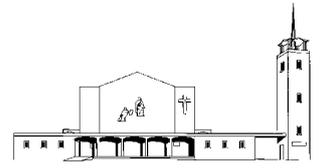




The Announcer



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 (Chaplain to Knanaya community)
Safeguarding parish rep: Kathryn Hall – hoddesdong@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Italian safeguarding rep: Rossetta Tona – italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

YEAR A

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Gospel: *Matthew 18: 15-20*

If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.

If you have visited St Albans Abbey you may have noticed that it is built with thousands of small red bricks. These are re-cycled bricks from the ruins of Verulamium, baked by the Romans over two thousand years ago. Old as they are these bricks are not as old as the Pantheon in Rome. The Pantheon, built in about 50 BC, was formerly a roman temple, and is now a Christian basilica dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Its dome, at the centre of which is a thirty-foot diameter oculus (an opening to the sky) is one of the wonders of engineering. It remains the largest unreinforced concrete dome in the world, still standing in a building in constant use, and two thousand years after its construction. Recently we have heard a lot about a different kind of concrete... Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete, otherwise known as RAAC. It's



concrete with holes in it, a bit like an aero bar. Many buildings, it transpires, are at structural risk because they contain this material. We learn now that it has a life expectancy of about thirty years before it crumbles, somewhat different from roman bricks or cement. Perhaps the structural weakness of RAAC can be compared to a society which does not pay attention to its design faults. Are we building our lives without reference, even to common sense and natural law? Various amalgams mixed together, with a weak infrastructure, eventually give way. What is our individualistic society built upon? Are our values so short-term and short-sighted, that they will ultimately bring about the collapse of what we would rather endure? Like RAAC, do they lack the strength and vitality to sustain the enterprise? Our collect today prays that we all might have true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. What could be more important than these two qualities, so basic to human aspirations... that we should know freedom and the life of heaven? Graciously they are available to all, but crucially they are in Christ's gift, not man, pledged to those who trust in Him. They are a far cry from the freedom and inheritance which modern man claims for himself. The freedom espoused today is not a freedom which liberates but one which enslaves, because it is bound to the self, rather than God; my interest rather than the interest of God's creation or of my fellow man. We think that we are building an everlasting inheritance by edging God out and preferring short term expediency over the long process of nurture and hard graft of love. The love of Christ is sacrificial and merciful. *'God so loved the world that he gave'*... Consequently, we have a debt St Paul reminds us but it is *'a debt of mutual love'*. Loving others fulfils our obligations. The commandments are important because they enshrine the love that we should have for God and for one another. Today St Paul invites us to work out the special love that Christ gives us in society at large. Love, St Paul says, is the one thing that cannot hurt our neighbour. So today let's allow Christ's reconciling love to touch ourselves and those around us, for as our gospel acclaims, *'God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled'*. May God's love break the concrete of our hearts, and aerate them with the fresh air of his Spirit. Let's take heed of what the psalmist says to us today. *O that you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts. Harden instead the cement that truly lasts.*
Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

MASS on Tuesday will be at 9.15am with St Cross School. All are welcome to attend.

GINO LECCACORVI of Ashview Nursing Home died recently. His Requiem will be on Wednesday **13th September at 11.30am**

RITA BORG of Rainsborough Court died recently. Her Requiem will be on **Monday 18th September at 11am.**

VINCENZO GIARDINA of Fairfield Road died recently. His Requiem will be on **Monday 25th September at 11am.** *May they rest in peace.*

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Martin Rooney, Vincenzo Giardina, Gino Leccacorvi and Rita Borg and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Millie Corbet, Jean Weaver, Francis Jones, Concetta Morreale, Bernardo D'Agosta, Philip Scully, Mary Starling, Antonio Cerrar, Alfonso Gibilaro, Elizabeth Linane, Stanley Abrahams, Mary Enright Kelly and Pauline Callanan. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*



HOLY FAMILY SISTERS OF THE NEEDY is a religious institute founded in Nigeria in 1983 by late Rev Fr Denis Mary Joseph Ononuju (CSSP). The religious institute has different missions in several parts

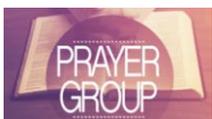
of the world. In their mission, they dispense God's love among the needy and the marginalised in the society. The Sisters will be making an appeal on the weekend of the **16th/17th September.**

ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING will take place on **Saturday 30th September at 11.30am** for all servers and anyone who is in year 3 and above who would like to become a server. If you are interested, 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 on the **24th September.**

HELPERS FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY at the 9.15am Mass are needed. **If you can help, please do contact the presbytery immediately.** The next children's liturgy will take place on the **17th September and 1st October.** Without more volunteers, children's liturgy may not be able to continue.



