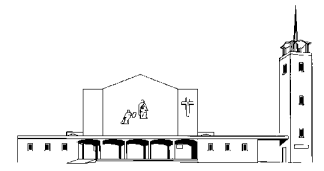




The Announcer



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

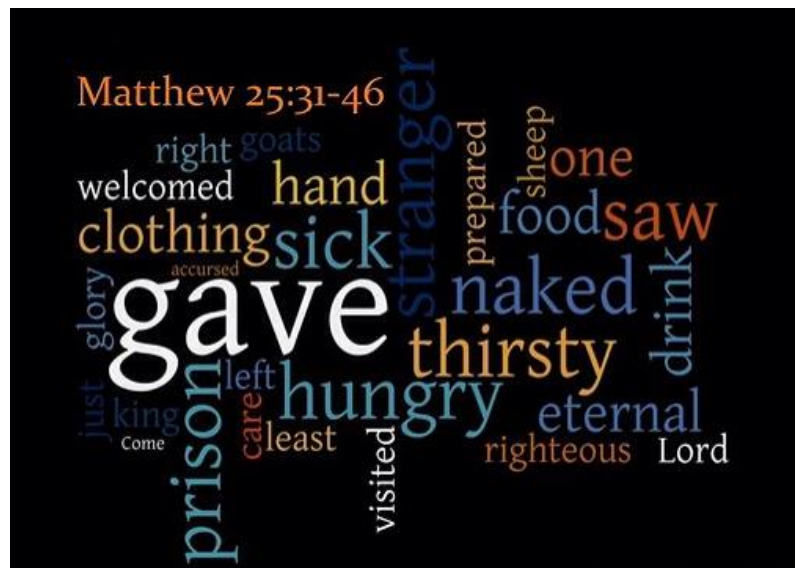
CHRIST THE UNIVERSAL KING

26TH NOVEMBER 2023

Gospel: *Matthew 25: 31-46*

He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.

Human history is littered with examples of counterfeit kingdoms of God, the result of many failed human experiments and ideologies. The true kingdom of God comes from heaven not from man, and its vision has always been an inspiration. Yet the tide of secularism has eroded the kingdom values which previously undergirded so called 'Christendom'. This momentum will increase in end-times, as St Paul tells us today: *'After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death'*. If sovereignty, authority and power are not sourced in God they are at odds with heaven. Human beings, like the governing principles of the world, are at variance with God. There is within each and every one of us a battle for supremacy. Who holds sway? Who is sovereign? Who has power over us? Who really has authority in our lives? Christians are not immune from this struggle. We are inevitably compromised by living within the world and we have to negotiate how best to be good citizens. However, our ultimate allegiance is not the state but elsewhere, as our entrance antiphon from the Apocalypse proclaims: *'How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever'*. Today we acknowledge Christ as the universal and cosmic King. He is the object and fount of all worship and service. Our collect prays that *'the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service'*. What Jesus says today radically challenges our notion both of service and sovereignty. He invests service with a royalty which the world denies it. At the same time, he shows that true kingship is an identification with those who have not. He presents us with the demands of six of the seven corporeal acts of mercy. Feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, comforting the sick, and visiting the imprisoned. (Burying the dead, highlighted in the book of Tobit, was added to form the seventh corporeal act during the Middle Ages). The peoples of the world-the nations- will be judged, Jesus says, according to how they have treated him in *'the least of his brothers'* by carrying out these corporeal acts. Even when on mission, the way in which the disciples were welcomed, had invited judgement. Though we be disciples, necessarily this judgment falls on us as well. What of our own acts of corporeal mercy? Have we perceived our fellow brothers and sisters in need? Nor must we limit the gospel by seeking to help those only like ourselves. Doesn't Jesus identify himself with the whole of humanity? Isn't this what his incarnation, sacrificial life and death, is all about? If neighbourliness is defined by showing grace and mercy, how much more brotherhood? Those praised in the parable for inadvertently meeting the needs of the disciples, simply saw the need and met it. Let's pray that as we carry out our own corporeal acts of mercy we are not too scrupulous and sparing. If we are, then how are we any different from the 'nations' who rejected the gospel of grace and mercy?



