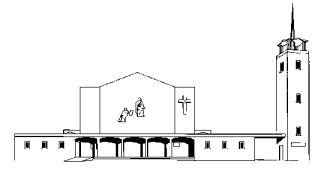




The Announcer



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

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

17TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Gospel: *Matthew 18: 21-35*

I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Today gospel's is about mercy, and about the sin of not being merciful when we have received mercy. Sometimes people have a distorted impression of the faith because they hear more about judgement than about mercy. Sometimes our actions and words are not as gracious as they might be, and we appear unloving or inconsiderate. Perhaps we do not exude as much mercy as we profess. Today's psalm reminds us that the 'Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy'. Jesus tells us to be like our Father in heaven so we should aim to be the same. As those who seek to be his disciples, we are obliged to be faithful to his words and try to imitate what he did. Jesus is merciful, but he also certainly judged. Think of his



hard-hitting words against the cold-hearted religious leaders. The saint on whose day I am writing this, St John Chrysostom, was persecuted and exiled for attacking the political and religious leaders of his day for not living up to what they professed. Can we be true to Jesus if we do not also by association, judge? God is merciful and God is judge. Clearly there is a role for the Church to judge. Were there not Judges in Israel's past and are the twelve disciples not to judge the twelve tribes of Israel? Judgement in this juridical sense is ultimately about caring for the flock. The shepherd has a staff as well as a crook. When the Church stands up for what is its deposit of faith and tradition, it is less judging than saving. Standing up for the truth is not being judgemental, even if our sentimental age, considers it to be so. When Jesus judges, he judges in a way which no one else could judge, as his judgement is perfect. He judges without any fear of judgement himself, as should the Church when she is judging in his name. This is different when we, as private individuals, judge others which we should never do. Jesus tell us not to judge at all, for the one who judges will be judged themselves. Is this not our experience? When we point the finger, three fingers point back at ourselves do they not? Perhaps we have felt the torture of conscience of the unforgiving servant who was handed over to the torturers till he should make amends. Are we judging because we have been hurt, bearing anger or resentment, seeking vengeance, and even harbouring hatred? This is the judgement of unforgiveness. Today, Jesus condemns the unforgiveness which the human heart harbours against the sins of others, oblivious of our own sin and without loving the person who is the sinner. Contrast to this the divine mercy which we have received from God. As the psalmist proclaims today, 'How precious is your mercy, O God!' This divine mercy is always present but Jesus supremely reveals it through the sacrificial gift of himself so that we can be free of our sins and guilt. The unforgiving servant was forgiven so much.....an astronomical amount, the salary of a country. This scenario is ridiculous, deliberately so, as to underline the immensity of the master's mercy. No one person could ever pay back that amount of debt, but the master released him from it. The least the master expected was for the servant to show the same measure of mercy to others that he had received himself. Do we know the measure of God's mercy shown to us? If not, then we are unlikely to show mercy and compassion to others. Are we under the close confinement of judgement or liberated to love? How about opening the prison door?

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Sebastian De Freitas, Tobias Burden and Gracie Bernstone who will be baptised this weekend.

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.**

MICHAEL KENNY of Willowthorpe Nursing Home died recently. His Requiem will be on **Wednesday 27th September at 11am.** *May they rest in peace.*

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Natasha Noonan, Martin Rooney, Vincenzo Giardina, Michael Kenny and Rita Borg and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Vincenzo Tuzzeo, John Fallon, Providenza Cicchirillo, Isabel Abrahams, Pat Cookson, Genoveffa Milazzo, Serena Barone and Ryan Walsh. *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 this weekend**

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 still 6 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. **Please note there will still be 6.30pm Mass as usual on the 23rd September.**

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.

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 26th 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 2023/2024: The next meeting for children in year 3 will be on the **17th September**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: If your child is in year 2 and is interested in making their First Holy Communion in 2025, 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.



NURSERY PLACES - ST AUGUSTINE’S SCHOOL are welcoming applications to their Nursery starting September 2023. This process is for children who were born between **1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020**. Interested Parents & Carers are welcome to visit the school. For further info, please contact admin@staugustines@herts.sch.uk

ST IGNATIUS COLLEGE will be holding their Open Evening on **Tuesday 19th September** from 5.30-8pm. To book tickets, please visit their website.

ST MARY’S SECONDARY SCHOOL are holding their Open Evening on **27th September**. There will be 3 speeches by the Headteacher at 6,7 & 8pm. Booking is essential. Please visit their website to book.

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.



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.

**SAINT OF THE WEEK
SS ANDREW KIM TAE-GON
& COMPANIONS
(Korean Martyrs)
20TH SEPTEMBER**



St Andrew Kim Taegon was the first Korean-born Catholic priest. In the late 18th century, the faith began to take root slowly in Korea and was introduced by laypeople. It was not until 1836 that Korea saw its first consecrated missionaries arrive, only to find out that the people there were already practicing Catholicism. During the Joseon Dynasty, Christianity, was suppressed and many Christians were persecuted and executed. Catholics had to covertly practice their faith. Kim was one of several thousand Christians who were executed during this time. In 1846, at the age of 25, he was tortured and beheaded near Seoul. On May 6th 1984 Pope John Paul II canonized Kim along with 103 other Korean Martyrs.

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**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.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<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></p>	<p>Page 128 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27: 30-28:7 <i>Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.</i></p> <p>Ps 102 — The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.</p> <p>2nd Reading: Romans 14: 7-9 <i>Alive or dead we belong to the Lord.</i></p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>John Fallon RIP</i></p>	
<p>Sun 17th September 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Stanley Abrahams & Isabella Abrahams RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p>	<p>Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening; you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35 <i>I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy-seven times.</i></p>
<p>Mon 18th September 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Paul O'Neill's intentions</i> 11am Funeral Rita Borg RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 55: 6-9 2nd Reading: Philippians 1: 20-24, 27 Gospel: Matthew 20: 1-16</p>
<p>Tues 19th September St Januarius, Bishop & Martyr 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>John's intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	
<p>Wed 20th September St Andrew Kim Tae-gôn, Priest, Paul Chông Ha-sang and Companions 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Heidi Baraz-Tapponi RIP 1st anniv</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Thurs 21st September ST MATTHEW, Apostle & Evangelist 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>John Lumley RIP anniv</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<p>Friday 22nd September (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Thanksgiving from Nsonwah Family</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK 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>Sat 23rd Sept St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Hilda Antonia Boning intentions</i></p>	<p>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Benefactors of the church</i></p>	<p>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
<p>Sun 24th September 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Bill Anthony RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p>	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
<p>Tues 19th 1pm Lunch club, crypt Tues 19th 2.30pm Tuesday club, crypt</p>	<p>Wed 20th 6pm Brownies, crypt</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*