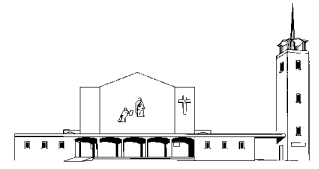




# The Announcer



## 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 (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**

**17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

Gospel: *Matthew 13: 44-52*

*He sells everything he owns and buys the field.*

Have you ever found treasure in a field? A few months-ago a metal detector in Warwickshire discovered a gold pendant which belonged either to Henry VIII or Katherine of Aragon, or someone closely associated with them. It displays their symbols (the rose of England and pomegranate of Spain), their initials entwined, and the word 'Tous..iors', a play on 'always or all yours', a sign of faithful love. Katherine would be true to those words. Henry was not, and his fateful actions are still being played out for us all today. Another remarkable discovery in recent months, concerns the annotations in a book of psalms and prayers translated by his sixth wife, Katherine Parr, which she gave to the king a few years before his death. Analysis has shown that they came from the king's hand. Under the 'Fourth Psalm', the king notes how sin can be the cause of his physical suffering and that the psalmist cries out for mercy. Alongside the 'Seventh Psalm' he marked the verse, 'O Lord God forsake me not, although I have done no good in thy sight'. In the 'Fifth Psalm' he highlights the words 'Give me a new heart, and a right spirit, and take away from me all wicked desires' and 'Wisdom doth not enter into a malicious soul, nor will abide in a body which is subject to sin'. Clearly the king was more than reflecting upon his actions. Did he repent? Only the Lord knows. In another place, at another time, another king, Solomon asks God, not for riches or the life of his enemies but for a discerning judgement. Alas like Henry VIII, Solomon would succumb to idolatry, not idolatry of self, but idolatry of false gods. Today's psalm hates 'false ways'. The psalmist tells us to rule our life according to God's precepts. Similar, our collect reminds us that an atheistic, secularised society has no future, for without God, 'nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy'. Without God we fixate on the immediate, the instant or the provisional, and disregard what eternally endures. In contrast, trusting in God for everything, enables us to live lives of fulfilment and assurance, even in the midst of apparent chaos or failure. In our epistle today, Paul reminds us that 'God cooperates with all those who love him, by turning everything to their good'. Everything to their good! All this takes place as God forms the likeness of his Son Jesus in those who love him. Sharing God's glory, through the process of justification and sanctification is all God's work, but it is more than a face lift and not without its cost. Values and priorities are brought into judgement, and crucial decisions have to be made. Jesus says that finding the kingdom of God is like finding treasure in a field or the pearl of great price. Whatever we have treasured up to that point loses its lustre and we have to possess what we have discovered. We easily miss the point of living and the gift of eternal life, if we close ourselves to the possibility that God reveals himself in the habitual and where we least expect to find him. He certainly remains hidden to us if we are always yearning for unfulfilled desires or feeling condemned to a life of diminishing returns. The Welsh priest RS Thomas puts it beautifully in a poem called *The Bright Field*, in which he fuses the two parables of today's gospel:

I have seen the sun break through to illuminate a small field  
for a while, and gone my way and forgotten it. But that was the  
pearl of great price, the one field that had treasure in it.  
I realise now that I must give all that I have to possess it. Life is not hurrying  
on to a receding future, nor hankering after an imagined past. It is the turning  
aside like Moses to the miracle of the lit bush, to a brightness  
that seemed as transitory as your youth once, but is the eternity that awaits you.  
Fr Julian



## PRAYER & LITURGY

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS** will be held on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm.**

**MASS INTENTIONS:** there are currently some spare *weekday* dates for intentions for you to request Mass to be offered. Mass can be offered not only for the deceased, but also for the intentions of the sick or for special intentions such as thanksgiving. An intention can be published as 'Private Intention' if you so wish.

