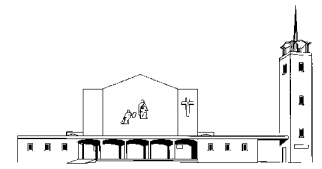




# The Announcer



## 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**

**THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD**

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

Gospel: *Matthew 17: 1-9*

*His face shone like the sun.*

The Feast of the Transfiguration coincides with the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6th. Its inventor, Oppenheimer was initially more taken up with the brilliance of its light than the devastating effect it would have. He quoted from the *Bhagavad Gita*, 'If the radiance of a thousand suns were to burn at once into the sky, that would be like the splendour of the mighty one'. Neither Oppenheimer, nor the Atomic Era invented nuclear light. They merely discovered what was already in the mind of God.



In the beginning God said '*let there be light*'. Light is central to today's Feast of the Transfiguration. Its liturgy invites us, Pope Benedict said, '*to open the eyes of our hearts to the mystery of God's light, present throughout salvation history*'. The gospel says that Jesus' '*face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light*'. One sun, not a thousand, was enough to convey the splendour of The Mighty One, and even its glory would soon be veiled. It is a characteristic of a nuclear explosion that its brightness temporarily subsides before the heated luminous air expands outwards. On Tabor the shekinah cloud of God's glory, which Matthew tells us was bright in appearance, temporarily hid Jesus and covered the three disciples with its shadow. The awesome presence of the light and the cloud bring the disciples to their knees. Their vision is one of incredible glory, but its lasting manifestation is for the future not now. For the time being, they, like us, must treasure its intimations until we see Jesus' glory for what it truly is. Meanwhile, we have God's word to obey. '*This is my Son, the Beloved; upon whom my favour rests. Listen to him*'. The irony of the dropping of the bomb on the same day as the Transfiguration may not have occurred to Oppenheimer. As he contemplated the enormity of what he and others had unleashed, he turned again to the words of the *Bhagavad Gita*, 'Now I am become Death, the destroyer of the world'. Regardless of whether he saw himself or the bomb as the destroyer, the epithet underlines the terrible destructive potential of mankind. With its invention, the world had entered a more dangerous place. In contrast to the Hindu scriptures, the Word of God does not describe death as the destroyer. There is another to whom it gives that distinction, and his power does not extend to the destruction of the world. Nor does holy scripture say that death itself leads to the destruction of the world. In contrast to the *Gita* where death is seen as divine, among all the divine '*I am*' titles of Jesus, death is not one of them. Jesus proclaimed himself as '*the Resurrection and the Life*'. After the Transfiguration he told his disciples not to tell anyone what they had seen until after he had risen from the dead. Only in the light of Jesus' victory over death would the disciples understand what they had seen on Tabor. They could take comfort also in the appearance of Elijah and Moses, very much alive, though not in this life. The Transfiguration shows that God's intention for humanity is life not death, though this will only be achieved through Our Lord's willing and sacrificial death at Jerusalem...the death to end all deaths. Because of the total, universal implications of that death, there are many who believe that there is no justification for the proliferation and use of weapons which could lead to almost total, universal destruction of life. Pope Francis spoke for many when he said on a visit to Hiroshima in 2019: '*the use of atomic energy for purposes of war is today, more than ever, a crime not only against the dignity of human beings but against any possible future for our common home.... Future generations will rise to condemn our failure if we spoke of peace but did not act to bring it about among the peoples on the earth. How can we speak of peace even as we build terrifying new weapons of war?*'

Fr Julian

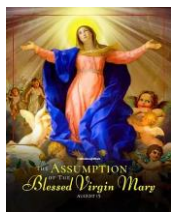
## PRAYER & LITURGY

**GAETANO ALFIERI** of Beltona Gardens died recently. His Requiem will be on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August at 1pm** with Fr Alberto Vico.

