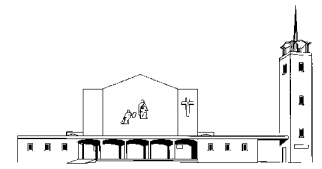




The Announcer



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

5TH MARCH 2023

Gospel: *Matthew 17: 1-9 His face shone like the sun.*

The Transfiguration, when Jesus was transfigured before his disciples, teaches us much about prayer and worship. True worship is birthed in prayer, as we draw aside into the privacy of our hearts to commune with heaven. Jesus had taken his three innermost disciples with him to a place where they could be alone with him. If we are to enter into a deeper dimension of prayerful worship then we will be led by Jesus into a more receptive locality of heart and mind. He led the disciples up a high mountain, traditionally identified as Mount Tabor. Worship always has something of an ascension within it. We can't see the summit and we don't rationalise about it, but we know that we are being drawn into a more fulfilling, deeper relationship. Nothing could have prepared the disciples for what they experienced, when in their presence Jesus' face *'shone as the sun and his clothes became as white as the light'*. What they saw, we ourselves will see only when we leave this mortal life. Being drawn into worship also illuminates the soul, though what the disciples saw was far greater than any illumination. Light radiated from Jesus' very body. His face shone like the sun. As they looked towards him, it must have been blinding. They must have turned away or shielded their eyes. They must temporarily have been plunged into darkness. The darkness caused by the brightness of light is not darkness conventionally seen or imagined.



Spiritually, the greatest Christian mystics explored its theme, reminding us that our relationship with God is sometimes couched in darkness. At times we may feel that he is absent, or that he has left us to fend for ourselves. This 'dark night of the soul' as St John of the Cross described it, is God's way of drawing us closer and enabling us to grow in faith. His poem *'Song of the Soul that is glad to know God by faith'* derives its energy from the repetition of the theme of night, as in its opening lines: *'How well I know that fountain's rushing flow, though it be night. Its deathless spring is hidden. Even so full well I guess from whence its sources flow, though it be night. Its origin (since it has none) none knows, but that all origin from it arose, although by night'*. The transfiguring light, emanating from Jesus' body, so glorious that it blinds, is the pre-existent light before the creation of the world. It is now made manifest in the flesh of the 'light of the world'. Speaking with Jesus are Moses and Elijah, the two main representatives of the Law and the Prophets. Jesus elsewhere will tell the disciples that he comes to fulfil both, and so suitably, Luke will tell us in his account of the transfiguration that Jesus converses with Moses and Elijah about the completion of his work in Jerusalem. The presence of those mortal from the past but alive to God (and visibly alive to the disciples) reminds us that the summit of our worship, the mass, is a celebration for the living and the 'dead'. Authentic worship transcends time and space, and breaches the veil between heaven and earth. So wonderful is it, that our instinct is to want to freeze it. Peter interjects, trying to capture it by building three shelters for Jesus and the prophets. Heaven's response is to invite Peter to a greater forgetfulness, to attune his spiritual hearing. The disciples are enveloped in a cloud of unknowing, yet glorious because instead of knowing by sight, they know now, audibly and spiritually. *'This is my Son, the Beloved...listen to him'*. All authentic worship draws us to Jesus, the Word proclaimed and the Word made flesh. The disciples fell on their faces, overcome at the awesome presence of God. May we do the same.
Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

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

SONIA WILSON of Park Lane, Broxbourne died recently. Details of her funeral will follow in due course. *May they rest in peace.*

'INSTRUCTIONS FOR MY FUNERAL MASS' leaflets are available beside the newsletters at the back of church, if you wish to complete one. Please hand the completed copy into the presbytery.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Sonia Wilson and Barbara Hoffman and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Veronica Perrotta, Providenza Esposito, Mary Banks, Francesco Cannatella, Ciriaco Di Chiara, Ernest Swarbrick, Agnes Piper, Iolanda Fattore, Salvatrice Castronovo, Rosa Vasile, Pietro Cracchiolo, Salvatore Morreale and William Phelan. *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 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.

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 now only 8 spaces left 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.

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.

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 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 was on **Friday 3rd March.** The envelopes will be collected this 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 14th March** 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.**

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>.



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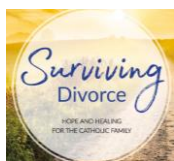
SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S will be holding a coffee morning in the crypt on **Friday 10th March from 8.30am-11am** to raise funds. All welcome.

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.

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL have nursery tours available. Please contact the school office on 01992 463549 or admin@staugustines.herts.sch.uk for further details.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS



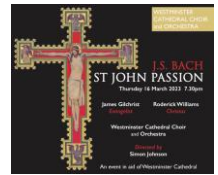
SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP: The next meeting for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wed 15th March at 4.30pm** in the presbytery. If you need support and would like to join the group, please do contact the presbytery.

BACON/SAUSAGE sandwiches and refreshments will be served in the crypt after the 9.15am & 11.15am Masses this weekend. Tea and cake will be served after the 6.30pm Mass. All are welcome.

200 CLUB WINNER for March is no. 69 Ellen Bates. Congratulations!

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.

CHOIR OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL will be performing Bach's St John Passion, at 7.30pm in the Cathedral on **Thursday 16th March**. Tickets are £45, but you can take advantage of a special offer of 50% off ticket prices by entering code SJP50 available at <https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/event/1F005D88A31F16CD?did=saint50john>.



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.

NATIONAL WEEKEND FOR MEN 14th-16th July at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. For more info and to book see www.harvesters.org.uk

CHURCH CLEANING: Elizabeth Nsonwah, Toni Iamarino, Penny Bengé & Antonia Di Piano. 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 4th March St Casimir 9.00am Exposition 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Luigi Cattini RIP	Page 155 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Genesis 12: 1-4 <i>The call of Abraham, father of the People of God.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* William Phelan RIP	Ps 32 — May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.
Sun 5th March SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass David Madsen & Salvatrice Castronovo RIP 11.15am Mass For the Parish	2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1: 8-10 <i>God calls and enlightens us.</i>
Monday 6th March 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Geneieve Bailey's intentions 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
Tuesday 7th March Ss Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Jo Smith RIP 5-6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9 <i>His face shone like the sun.</i>
Wednesday 8th March St John of God, Religious 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Patrick O'Malley RIP followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR A)</p> 1st Reading: Exodus 17: 3-7 2nd Reading: Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8 Gospel: John 4: 5-42
Thursday 9th March St Frances of Rome, Religious 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass Barbara Hoffman RIP NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	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.
Friday 10th March (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Isobel Camp's intentions 12.30pm Stations of the Cross 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Sat 11th March 9.00am Exposition 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Giulio Colla 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 Thomas and Maureen Murphy 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 12th March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass Ethna Mooney 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 7th 1pm lunch club, crypt	Tues 7th 7pm Confirmation, crypt
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 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.*