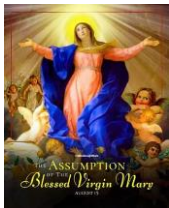


**PROVENDANCA ACCOMANDO** of Chadwick Care Home died recently. Her Requiem will be on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August at 12 noon.**

*May she rest in peace.*

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently including Provendanca Accomando, Noreen Caulfield and Gaetano Alfieri and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Enzo Alio, Carmela Ruggiero, Fergal Lawlor, Larry O'Neill, Mary Beary, Raymond Salter, Colomba Ferrazzano, Patrick Wyndham, Irene Teoli, Doreen Willis and Isabella and Stanley Abrahams. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

**THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** feast is on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August and is a Holy Day of Obligation.** Mass will be at 9.15am, 2pm and 8pm. Altar servers are needed for the Masses. If you can assist, please contact the presbytery.



**CHILDREN'S CHOIR:** Gabby Hanley will be running 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 **this Sunday and 6<sup>th</sup> August.** 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.



**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM** Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. We have the chance to go on pilgrimage to Walsingham with Cardinal Vincent and the Auxiliary Bishops. The theme of the Pilgrimage is 'Mary, Mother of the Home.' The theme is not dissimilar to the one for the Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year, focusing on Our Lady's call for a "Chapel to be built." In both senses, God is continually building up the People of God to journey with him on a pilgrimage of faith. The coach will leave the church at 8am, to get to Walsingham in



good time for 12 noon Mass. After lunch we walk the Holy Mile and conclude with Benediction at the old Priory shrine. Please note there will be two collections during the day: one during the Mass which goes towards the upkeep and development of the Walsingham Shrine and a retiring collection after Benediction which also goes towards the cost of the day. We have a 49-seater coach, with a toilet. To book a place on the coach, please fill in the slip at the bottom of the newsletter and give it in with the £29 (£24 coach + £5 pilgrims' levy) cost, either as cash or a cheque payable to 'St Augustine's Catholic Church,' to The Presbytery.

## 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:

<b>Account Name:</b>	<b>WRCDT 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 Felix Adiele 01279-973183.

## CATECHETICS

**'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 1<sup>st</sup> Aug at 7.30pm** in the crypt.

**BAPTISM COURSE:** The next course will be held on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 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.



**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024:**  
Application forms for the Confirmation programme



for young people in Year 9 or above, or going into Year 9 in September are now available to collect from the presbytery either by email or in person. Entry to the Confirmation programme depends on regular attendance at Mass. Please complete the form and post it into the presbytery together with a photo of the candidate. The programme will begin in early October and more details will follow in due course.

**SCHOOLS/UNDER 5'S**

**ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL** are looking to employ a Nursery class teacher. Please contact the Headteacher's PA on 01992 463549 for more info.

**ST CROSS SCHOOL** have two vacancies for a Midday Supervisor Assistant and an Afterschool Club Leader. If you are interested, please contact the school office on 1992467309 or visit the link: <https://www.stcross.herts.sch.uk/vacancies/>

**JUSTICE & PEACE**

**CAFOD:** The giant letters were sent off to CAFOD with a total of 233 signatures on them. These will be passed, along with other parishes across England and Wales, to the World Bank before their important meeting in Morocco, in October. The voice of the Catholic community is heard loud and clear by those with the power to make change happen.

**SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS**

**PARISH PICNIC:** We are holding a Parish picnic on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August** at 12.30pm in the presbytery garden and the band will be playing. Parishioners are asked to bring food to share with others, and it doesn't have to be finger food. Please do bring your own drink and glasses, but paper plates and plastic cutlery will be provided. There are now lists on the blue board at the back of church for you to fill out, so everyone can see what food is being brought to share, so we don't end up with too much of the same thing. If you would like to attend, can you please fill out the tear off slip and return it to the presbytery. **Raffle prizes are needed for the raffle, so if you can donate something, please do hand it in at the presbytery, by the 7<sup>th</sup> August. (only new items please.)** As we don't have many gazebos, if you would like to bring your own gazebo to put up on the day, please do so.



**SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP:** The next meeting for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> August 4.30pm** in the presbytery. If you need support and would like to join the group, please do contact the presbytery.



**BACON ROLLS** and refreshments will be served after the 9.15am Mass next Sunday in the crypt. All are welcome.

**TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB** has now finished and will resume again on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September**, as will the Tuesday afternoon club.

**DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES** can be viewed online <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs>.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Elizabeth Nsonwah, Tina Pegna and Sophie Lenguito. Thank you for your help.

**PILGRIMAGE DAY TO WALSINGHAM  
ON 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER**

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 £29.

**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](https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy).

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**PARISH PICNIC  
SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

Name: .....

Contact no: .....

Email address.....

How many people attending.....

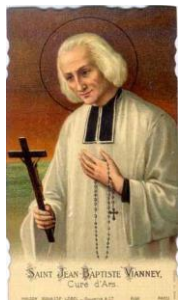
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**SAINT OF THE WEEK**

**4<sup>th</sup> August  
St John Vianney**

St John Vianney, Priest (Patron of priests) was born in Lyons, France in 1786. He was ordained in 1815 in Grenoble, and in 1818 was assigned to the parish of Ars, where he spent the rest of his life. He was best known for his steadfast care of souls, for his spirit of prayer and mortification and, above all, for his tireless dedication to the Sacrament of Penance. He spent most of his life in the confessional, drawing energy from his intimate and constant friendship with our Lord in the Eucharist. He died on August 4<sup>th</sup> 1859 and was canonised May 31<sup>st</sup> 1925



Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<p><b>Sat 29th July Ss Martha, Mary &amp; Lazarus</b>            9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i></p>	<p><b>Page 108 in the Mass books</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12  <i>You have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself.</i></p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass*            6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p>	<p><b>Ps 118 — Lord, how I love your law!</b></p>
<p><b>Sun 30th July 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>            9.15am Mass <i>Larry O'Neill RIP anniv</i>            11.15am Mass <i>Isabella &amp; Stanley Abrahams RIP</i></p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Romans 8: 28-30  <i>God intended us to become true images of his Son.</i></p>
<p><b>Mon 31<sup>st</sup> July St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest</b>            8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.15am Mass <i>Margaret Healey's intentions</i>            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>Gospel Accl.</b> Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!</p>
<p><b>Tues 1<sup>st</sup> August St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop &amp; Dr</b>            8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.15am Mass <i>Wendy Rafferty's intentions</i>            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 13: 44-52  <i>He sells everything he owns and buys the field.</i></p>
<p><b>Wed 2nd August St Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop</b>            8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.15am Mass <i>Giuseppe Distefano RIP</i> followed by coffee in the crypt  <b>12 noon Funeral Provendanca Accomando RIP</b>            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b>  <b>THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD (YEAR A)</b></p>
<p><b>Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> August</b>            7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            8am Mass <i>Holy Souls of deceased religious orders</i>            NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 2 Peter 1: 16-19  <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 17: 1-9</p>
<p><b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August St John Vianney, Priest</b>            (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)            11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction            12 noon Mass <i>Gwyn Davies RIP</i>            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            7pm Mass <i>Fergal Lawlor RIP anniv</i></p>	<p><b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b>            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>
<p><b>Sat 5<sup>th</sup> August The Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major</b>            9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            10am Mass <i>Gerald Cookson RIP anniv</i></p>	<p><b>ROSARY</b>            The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass*            6.30pm Mass <i>Michael Whyton RIP anniv</i></p> <p><b>Sun 6<sup>th</sup> August THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD</b>            9.15am Mass <i>Brieger O'Connor RIP</i>            11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p>	<p><b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b>            Any parishioner sick, frail, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.</p>
<p>* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p>	<p><b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b>            Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p>
<p><b>REGULAR EVENTS</b></p>	<p><b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust</b>  <b>Registered Charity No. 233699</b></p>

**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.*