



The Announcer



St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS Tel: 01992-440986

Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies

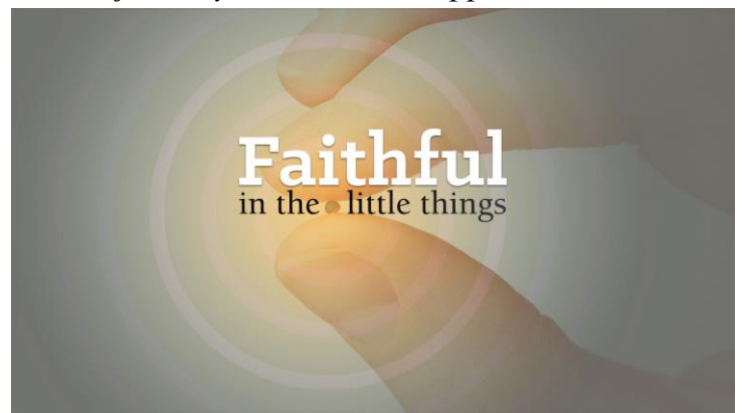
E-mail: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk Web-site: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon>
FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon" Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 9am-4pm)
Also in residence: Fr Mathews Valiyaputhenpura Joy (Chaplain to Knanaya community)
Safeguarding parish rep: Kathryn Hall – hoddesdong@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Italian safeguarding rep: Rossetta Tona – italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

YR A 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 19TH NOVEMBER 2023

Gospel: *Matthew 25: 14-30*

You have been faithful in small things; come and join in your master's happiness.

We are created for God. If we place our hopes in other human beings or created things we will never find contentment, because we were never created for them. There is deep down within us a well which can only be filled by God. Try as much as we like to fill it with other things, in the end we will remain unfulfilled, and dissatisfied. Serving God, seeking to love him, entering into relationship with him, these bring satisfaction. That doesn't mean that we despise created things or cut ourselves off from normal human relationships, but it does mean that we welcome them, not to possess, but to graciously receive, as gifts through which we can bring glory to God. All that God has made is good. In the words of this morning's collect, He is *'the author of all that is good'*. He knows what is in our best interest. The collect invites us to pray for *'the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy'*. Whatever our vocation in life, its landscape belongs to God, and we can meet him there. The place we inhabit becomes holy ground if we remember that it is not just in the 'holy' things that we are called to worship. We turn out for mass out of love for Jesus who asks us to do so *'in remembrance of him'*. But as the proper preface in the mass continually reminds us, *'it is truly right and just, our duty and salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father most holy'*. *Always and everywhere?* That word *'thanks'* has the same root as the word eucharist. Our daily work becomes an eucharistic offering in as much as we give God thanks through it, wherever that may be. *'Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise you'*, shouts George Herbert. As God is our creator, he is the source of all creative impulses and ingenuity. He knows our work better than ourselves. If we make it an offering to him, we should expect to be blessed. The prayer over the offerings today, asks that *'what we offer in the sight of your Majesty may obtain for us the grace of being devoted to you and gain the prize of everlasting happiness'*. The words are specifically referring to the bread and the wine about to be consecrated, but it is placed within the context of our daily offering of the fruit of the earth and the labour of our hands. The psalmist today says, *'O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper.'* It is an aspect of God's graciousness and humility that He calls us to work with him in his ongoing work of creativity. In today's parable of the talents, the master enables his workers to respond freely and creatively to his invitation to carry on his work. Not only does he entrust his property to them, he gives them capital to further his property portfolio, proportionate to their respective abilities. He is equally pleased by his two servants who made more than what he gave them. We might expect him to be more pleased with the one who made more investments than the other. Not at all. Both receive the reply, *'Well done, good and faithful servant, you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater'*. In relative terms what the master has asked of his servants may be insignificant (he calls it *'small things'*) yet their willing response had consequences beyond their imagination. As a result, they were able to join their master in his happiness. Jesus wants us to ponder, how much more happiness awaits those who invest in the things of God. Who would be foolish enough to ignore God's gracious gifts, bury them in the ground and reject divine investment...the only investment guaranteed to survive and increase.



