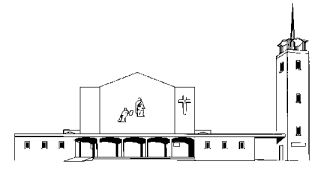




The Announcer



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

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5TH NOVEMBER 2023

Gospel: *Matthew 23: 1-12*

They do not practise what they preach.

During the last week we celebrated the Feast of All Saints. Our call is upward and our homeland is not here, but heaven. Shortly after we celebrated All Souls, the feast of the faithful departed who are destined for the heaven of the saints. We do not find the word purgatory in the New Testament, but a process of refinement or purgation for souls is clearly alluded to. While the Church teaches that prayers validly may be offered for the faithful departed in purgatory, it says that there is no point in praying for souls in hell. Jesus makes a clear contrast between heaven and hell. At our death we are assigned to either destination according to our response to him in this life, and whatever light we have received from his truth. If we acknowledge Christ's saving work in our lives and bring ourselves into obedience to his will, we will avoid hell. The choice is ours. If we are wilfully disobeying God, living a life of unrepentance, and rejecting God's gracious invitation for communion, then we are in a very perilous state. The question the prophet Malachi asks today should resonate with those who withdraw from fellowship, *'Why then do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?'* How foolish to spend one's life investing in something that will not bring a return, only to forget the eternal investment that Christ calls us to. Repent now before it is too late! Choose life not death. Is our life, life enhancing or life destroying? The religious leaders of Jesus' day, who wanted him dead, were not faithful exponents of God's life-giving grace. They oppressed rather than set free, and sought their security in public opinion rather than God. Jesus attacked them for not practicing what they preached. What a timely message for those in the pulpit, but also for all of us who are called to be living sermons as faithful followers of Christ. We are called to self-sacrificial love. In our second reading today, Paul likens his own love for his flock as a mother's sacrificial love for her children, and reveals that at the heart of communion is the gift of self. *'We felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well'*. Such self-emptying (kenosis) is at the heart of Jesus' gospel today. *'The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted'*. In her Magnificat, Mary proclaims that *'God has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts...and exalted the humble and meek'*. Recently, thirteen members of the parish went on pilgrimage to Fatima. There the three little *pastorinhos*, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco received messages first from an angel and then from Our Lady herself, summoning the world to prayer and repentance. Over the years, their obedience has helped to mature the faith of millions and continues to determine the fate of nations. Their life of unadulterated simplicity and innocence made them ready receptacles for heavenly wisdom. Their humility shamed the mighty who sought to silence them. In this respect they were no different from many of the canonised in our calendar, seen in their day as trouble makers, often rejected and persecuted. For those called to be saints, the Via Sacra is always the Way of the Cross. Glory in the Church comes by walking it, not by espousing worldly ways. *'Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted'*. As the prophet Zechariah told Zerubbabel, God entrusts his divine authority to men to be exercised *'not by might, nor by power but by my Spirit'*.

Fr Julian



PRAYER & LITURGY



WE PRAY for our departed relatives and friends from the past year: Providencie Accomando, Gaetano Alfieri, Calogero Bonomo, Rita Borg, Ann Brien, Edward Brien, Clare Broadbent, Maria Calvino, Margaret Delaney, Patricia Dempsey, Stefano Diesi, Thomas Dunne, Ronald Elliott, Carlo Ferraro,

Vincenzo Giardina, Maria Gonzalez, Barbara Hoffman, Michael Kenny, Giuseppina Lanza, Iginio Leccacorvi, Mary Nolan, Angela Oranye, Maurice O'Sullivan, Pietro Perzia, Giuseppe Pizzo, Wendy Pyper, Luciano Ricotta, Vincenzo Silenti, Vincenzo Vasile, Keith Walters and Sonia Wilson. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.

HIS EXCELLENCY Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, the Papal Nuncio will be present at the Italian mass this weekend.

RONALD ELLIOTT of Richardson Crescent died recently. His funeral will be on **Wednesday 8th November at 12 noon.**

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 Ronald Elliott and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including George Buhagiar, Quintino Mazziotta, Vincent Byrne, Antonino Cuffaro, Luigia Ereddia, Peter Dredge, Benedetto Provenzano, Anne Perkins, Vera Brown, Giuseppe Rubino and Vincenzo Imbrogino. *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 **12th November**. 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.

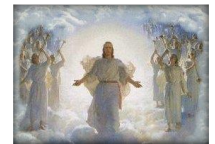


HELPERS FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY at the 9.15am Mass are needed. **If you can help, please do contact the presbytery immediately.** Without more volunteers, children's liturgy may not be able to continue.



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.

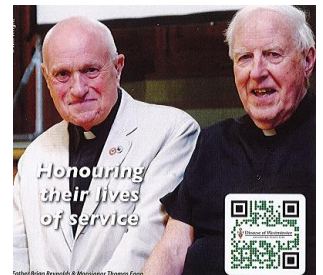
NOVEMBER PRAYERS AT CEMETERY: Fr Julian will lead the annual visit to Woollensbrook Cemetery on **Saturday 11th November at 11.30am.**



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: Next 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. **Envelopes are attached to the newsletter and will be collected next weekend.** Please note there aren't enough envelopes, so you can also make your donation by scanning the QR code or donate 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 pray for our sick parishioners & friends: Ian Witham & Frances Kearney.

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 **5th 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

JUSTICE & PEACE representative is needed for our parish. If you are interested, please do speak to Fr Julian.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN (SPUC) write to say that Abortion providers are again ramping up their attempts to decriminalise abortion ... The Abortion providers, '... are using the case of women who are being prosecuted for illegal late-term abortions to make their case. There are now several other cases before the courts ... what all these cases have in common is that they have happened since abortion giants like BPAS started sending women abortion drugs in the post, without proper checks! SPUC have produced a postcard that makes it easy for people to send a message - campaign calling on the Health Secretary to end this deadly policy. At the back of church are the postcards for you to sign, together with a box to post them in. All these will be collected up and sent off - return of postcards by **30th November 2023**.

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 6th November @9.15am**, Wednesday 15th November @2pm Wednesday 22nd November @9.15am Monday 27th November @9:15am Please use this link to 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.

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 200 CLUB winner for November is 74 Annabelle O'Bryan. Congratulations!

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS



ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE WARE has invited us to visit on **Monday 13th November** in the afternoon (time to be confirmed.) 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.

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

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 stevebriotto@yahoo.com to book places.

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.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 4th November St Charles Borromeo, Bishop 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>	Page 149 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Malachi 1: 14-2: 2, 8-10 <i>You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	Ps 130 — Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.
Sun 5th November 31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Vincent Byrne RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>	2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2: 7-9, 13 <i>We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well.</i>
Mon 6th November 8.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening; you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!
Tues 7th November St Willibrord, Bishop 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel: Matthew 23: 1-12 <i>They do not practise what they preach.</i>
Wed 8th November 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Holy Souls followed by coffee in the crypt 12 noon Funeral Ronald Elliott RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)</p> 1st Reading: Wisdom 6: 12-16 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13
Thurs 9th Nov DEDICATION OF LATERAN BASILICA 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.45 – 9am & 10.45 – 11am or ask Fr Julian at any other time.
Friday 10th November St Leo the Great, Pope & Dr (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 style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Sat 11th November St Martin of Tours, Bishop 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> Any parishioner sick, frail, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Antonio Sidoli RIP</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	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</p> Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date. Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 7th 1pm Lunch club, crypt	Tues 7th 2.30pm Tuesday club, crypt Wed 8th 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*