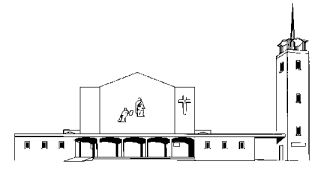




The Announcer



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 B

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

14TH JANUARY 2024

Gospel: *John 1: 35-42*

Come and see.

Today is the second Sunday in Ordinary Time so called, although it happens also to be the second Sunday after Christmas. The crib figures are still out. The three wise men have not yet returned to their package holiday in the sacristy. These star gazers continually prompt us to look upwards into the night skies and to ponder the glory of the universe. Possibly they never conceived of the idea of interplanetary travel. Traversing the deserts was enough for them. Even a few generations back, people would have been disbelieving to hear of journeys to the moon and back. Now, five decades



after the Apollo landings, we might soon have Artemis landings. When I was growing up I was fascinated by the night sky, spurred on by the sensation of the first moon landings. However, one of my teachers invited me to look more closely through the telescope. She shared how her elderly father had greeted the news of the Apollo expedition...man has been sent to the moon, but what kind of man are we sending there? You don't need me to tell you that at the start of this new year, humanity is in a bit of a mess. We are all heading for a rough ride ahead if we fail to resolve the fundamental problem of our alienation from God and from one another, regardless of the new year resolutions we keep or break. As Jeremiah reminds us *'the human heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick'*. Our human arterial disease means that ascendancy often ends up in descendancy. Where 'progress' has been hailed, so often, one giant step for mankind turns out to be three steps backward, and as we have learnt to our universal cost, one giant disaster for the rest of creation. Is it not because we have lost perspective of our true place in the created order of things, lost any notion of what really makes us human, lost any reverence for God and his desire for us to live in relationship with him? In his gospel prologue, St John the Evangelist doesn't talk of a journey from earth to the moon, but a journey from heaven into humanity. This journey is the greatest travel narrative, and deepest love romance. It is the story of how Christ was conceived and born as one of us, so that through him, we would be married to heaven and live the life of eternity. Believing Jesus...(repenting of our sins and accepting his truth)... and welcoming him into our lives alone resolves our fundamental existential problem. In Jesus, we are no longer cut off from God and from one another, for we are reconciled through his sacrificial death and empowered to live the life of heaven on earth: *'But to all who did accept him, he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock, or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself'*. St John tells us that Jesus, was already in the cosmos into which he was coming, and even more than that, that he is the very Creator of the entire cosmos itself. *'He was coming into the cosmos. He was in the cosmos that had its being through him, and the cosmos did not know him'*. The cosmos did not know its Creator! The shocking truth of our Christian faith is that our Creator can be known personally not just in theory or as a first principle. The good news has always been *'Come and See'*, as Jesus said in today's gospel to those who were drawing closer. *'Come and see'* at the start of this new year. Be drawn, like the first disciples into the love of Jesus. Know the pull of his cosmic love. Open our eyes to His universe. He will never disappoint. Everything else will.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will not take place on **Wednesday evening**.

MAUREEN HARRIS formerly of St Catherine's Care Home died recently. Her funeral will be on **Thursday 18th January at 3pm**.

JOHN GRIFFIN of White Stubbs Lane died recently. His funeral will be on **Wednesday 31st January at 11.30am**.
May they rest in peace.

CRIB APPEAL: Our Crib offerings are donated to the Catholic Children's Society. The Society is helping local families in crisis who are struggling to put food on the table, keep warm and provide a safe home for their children. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCS website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including John Griffin, Onofrio Maniscalco and Maureen Harris and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Giovannina Minichiello, Phyllis Lawlor, Antonio Riccardi, Biagio Cicchirillo, Kitty O'Rourke, Ian Laydon, Paddy Brien, Baby William O'Bryan, Vincenzo Papa, Pietro Dileto and Calogero Bonomo. *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. The children choir will resume on **Sunday 4th February at the 4pm Mass and 11th February at the 9.15am Mass**.

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 take place at the 9.15am Mass on the **21st January, 4th & 18th February**.



PRAYER GROUP will be held in the crypt on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Next date will be on **Thursday 1st February**. All are welcome!

