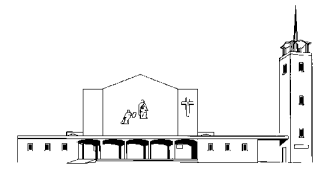




The Announcer



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

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

12TH NOVEMBER 2023

Gospel: *Matthew 25: 1-13*

The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.

Recently I went on a priests' retreat, organised by the well-established World-Wide Marriage Encounter (WWME) programme, which since its founding in 1960s has helped millions of couples to unlock the power of their relationships. It exists in over 90 countries. The retreat allowed priests to see Marriage Encounter from the inside, and to show them, through relationship formation, how they might develop their own personal interactions, not least with the wider church family. In fact, from its inception, the programme always has always had a priest alongside the presenting couple as one of the facilitators. Central to the vision of WWME is the shared journeying into wholeness. Many couples are ill equipped to meet the problems they encounter and have never explored what causes differences between them, and how these can be negotiated and bridged. When our closest relationships are taken for granted, caused or compounded by the complexities of everyday life, unconscious habits can get ingrained. These often prevent the necessary intimacy needed for relationships to grow and mature. Even when a marriage is going smoothly, there is always room to make it work better. Just as our homes and gadgets need constant maintenance and attention to ward against difficulties in the future, so too do our closest relationships. Marriage Encounter draws from the experience of many couples. It explores the crucial areas of different personality styles; how we appreciate our differences; how we can develop our facility of listening and how we can communicate more intimately. Difficult topics are addressed, not skirted, and couples are resourced for the ongoing journey beyond the programme. Though open to all, it is an unashamedly catholic course as its teaching is informed by a catholic sacramental understanding of marriage. Marriage is seen as God's intention and blessing not just for the couples but for the Church and world as well. Communication is central to being engaged, married, and indeed all relationship. One wonders from the parable today whether the bride ever shared her choice of bridesmaids with the groom, as it is apparent from the way that the bridegroom responds that he didn't know some of them! Of course, the reason why some of the bridesmaids were barred from the wedding hall was less for some skulduggery on the part of the bride, than that they were ill-equipped. It was the duty of the bridesmaids to await the return of the bridegroom. Five of them had the resources for the long wait, five did not. They ran out of oil. In the end it was not their status as bridesmaids which was important but whether or not they were able to fulfil what was expected of them and had the necessary weight to do so. Jesus presents it as a picture of all of us who bear his name. The label we carry is less important than whether or not we are credible witnesses of his grace and mercy. Are we a sponsor, godparent, baptised, married? Are we authentic? Sacramental initiation is not enough. We need to be evangelised as well as sacramentalised. Do we have the desire to deepen our relationship with Christ? Are we regularly communicating and sharing in a depth of communion that will sustain our relationship? It's at the heart of all authentic marriage. Couples on the WWME programme have to ask the same question. There can be few words as chilling in scripture, or in any relationship, as 'I do not know you'. As I look back at the retreat, the overriding impression is that here is a programme centred on developing understanding, communication and love. These are values desperately needed in our world today. How many wars have started without them? As Remembrance Day looms, let us remember all those couples whose relationships were shattered by war, and those who lost their young lives before they were able to enjoy the blessings of married life.



Fr Julian.

PRAYER & LITURGY



WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Sienna Campbell and Archie and Harriet Lacey who will be baptised this weekend.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will be from 5-6pm on Monday evening.

MARIA CALVINO of Bevil Court died recently. Her funeral will be on **Wednesday 15th November** at 1pm. *May they rest in peace.*

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Maria Calvino and Salvatore Pappalardo and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Peter Fitch, Maud Divers, Cono Miragliotta, Carmela Santaniello, Mathilde Krajewski and Carlo Gaudiano. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

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**. The children will be singing at the Carol Service on the **17th December at 6pm** and also **on Christmas Eve Mass at 4pm**. They will also be performing at a Charity Carol Concert on the 2nd Dec 3pm at Christ Church, Ware. There will therefore be rehearsal dates for the children on: Sat 11th Nov, 11-12 noon in the crypt, Sun 19th Nov 5pm in church, Sun 26th Nov after 9.15am Mass, Friday 1st Dec 6pm Christ Church Ware, 2nd Dec 2pm, Christ Church Ware. If you have any queries, please do contact Gabby on 07875 221543.



HELPERS FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY at the 9.15am Mass are needed. **If you can help, please do contact the presbytery immediately.** Without more volunteers, children's liturgy may not be able to continue.



NOVEMBER LIST OF THE DECEASED: Lists for you to write the names of your departed relatives and friends are beside the newsletters. Please return the lists to the presbytery, along with any Mass offering. During November, the lists will be kept on the altar and at least one Mass a day will be offered for the Holy Souls. Therefore, few other Mass intentions can be taken for November.



POPE'S INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER is for the Pope. We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER GROUP will be held in the crypt on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm, starting on **Thursday 7th December**. All are welcome!

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' COLLECTION:

This weekend we will take up the annual collection to support the sick and retired priests of the diocese. Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in schools, hospitals, hospices and parishes. Last year, the Diocese of Westminster provided care to 82 priests, at a cost of £850,000. Caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness, is a fundamental part of the mission of our diocese. Please note there aren't enough envelopes, so you can also make your donation by scanning the QR code or donating online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.