Fr Julian.

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Isla and Mia Haughey who will be baptised this weekend.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will take place from 5-6pm on Monday.



FIRST FRIDAY MASS will take place on Friday 1st December at 7pm.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Catherine Mancey, Mett Curtis, Giuseppe Maniscalco, Vincenza Cusumano, Eileen Smith, Desmond Castle, Calogero Tagliarini, John Donovan, Anne Fagan, Marty Rooney, Keith Collins, Vincenzina D'Ambrosio, Janet Denton, Antonio Terranova, Pietro Ricotta and Rosario Lo Monaco. *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 & 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 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.



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ADVENT

RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS: Our Parish Penitential Services will be on Monday 18th December at 11.30am and 7.30pm.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE will be held on Sunday 17th December at 6pm with adult and children choirs. Adult and young readers are needed, so if you can assist, please do sign the list on the blue board at the back of church.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: There will be a children's Nativity Mass at 4pm on Christmas Eve and there will also be Mass at Midnight on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day, Mass will be at 9.15am and 11.15am.

REPOSITORY now has Advent calendars, Christmas cards and Christmas decorations for sale. Please do pop in to take a look.

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

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.



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. A letter has now been emailed to parents with the dates for next year. If you have not received the letter, please contact the presbytery.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023/2024: The next meeting for children in year 3 will be on the 3rd December.

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 9th December 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.

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 Monday 27th November @9:15am Please visit or <https://staugustines.herts.sch.uk/herts/primary/staugustines/site/pages/sign-upform>

ST CROSS SCHOOL is looking for an Afterschool Club Leader from January to July. Monday to Thursday 3pm - 6pm. Training will be provided. If interested, please contact the school - 01992 467 309



ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S - a Registered Charity. The Under 5s is a friendly, busy and thriving early years setting. As a charity trustees are needed to help to continue to provide a valuable service for our parish and the community. If you are interested in helping and would like to find out more, please call the Under 5s on 01992 460614.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

FESTIVE GET TOGETHER will be held on **Saturday 2nd December after the 6.30pm Mass** in the crypt with festive refreshments. On **Sunday 3rd December** breakfast will be served after the 9.15am and 11.15am Mass. All are welcome!



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.

TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB & WARM SPACES will not take place next **Tuesday, 28th November**.

SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP: The next meeting date for those undergoing separation or divorce is to be confirmed.



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.

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: Pat Kavanagh, Sue Alvey & Val. 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

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2022 are now available to view on the insert in the newsletter. 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 or you can click on the link above.



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 25th November St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i></p>	<p>Page 158 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17 <i>As for you, my sheep, I will judge between sheep and sheep.</i></p> <p>Ps 22 — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.</p> <p>2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28 <i>He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.</i></p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p>	<p>Ps 22 — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.</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>2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28 <i>He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.</i></p>
<p>Mon 27th November 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 5-6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!</p>
<p>Tues 28th Nov 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: 31-46 <i>He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.</i></p>
<p>Wed 29th November 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 style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64: 1, 3-8 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Gospel: Mark 13: 33-37</p>
<p>Thurs 30th Nov ST ANDREW, Apostle, Patron of Scotland 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">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 1st December (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Pius Ogbodu RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7pm Mass <i>Domenico, Maria & Giovanni Rubino RIP anniv</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> <p>The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<p>Sat 2nd December Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Margaret Griffin's intentions</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> <p>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>James Pearce RIP</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</p> <p>Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p>
<p>Sun 3rd December FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>Erich Colina & decd members of O'Brian family</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
<p>Mon 27th 7pm Confirmation, crypt Tues 28th NO 1pm Lunch club, crypt Tues 28th NO 2.30pm Tuesday club, crypt</p>	<p>Tues 28th 7.30pm RCIA, crypt Wed 29th 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*