*May he rest in peace.*

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently including Noreen Caulfield and Gaetano Alfieri and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Sr Maria, William McGettigan, Ellen Pearson, Gwyn Davies, Giuseppe Di Stefano, Gerald Cookson, Giuseppina Vaccaro, Connie King, Antonino Cicchirillo, Lindsey Redshaw, Giuseppe Re, Michael Whyton and Brieghe O'Connor. *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.

**FORTY HOURS' DEVOTION** will be held in church from **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August-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 will be available soon.

**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.** 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/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 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 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. 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.



**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.

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**SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS**

**PARISH PICNIC:** We are holding a Parish picnic on **Sunday 13th 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 7th 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.** Volunteers are needed to help put out tables and chairs. If you can help, please contact the presbytery.



Volunteers are needed to help put out tables and chairs. If you can help, please contact the presbytery.

**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.



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

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

**MISSIO RED BOXES:** If you have a Red Box, can you please return it to the presbytery so that it can be emptied. You can still donate to Missio through the box in the wall at the back of church by the newspapers.



**200 CLUB WINNER** for August is no. 42 Debbie Cummings. Congratulations!

**MARY'S MEALS** would like to invite you to collect all your foreign currency\* no matter how old or obscure. 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 and put it in the box in church by the newspapers. Currently the charity feeds over 2.4

million young children one good meal every day in their place of education – by giving Mary's Meals your foreign coins and notes you can help feed the next hungry child. Mary's Meals feeds in over 18 countries. 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.



**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.

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

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Pat Kavanagh, Sue Alvey and Val. Thank you for your help.

**PILGRIMAGE DAY TO WALSINGHAM ON 23RD 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 13TH AUGUST**

Name: .....

Contact no: .....

Email address.....

How many people attending.....

**PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY**

Your personal details will be held on file until after the picnic. You can read the full privacy policy on [rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy](https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy).

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<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 <b>Gerald Cookson RIP anniv</b></p>	<p><b>Page 173 in the Mass books</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14  <i>His robe was white as snow.</i></p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass*            6.30pm Mass <b>Michael Whyton RIP anniv</b></p>	<p><b>Ps 96 — The Lord is king, most high above all the earth.</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 2 Peter 1: 16-19  <i>We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven.</i></p>
<p><b>Sun 6<sup>th</sup> August THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD</b>            9.15am Mass <b>Briega O'Connor RIP</b>            11.15am Mass <b>For the Parish</b></p>	<p><b>Gospel Accl.</b> Alleluia, alleluia! This is my Son, the Beloved, he enjoys my favour; listen to him. Alleluia!</p>
<p><b>Mon 7<sup>th</sup> August St Cajetan</b>            8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.15am Mass <b>Des O'Malley RIP</b>            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 17: 1-9  <i>His face shone like the sun.</i></p>
<p><b>Tues 8<sup>th</sup> August St Dominic, Priest</b>            8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.15am Mass <b>Mary O'Connor</b>            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b>  <b>19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>  <b>(YEAR A)</b></p>
<p><b>Wed 9<sup>th</sup> August ST TERESA, BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS</b>            8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.15am Mass <b>Rory Deegan RIP</b> followed by coffee in the crypt            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Kings 19: 9, 11-13  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Romans 9: 1-5  <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 14: 22-33</p>
<p><b>Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> August ST LAWRENCE, Deacon &amp; Martyr</b>            7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            8am Mass <b>Eddie Ogbodu's intentions</b>            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 11<sup>th</sup> August St Clare, Virgin</b>            (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)            11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction            12 noon Mass <b>Andrew Joner's intention</b>            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 12<sup>th</sup> August St Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious</b>            9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            10am Mass <b>Edward Brien RIP</b></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 <b>For the Parish</b></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>Sun 13<sup>th</sup> August 19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>            9.15am Mass <b>Mooney Family intentions</b>            11.15am Mass <b>Brian Moore RIP anniv</b></p>	<p><b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust</b>  <b>Registered Charity No. 233699</b></p>
<p>* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p>	
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	

**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.*