FINANCE

PARISH FINANCE: Thank you to all who continue to give regularly by standing order, or by envelopes. 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.

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 14th November at 7.30pm** in the crypt.



CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024: The next meeting will be on **Monday 13th November from 7-8pm** in the crypt.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023/2024: The next meeting for children in year 3 will be on the **19th November**.



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.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL
If you would like to donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal, please visit cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030. This will support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need.



CAFOD WORLD GIFTS are a fun and meaningful way to give gifts and make a difference to some of the poorest communities around the world. Catalogues are now available at the back of the church.



SCHOOLS/UNDER 5'S

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL has prospective Open Day Tours for New Reception and Nursery Parents on **Wednesday 15th November @2pm** Wednesday 22nd November @9.15am Monday 27th November @9:15am Please book a visit or call 463549. <https://staugustines.herts.sch.uk/herts/primary/staugustines/site/pages/sign-upform>

ST CROSS SCHOOL have dates to view the school for prospective parents for Reception Intake 2024. Please call the office on 01992 467309 to book your preferred date.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS



ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE WARE has invited us to visit on **Monday 13th November**, a few days before St Edmund's day. We will leave the church car park at 2.20pm and will be going by car.

If you would like to come, please let the presbytery know.

URGENT APPEAL FOR WINTER CLOTHING: Herts Welcomes Refugees Charity urgently need clean winter clothes in good condition. For men and women and children aged 3-14 years old; coats, jumpers, hoodies, joggers and long-sleeved tops. Please bring the clothes to the Delta Hotel (was the Marriott, Cheshunt) and leave them at reception.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE MATCHING SERVICE: Caritas Social Action Network, in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller



Services, an international Catholic charity with many services for the vulnerable in the UK and Ireland, are matching Ukrainian people displaced by the brutal war with people in the Catholic community willing to host them in their homes for six months. If you have room in your home and in your heart to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by war, then please visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> for more info. Prayer cards are available beside the newsletters.

CAROL SINGERS are needed for **Saturday 25th November from 2.15-3pm** by the clock tower for the Hoddesdon Loves Christmas event. Please wear some Christmas gear/decorations if possible.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: The total raised was £432.88. Thank you to all who donated.

ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR has been produced by Caritas, Westminster. The calendar encourages adults and children alike to support others this Christmas. You can download the calendar



<https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/food-security-918.php#AGC> and you will find the foodbank box at the back of church.

SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP: The next meeting for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wed 22nd November 4.30pm** in the presbytery.

PARISH MAGAZINE: We hope the have the magazine ready for publication very soon.

WARE CHORAL SOCIETY will be performing A Starry Night on **Sat 2nd Dec 7.30pm** at The Drill Hall, Ware. Tickets are £15 and can be purchased from Theresa Casbard 07742022223 or Anne Byrne 467097.

BROXBOURNE CATENIANS are organising a Christmas Gala night on **Mon 4th Dec** at Brickendon Golf Club. Tickets £42 per person. Please contact stevebritto@yahoo.com to book places.



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

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

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 11th November St Martin of Tours, Bishop 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>	Page 152 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Wisdom 6: 12-16 <i>Wisdom is found by those who look for her.</i> Ps 62 — For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God. 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 <i>God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus.</i> Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13 <i>The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Antonio Sidoli RIP</i>	Ps 62 — For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God. 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 <i>God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus.</i> Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13 <i>The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.</i>
Sun 12th November 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am Requiem Mass Remembrance Sunday Holy Souls	Ps 62 — For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God. 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 <i>God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus.</i> Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13 <i>The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.</i>
Mon 13th November 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 5-6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Ps 62 — For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God. 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 <i>God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus.</i> Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13 <i>The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.</i>
Tues 14th November 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Ps 62 — For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God. 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 <i>God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus.</i> Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13 <i>The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.</i>
Wed 15th November St Albert the Great, Bishop & Dr 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 1pm Funeral Maria Calvino RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Ps 62 — For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God. 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 <i>God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus.</i> Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13 <i>The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.</i>
Thurs 16th Nov St Edmund of Abingdon, Bishop 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Ps 62 — For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God. 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 <i>God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus.</i> Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13 <i>The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.</i>
Friday 17th November St Hilda, Abbess (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Ps 62 — For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God. 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 <i>God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus.</i> Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13 <i>The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.</i>
Sat 18th November The Dedication of Basilicas of Ss Peter & Paul, Apostles 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>	Ps 62 — For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God. 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 <i>God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus.</i> Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13 <i>The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i> Sun 19th November 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Theresa Delaney's intentions</i>	Ps 62 — For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God. 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 <i>God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus.</i> Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13 <i>The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.</i>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	Ps 62 — For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God. 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 <i>God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus.</i> Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13 <i>The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.</i>
REGULAR EVENTS	
Mon 13th 7pm Confirmation, crypt Tues 14th 1pm Lunch club, crypt Tues 14th 2.30pm Tuesday club, crypt	Tues 14th 7.30pm RCIA, crypt Wed 15th 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*