Fr Julian.

PRAYER & LITURGY

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Salvatore Pappalardo and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Margaret Higgins, Assunta Porto, Marie Laydon, Benedetto Cicchirillo, Bert Zwager, Owen Parsons, Maisie & Maddy Morrissey, Richard Dundon and Pietro Di Leto. *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 on the 26th Nov & 10th December. 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 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. Children's Liturgy will be held on the **3rd and 17th December**.



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!

ADVENT SUMMIT: This Advent all young people in the diocese are invited to join Westminster Youth Ministry on **Saturday 2nd December from 2pm to 5pm**. This afternoon of prayer and adoration will be themed around 'the dwelling place'



with speakers including Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Emmanuelle McFarlane-Barrow. Confessions will be available throughout. The event will take place at Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Queensway. For more information see the attached poster or email youth@rcdow.org.uk if you are interested in bringing a group. You can sign up at <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/advent-summit-2/>

ST ELIZABETH'S, Much Hadham will be holding a Reflections Service on **Monday 27th November** 4.30-6pm. To make personal candle or written dedications, please email pauline.meaney@stelizabeths.org.uk. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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 28th November at 7.30pm** in the crypt.



CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024: The next meeting will be on **Monday 27th 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 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 22nd November @9.15am** Monday 27th November @9:15am Please 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



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.

MARY'S MEALS would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity in response to our Foreign Currency initiative. It raised a terrific £482.21 which means Mary's Meals will be able to feed 25 children one good meal every school day for a whole year because of your support. Please continue to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. God bless you all.



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.



THE SANTA MARTA GROUP was established in 2014 by Pope Francis to combat human trafficking and modern slavery. SMG is now delivering 'Awareness and Guidance for Communities' to encourage local action and to prevent human

trafficking and modern slavery taking place in our midst. **On Thursday 30th November** there is an information meeting in the parish hall of Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew Catholic Church, 16, Nightingale Road, Hitchin SG5 1QS, from 7pm - 9pm. Kevin Hyland, the UK's first Independent anti-slavery Commissioner and currently chief advisor to the Santa Marta Group will lead the meeting. All are welcome.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' COLLECTION raised £665.43. Thank you to everyone 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.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: We are seeking to develop our ability to help those of us who have undergone bereavement. If you would like to be involved, please contact the parish office.

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.

UNWANTED CLOTHES: Please do not leave any unwanted clothes at the back of church. Please take them to one of the charity shops in town. Thank you.



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

CHURCH CLEANING: Elizabeth Nsonwah, Tina Pegna & Sophie Lenguito. Thank you for your help.

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



NO CASH? You can make your offering here by scanning the QR Code with your smartphone. Alternatively, there is a contactless device at the left-hand exit door of the church. If you are a Tax

Payer, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<p>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></p>	<p>Page 155 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31 <i>A perfect wife – who can find her?</i></p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p>	<p>Ps 127 — O blessed are those who fear the Lord.</p> <p>2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6 <i>Let not the Day of the Lord overtake you like a thief.</i></p>
<p>Sun 19th November 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Theresa Delaney's intentions</i></p>	<p>Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life. Alleluia!</p>
<p>Mon 20th November 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30 <i>You have been faithful in small things; come and join in your master's happiness.</i></p>
<p>Tues 21st Nov The Presentation of the B Virgin Mary 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, King of the Universe (YEAR A)</p>
<p>Wed 22nd November St Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>1st Reading: Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28 Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46</p>
<p>Thurs 23rd Nov St Columbanus 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> NO 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>Friday 24th November St Andrew Dông-Lac, Priest (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</p>	<p>ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<p>Sat 25th November St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i></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>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p> <p>Sun 26th November OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, King of the Universe 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Sr Leonard Azzopardi's 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>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
<p>Tues 21st 1pm Lunch club, crypt Tues 21st 2.30pm Tuesday club, crypt</p>	<p>Wed 22nd 4.30pm Support Group, presb Wed 22nd 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*