PRAYER GROUP will be held in the crypt on the first Thursday of

each month at 7.30pm, starting on the **5th October.** All are welcome!

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM Saturday 23rd 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.'

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. **There are now only 4 spaces left** on the coach. To book a place, 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 YEAR OF THE COUNCIL**' is the autumn faith-sharing booklets from the diocese. It focuses on the Four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. The resource comprises of five sessions, each containing a reflection on Sacred Scripture, on the Constitutions, and on our own experience of being Catholic today. If you would like a booklet for £4, please contact the presbytery by the **14th September,** so an order can be made.

FINANCE

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2022 are now available to view on the notice board on the back of the church, by the newspapers. During 2022, we did not cover our daily running costs and had an average deficit of £663 per week. Even though our total offertory has gone up by 24.4% over the last 3 years, the average weekly donation per person was £3.67. If you are in a position to give more, it would make a real difference. Just 32% of our total offertory and donations were gift aided. If everyone had gift-aided their donations, we would have received an extra £26,036 this year! If you pay tax, please do sign up for Gift Aid so that we can add 25% to everything that you give, at no cost to yourself. You will find gift aid forms by the newsletters.



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 Felix Adiele 01279-973183.
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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 12th September at 7.30pm** in the crypt.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024: The first meeting will be on **Monday 25th September from 7-8pm** in the crypt. An email has now been sent to all parents who have applied. If you have not received the email, please contact the presbytery.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023: The next meeting will be on the **17th September**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2024: If your child is in year 2 and is interested in making their First Holy Communion next year, please contact the presbytery to register your interest.

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Saturday 14th October at 11.30am** in the church. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.



SCHOOLS/UNDER 5'S

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S QUIZ NIGHT will be held in the crypt on **Saturday 14th October, 7.30pm** for 8pm start. £5 per head. Please contact the Under

5's on 460614 to book your table. Please bring your own drink and nibbles with you.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP: The next meeting for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wed 27th Sept 4.30pm** in the presbytery. If you need support and would like to join the group, please do contact the presbytery.

Separated & Divorced Support Group

200 CLUB WINNER for September is number 46 Alan Casbard. Congratulations!

GRAND ORGAN FESTIVAL: A series of recitals will be given on the Grand Organ at Westminster Cathedral on the **6th, 13th, 20th & 27th September at 7.30pm**. Tickets are £15 and are available on the door.

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

CHURCH CLEANING: Michele & Pelle De Luca, Sophie Lenguito & Alex Thomson. Thank you for your help.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 14th SEPTEMBER



This feast was observed in Rome before the end of the seventh century. It commemorates the recovery of the Holy Cross, which had been placed on Mt. Calvary by St. Helena and preserved in Jerusalem, but then had fallen into the hands of Chosroes, King of the Persians. The precious relic was recovered and returned to Jerusalem by Emperor Heraclius in 629. This day is also called the Exaltation of the Cross, Elevation of the Cross & Holy Cross Day. Our Mother Church sings of the triumph of the Cross, the instrument of our redemption. To follow Christ we must take up His cross, follow Him and become obedient until death, even if it means death on the cross.

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PILGRIMAGE DAY TO WALSINGHAM ON 23RD SEPTEMBER

Name:

Contact no.:

Email address.....

Next-of-kin name & contact number:

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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.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 9th September St Peter Claver, Priest 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	Page 125 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Ezekiel 33: 7-9 <i>If you do not speak to the wicked man, I will hold you responsible for his death.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Elizabeth Linane RIP</i>	Ps 94 — O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.
Sun 10th September 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Stanley Abrahams RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	2nd Reading: Romans 13: 8-10 <i>Love is the answer to every one of the commandments.</i>
Mon 11th September 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>In Thanksgiving</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20 <i>If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.</i>
Tues 12th September Most Holy Name of Mary 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Mary Starling RIP</i> with St Cross School 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)</p>
Wed 13th September St John Chrysostom, Bishop & Dr 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Pauline Callanan RIP 1st anniv</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 11.30am Funeral Gino Leccacorvi RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27: 30-28:7 2nd Reading: Romans 14: 7-9 Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35
Thurs 14th September EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Kathleen Robb's intentions</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.45 – 9am & 10.45 – 11am or ask Fr Julian at any other time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
Friday 15th September Our Lady of Sorrows (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Megan McDonnell RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Any parishioner sick, frail, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.</p>
Sat 16th Sept Ss Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Justin Ighade & Tony Ogbodu's intentions</i> 4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>John Fallon RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
Sun 17th September 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Stanley & Isabella Abrahams RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 12th 1pm Lunch club, crypt Tues 12th 2.30pm Tuesday club, crypt	Tues 12th 7.30pm RCIA, crypt Wed 13th 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*