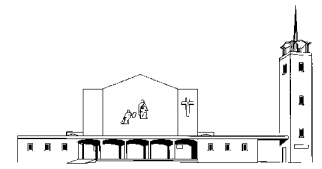




# The Announcer



## 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**

**20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023**

Gospel: *Matthew 15: 21-28*

*Woman, you have great faith.*

God desires that all peoples should be saved and come to know and love Him. His plan from eternity was that this should be through the sacrificial gift of his Son, born to a people that would prepare for his coming by entering into a special 'covenant' relationship with God in order to reveal his loving faithfulness to the world. The chosen people of the Old Testament were not chosen because they were superior to others. They were chosen because God chose them. Likewise, the chosen people of the New Testament are chosen to fulfil Jesus' mission to the rest of the world, not because we are worthier than others, but because God chose us:

*'You did not choose me I chose you'.* There can be no justification for feelings of superiority or self-pride, which can so easily lead to colonial and anti-Semitic tendencies. The calling of the Church 'the younger brother' does not invalidate the calling of 'the elder brother', as St John Paul II called the Jews. Though for the most part they did not welcome their Messiah, their rejection is only temporary, for, as St Paul reminds us today, God *'never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice'*. As with all people, there is always a way back in repentance now that Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, has come. In its inception the Church was Jewish. It was among his own native people, that Jesus gathered a nucleus of faithful followers to take his mission into the Gentile (non-Jewish) world *'to make disciples of all nations'*. Inevitably, then, during his own short earthly ministry of three years, his priority was to form that nucleus of Jewish disciples. Necessarily, much of his missionary endeavour was among the Jews. This is why Jesus says in the gospel today that *'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel'*. Today's gospel reading shows one of the occasions when Jesus encountered a non-Jew, a Canaanite woman, from the area of Syro-Phoenicia. Jesus initially appears unresponsive, uncharacteristically so, compared to other occasions when facing Gentile requests. But was his response that different? Jesus' response is always tailored to the individual circumstance. The woman might have been accustomed, like many neighbouring Gentiles, to call Jews dogs. There was little love lost between the ancient Canaanite people and the Jews, just as today, between the Palestinian people and the Jews. Jesus would know and appears to return the unsavoury compliment. Yet when Jesus says it is not right to throw the children's bread and give it to the dogs, he doesn't use the usual word for dog but one more akin to a household pet. This is a compliment. The Gentiles may not yet be seated at the banquet but they are in the house, and not outside. We have the audio but not the video. As the banter deepens, there is probably a smile on Jesus' face. He was, we can be assured, testing her faith. Was she prepared to acknowledge, in spite of her baggage of prejudice, God's prior providential calling of the Jews among the peoples of the earth? Are we? Her response is quite remarkable. Having called Jesus Son of David, she now recognises Jesus' divine calling (*'Lord'*) as well as the call of the chosen people of God. It is only an act of mercy which allows her and others to benefit from the blessing of Abraham. We fellow Gentiles who have come *'to serve him and love his name'* (as Isaiah prophesied we would in today's reading) should learn from her humility. Now that we also have become sons and daughters of the household of faith, how might we be more generous with those who hunger to sit at the table and yearn for the reality of life? Would Jesus recognise in us that quality which he saw in her, and which is often lacking in his disciples, the virtue of *'great faith'*?



Fr Julian

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH** Vinnie Udeh, Sebastian De Freitas, Stanley Harris and Finley Byrne who will be baptised this weekend.

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently including Gaetano Alfieri and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Christopher Ambury, Maria Cannatella, Giovanni D'Ambrosio, Carolina Cuffaro, Maria Insalaco, Vincenzo Genuardi, Orsola Scibelli, Girolamo Re, Stanley Abrahams and Antonietta Randazzo. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

Leading up to St Augustine's Day, **FORTY HOURS' DEVOTION** will be held in church from **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August**. The sign-up sheets to offer to pray for some of the 40 hours of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament are now available on the blue board at the back of church. **Please do fill in your name for the half hour slots.**



**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 **10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> September**.

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA** is on Monday **23<sup>rd</sup>-Fri 27<sup>th</sup> October**. If you are interested in going, please do speak to Fr Julian as soon as possible.

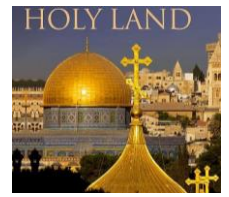


**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM** Saturday **23<sup>rd</sup> September**.

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. **The cut off date is the 9<sup>th</sup> September, so if you would like to go, please contact the presbytery to let us know.**

**ECUMENICAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND** will take place from **11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024** and will be led by the Diocese of Westminster with the Diocese of London. There are limited places available, and the deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, so please book promptly to ensure your place. A payment of £600 deposit is required on booking. For further info & enquires, please visit <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/news/ecumenicalpilgrimage2024/>



## 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:** The next meeting will be in September. Further details to follow.

**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. The programme will begin in early October and more details will follow in due course. **Please note the register will start on the 2nd/3rd September and will need to be signed each weekend by parents and candidates.**



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** A letter has now been emailed to parents regarding the 2023/2024 course. If you have not received the email, please do contact the presbytery.

