberforce and his hypocritical allies'*. There were many vested interests in the Trans-Atlantic trade and in the West Indies plantations. Greed was at the heart of the opposition. Many Christians tried to justify slavery on biblical grounds, as if the slavery mentioned in the bible was the same as the chattel slavery of the colonies. It was not. They might also use a faulty exegesis which identified Africa with the curse of Ham, as if Ham had a different colour skin from his brothers. He did not. In the end their justification for the retention of slavery rested on economic and utilitarian grounds, on the perverted idea that keeping the trade was the best way of enlightening those who had not yet received the gospel or what they saw as civilized values. It seems that Britons would never be slaves but they could acceptably enslave others. It took many years later for slavery to be officially abolished, but even that did not bring an end to slavery. There are in fact many more slaves in the world today by recent reckonings. The vested interests of those who did not wish to see the slaves freed, are not dissimilar from those who did not wish the blind man to be healed in today's gospel. Jesus had challenged the very foundation of the establishment by healing on the Sabbath. He had given back dignity and free agency to one afflicted by his physical condition. He had shown that restoring God's creation was a better way of worshipping God on the Sabbath than keeping man-made conventions. In truth, the opposition against Jesus arose because he had revealed his divine credentials. Had he not shown that he could use the very dust of the ground from which God had created life, to recreate life? The rulers were prepared to deny the truth of their own eyes. They tried to convince themselves that the man was not blind in the first place. When the man protested at this attempt to rewrite his past, they hurled abuse at him... *'are you trying to teach us, and you a sinner through and through, since you were born'*. It shows how toxic and false religion becomes, when it is based not upon the liberating truth of God's passion to restore to wholeness every human being made in His image. Jesus did much more than restoring the man's sight, just as the abolitionists would do for the enslaved. Blindness was perceived as a condemnation. The man was set free from this. He was set free also from the even greater blindness of unbelief. He turns towards Jesus and says *'Lord, I believe'* and worshipped him'. In contrast, by refusing to recognise his work, the Jewish rulers were according to Jesus, 'blind' in their unbelief and under judgement. Our social engineers who would like to take us back into the dark ages under a deceptive light should take note.



Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

SONIA WILSON of Park Lane, Broxbourne died recently. Her funeral will be held on **Monday 20th March at 2pm** at Woollensbrook Crematorium.
May she rest in peace.

EXPOSITION of the Blessed Sacrament will take place from 5-6pm on Tuesday due to the Confirmation meeting.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Sonia Wilson and Mary Fernandez and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including George Dyke, George Stubbs, John Doran, Kathleen Gemmell, Maureen Norman and David Greenall. *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 March and 23rd April**. 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** 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.

We have now booked a bigger coach, so there are 2 spaces available. If you have reserved a place, can you please pay the £22 to confirm your place.

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.

MAUNDY THURSDAY MASS: 12 volunteers, male or female, are needed to have their feet washed. If you can take part, please sign your name on the list at the back of the church. **During the Mass, there will also be a Rite of Re-commissioning and commissioning for the Ministers of Holy Communion, so if you are a Minister, please attend the Mass at 8pm.**

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION, READERS & ALTAR SERVERS: If you can assist at any of the services of Holy Week, please sign your name on the lists on the blue board in the porch.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES is from **21st to 28th July 2023**, led by HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Book now to avoid disappointment as places are limited at: . Individuals or groups intending to travel independently to join Westminster in Lourdes, by making their own travel and accommodation arrangement, must confirm this in writing to the Pilgrimage Office by 30th April 2023 as well as submit payment towards the Pilgrims' Levy at £35 per pilgrim.



NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION will be held on **Thursday 23rd March** in our church from

10am-4.30pm in support of Marie Curie. You can light a candle and remember your loved ones who have died and then have refreshments in the crypt from 10-11.30am and 3.30pm-4.30pm. There is also an opportunity to do crafts in the crypt.

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. Italian Stations will be at 4.30pm each Friday.

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 the porch.

LENT FAITH SHARING GROUP: 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. You don't need to attend all sessions.



PENITENTIAL SERVICE for the parish will be on **Tuesday 4th April at 7pm**.

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



HOLY WEEK – advanced notice of times:



Tuesday 4th April: CHRISM MASS at Westminster Cathedral at 12 noon.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 6th April

8.30am Exposition

8pm Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper

9.30pm–Midnight: praying at Altar of Repose.

GOOD FRIDAY: 7th April

9.45am Morning Prayer

c. 11am *Churches Together* Act of Witness – Meet at Clock Tower in town.

12-3pm Adoration before the Cross

3pm Celebration of the Lord’s Passion

7pm Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY: 8th April

9.45am Morning Prayer

9pm Mass of the Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY: 9.15am and 11.15am Mass

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/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 25th April** at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

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

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP: The next meeting for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wed 19th April 4.30pm** in the presbytery. If you need support and would like to join the group, please do contact the presbytery.

CAFOD: The amount collected for the Family Fast Day was £637.17. Thank you!

CRYPT: If you have a key to the crypt, can you please contact the presbytery.

ST AUGUSTINE’S UNDER 5’S will be holding a coffee morning in the crypt on **Friday 24th March** from 8.30am-11am. All are welcome.



HOMES FOR UKRAINE MATCHING SERVICE:

Caritas Social Action Network, a Catholic charity, are matching Ukrainian people displaced by the brutal war in their country with people in the Catholic community willing to host them in their home for six months. If you have room to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by war, then please email homesforukraine.org.uk or visit www.sjog-homesforukraine.uk.

CHURCH CLEANING: Pat Kavanagh, Sue Alvey and Val. 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 18th March St Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Dr 9.00am Exposition 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Assunta Mezzullo RIP		Page 164 in the Mass books 1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13 <i>David is anointed king of Israel.</i>	
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* For the Parish		Ps 22 — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.	
Sun 19th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass Dave Greenall RIP anniv 11.15am Mass Esther Lynch's intentions		2nd Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14 <i>Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.</i>	
Monday 20th March ST JOSEPH, Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Joleen & Margaret intentions 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		Gospel Accl. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!	
Tuesday 21st March 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Thanksgiving from the Nsonwah Family 5-6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		Gospel: John 9: 1-41 <i>The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.</i>	
Wednesday 22nd March 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Eric & Mollie Field RIP anniv followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR A)</p>	
Thursday 23rd March St Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass All who have died from cancer NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		1st Reading: Ezekiel 37: 12-14 2nd Reading: Romans 8: 8-11 Gospel: John 11: 1-45	
Friday 24th March (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Lloyd Grandison RIP 12.30pm Stations of the Cross 6pm 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.	
Sat 25th March THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD 9.00am Exposition 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Tommy, Mary and children		<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.	
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm* Mass Robert Cullen 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.	
Sun 26th March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass Brian Finlay RIP 11.15am Mass For the Parish		<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. Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday			
REGULAR EVENTS			
Tues 21st	1pm lunch club, crypt	Tues 21st	7pm Confirmation
Tues 21^s	2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Wed 22nd	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.*