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 21st January at 6pm** at Hoddesdon Baptist Church on behalf of Churches Together in Hoddesdon. All are welcome.

"**WE DAY TO SAY**" is the Lent faith sharing book available from the diocese for £4. If you would like a copy, please do contact the presbytery as soon as possible, so that we can place an order.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY: For the gift of diversity in the church. We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.



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 23rd January at 7.30pm** in the crypt.



CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024: The next meeting will be on **Monday 22nd January 2024 from 7-8pm** in the crypt.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023/2024: The next meeting for children in year 3 will be on the **14th January**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 'PRAYER PARTNERS' are needed for all the children on the First Holy Communion programme. A prayer partner prays for a child at least twice a day, whilst they are preparing to make their First Holy Communion. If you would like to become a prayer partner, please print your name in capital letters on the blue sheets on the blue board at the back of the church.

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 apply for an application form as soon as possible.





BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Saturday 20th January 2024 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.



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: If you've experienced a bereavement please feel welcome to come to the parish support group on **Friday 19th January at 2pm** in the presbytery.

2023 PARISH MAGAZINE in full colour, 60 pages, is available to buy from the presbytery during the week. To cover the cost of printing, the cost is £5.

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO: A photo presentation of the pilgrimage route (500 miles / 790 kms) will be held on **Friday 26th January at 7pm in the crypt**. This will be accompanied by wine and nibbles at a cost of £5 per head to support church funds.



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

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

FINANCE

FINANCE: On the weekend of the **20th/21st January**, Matt Morrissey, the Chair of the Finance Committee will be giving a talk after all Masses to update the parish on our financial situation.



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



PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: We are now preparing to order new sets of offertory envelopes. If you no longer use your envelopes or would like to move to a standing order, please contact the presbytery.

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.



JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal **this weekend**. SPUC's vision is for a world where abortion is unthinkable. This year's appeal calls for the Government to end the pills-by-post DIY abortion policy. As well as ending the lives of precious babies, this policy lacks safeguards against illegal late-term abortions, and puts mothers at physical and psychological risk. 86% of GPs are concerned that the scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent crisis.

CAFOD are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission.



Could you help in our parish, inspiring our church to help build a better world or by visiting our local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the area? Could you support local volunteers or share your admin or people skills to help CAFOD keep costs low? Training and support is provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or get in touch with brozycka@cafod.org.uk Or could you take part in The Big Lent Walk? cafod.org.uk/walk

SCHOOLS/UNDER 5'S

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL: Open days for school are on: Mon 15th January @9:15am - this is the last date for Reception class applications Nursery dates are: Mon 22nd January @9:15am, Mon 29th January @9:15am and Mon 5th February @9:15am. c

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

SEPARATION

SUPPORT GROUP:

The next meeting date for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wednesday 24th January 2024** from 4.30-6pm in the presbytery.



Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 13th January St Hilary, Bishop & Dr 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Patrick Wall and Family intentions</i>	Page 127 in the Mass books 1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3: 3-10, 19 <i>Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	Ps 39 — Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.
Sun 14th January SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Pietro Dileto RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Paddy Brien RIP 1st anniv</i>	2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20 <i>Your bodies are members making up the body of Christ.</i>
Mon 15th January 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Ester Carr's intentions</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 16th January 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Margaret Healy & Family intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel: John 1: 35-42 <i>They saw where he lived, and stayed with him.</i>
Wed 17th January 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Ann Hogan's intentions</i> followed by coffee in the crypt NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)
Thurs 18th January 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Thanksgiving for Ighade & Ogbodu Families</i> 3pm Funeral Maureen Harris RIP NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	1st Reading: Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20
Friday 19th January St Wulstan (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament /11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Marie & Joe Coogan's intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	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.
Sat 20th January St Sebastian, Martyr 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Gaetano Alfieri & Costanza Teoli RIP</i>	ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Giuseppa Grippi RIP</i>	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.
Sun 21st January THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Keith Newell RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 16th 1pm Lunch club, crypt Tues 16th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Fri 19th 2.00pm Bereavement Group Sat 20th 11.30am Baptism Course

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*