**JUSTICE & PEACE**

CAFOD are looking for volunteers to visit schools to lead assemblies and workshops in the next academic year. Full training & support will be given. For more info contact Chris Driscoll on 07776493162 or email [westminsterschools@cafod.org.uk](mailto:westminsterschools@cafod.org.uk).



**SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS**



**PARISH PICNIC** was a huge success last Sunday. Thank you to everyone who attended and brought food to share. Thank you to the band for playing and special thanks to Michelle & Tony Stone, Dave Gillett & Guillaume Maurice for all your help with setting up on Saturday morning. Thank you also to Mary Briggs for the wonderful flowers and thank you to the Brownies for decorating the vases. Thank you to everyone who helped tidy away after the picnic – there are too many to mention! The raffle raised £241 and this will be divided between two charities - Water Aid and HCPT.

**TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB** will resume again on **Tuesday 5th September.**

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



**ST. AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL OFFICE VACANCY:** To apply for this position, please follow the link: [https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view/school-office-manager-and-headteacher-pa\\_86622.htm](https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view/school-office-manager-and-headteacher-pa_86622.htm) to access further details and a school application form. Visits and an informal chat with the Headteacher are warmly welcomed. Please email [headspa@staugustines.herts.sch.uk](mailto:headspa@staugustines.herts.sch.uk) and/or [admin@staugustines.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@staugustines.herts.sch.uk) to arrange a visit.

**MARY'S MEALS** would like to invite you to collect all your foreign currency\* There are envelopes at the back of church for you to take home and put all your foreign coins and notes into. **Please return the envelope with the money to the presbytery. You can still donate your money until the end of August.** Currently the charity feeds over 2.4 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education. Because of low costs they can do this for as little as £19.15 per child per year! \*They will also take UK coins/notes that aren't legal tender.



**Volunteers Needed!**



**VOLUNTEERING:** We are very grateful to Gabby and Sarah when they play the organ for us on a regular basis. Sometimes they cannot be with us. If you can play the **organ or keyboard** which you could offer up in worship, please let us know. If you would like to help in the **parish garden**, such as weeding and cutting the large lawn please let us know.

**WARM SPACES:** The Borough of Broxbourne would like to pass on their gratitude and appreciation to all the volunteers who gave their time to Warm Spaces and helped the vulnerable residents in our area. A grant has been agreed to deliver warm spaces again this winter.



**FIRST AID COURSE:** We are hoping to run First Aid Course in the crypt which will be held over 2 evenings from 6-9pm. The course is for basic first aid and is £40 per person. If you are interested in attending, please contact the presbytery.

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

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

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<p><b>PILGRIMAGE DAY TO WALSINGHAM ON 23RD SEPTEMBER</b></p>
<p>Name: .....</p>
<p>Contact no.: .....</p>
<p>Email address.....</p>
<p>Next-of-kin name &amp; contact number: .....</p>
<p>Please return to the presbytery in an envelope with your name on together with the £29.</p>
<p><b>PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY</b> 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 <a href="https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy">rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy</a>.</p>

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<p><b>Sat 19<sup>th</sup> August St John Eudes</b>            9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            10am Mass <i>Private intention</i></p>	<p><b>Page 117 in the Mass books</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7  <i>I will bring foreigners to my holy mountain.</i></p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass*            6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p>	<p><b>Ps 66 — Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.</b></p>
<p><b>Sun 20<sup>th</sup> August 20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>            9.15am Mass <i>Ian Walters intentions</i>            11.15am Mass <i>Orsola Scibelli RIP</i></p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32  <i>With Israel, God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.</i></p>
<p><b>Mon 21<sup>st</sup> August St Pius X, Pope</b>            8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.15am Mass <i>Linda Harmer RIP</i>            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>Gospel Accl.</b> Alleluia, alleluia! The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!</p>
<p><b>Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> August The Queenship of the B Virgin Mary</b>            8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.15am Mass <i>Private intention</i>            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 15: 21-28  <i>Woman, you have great faith.</i></p>
<p><b>Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> August St Rose of Lima, Virgin</b>            8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.15am Mass <i>Thanksgiving from Nsonwah Family</i> followed by coffee in the crypt            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b>  <b>21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 22: 19-23  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Romans 11: 33-36  <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 16: 13-20</p>
<p><b>Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> August ST BARTHOLOMEW, Apostle</b>            7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            8am Mass <i>Thomas Delaney's intentions</i>            NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</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>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August St Louis</b>            (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)            11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction            12 noon Mass <i>Matthew Breen RIP anniv</i>            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>ROSARY</b>            The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<p><b>Sat 26<sup>th</sup> August Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God</b>            9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            10am Mass <i>Gaetano Alfieri RIP</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>4.00pm Italian Mass*            6.30pm Mass <i>Margaret Murphy RIP</i></p> <p><b>Sun 27<sup>th</sup> August 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>            9.15am Mass <i>Bill Pollard RIP</i>            11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i></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>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust</b>  <b>Registered Charity No. 233699</b></p>
<p>* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p>	
<p><b>REGULAR EVENTS</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.*