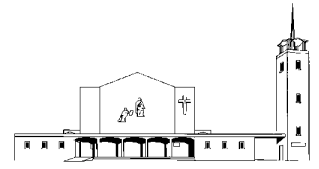




The Announcer



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: Rosetta Tona – italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

YEAR B

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

28TH JANUARY 2024

Gospel: *Mark 1: 21-28*

He taught them with authority.

Many people say that they believe in God, but what do they really mean? What kind of God are they believing in? Believing in God is no guarantee that you are on the road to heaven if there is no evidence in our lives of repentance and grace. Even the devil believes in God, and he is destined for hell not heaven. As St James says 'You believe in One God-good-so do the demons and they shudder!' By implication, James is saying that Christian belief has to be evidenced. We need to know whose side we are on, and it is more than just affirming words publicly, as we do in baptism. If we are nominally in one team, but playing for the other and scoring own goals, then we are serving the opponent's interest. Of course, following Jesus is not like playing in a football match. While it involves team effort, his team always wins because the victory is His. God and Satan are not the managers of two equal sides. There is no equality. Yet sometimes we might fall into the trap of thinking that God and Satan are like wrestlers in a ring, a contest between balanced forces. This kind of polarised thinking surfaces time and time again throughout history. In the ancient world, the Manicheans believed it, and went one step further by promoting a dualism where a good spiritual world belonging to God is opposed to an evil world of matter belonging to Satan. Our own Augustine of Hippo believed this, before he became a Christian. The more he immersed himself in the true faith, he realised that holy scripture neither sees God and the devil as equals, nor does it depict the creation as evil. Creation may be fallen but it has been lovingly created by God. God not only creates but so loves his creation that he enters into it through the incarnation, the birth of Jesus. The devil in contrast creates nothing, only destruction. According to St John, 'the reason why the Son of Man came was to destroy the works of the evil one'. This is why in today's gospel, the unclean spirit cries out, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God'. Because Satan and his minions are powerless before Jesus, they have to fall before him, the Word made flesh, crucified, raised and glorified. They know they are created beings, and that they have to surrender to their Creator. The Word of life silences the word of darkness. Jesus addresses the spirit, 'Be quiet! Come out of him'. He doesn't want the testimony of an evil source. It is to be silenced and its mouthpiece exorcized. The spirit we are told doesn't go without a struggle, but out he goes, and the poor man is gloriously set free. It is for freedom that Christ came, to give God's children back their freedom, to release them from their bondage. What a beautiful picture this is of restoration. We can only imagine how happy the man was to be liberated. Jesus' work of liberation continues today. Let us live according to our baptism and confirmation when we promised to reject Satan, all his works and all his empty show. We don't know how the poor soul in the gospel became so afflicted. Perhaps he opened the door to enemy activity, consciously or unconsciously. Whatever the circumstances, Christ delivers and makes whole. We all have to come into alignment and wholeness with our Creator. Are we aligned? The onlookers said that Jesus 'orders even the unclean spirits and they obey him'. What of ourselves? Do we obey him...in our lives and in availing ourselves of the sacrament of redemption, our charter of freedom in Christ? Listen to his voice and harden not your hearts, as our psalm today tells us. Be children of the light, not darkness!



us. Be children of the light, not darkness!

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

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

ONOFRIO MANISCALCO of Murchison Road died recently. His funeral will be on **Wednesday 7th February at 12 noon** with Don Antonio.

ANN DANAGHER of Woodside Court died recently. Her funeral will be on **Wednesday 7th February at 2.30pm.** *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 Ann Danagher and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Francesco Ciralo, Paolo Guacci, Salvatore Orlando, Maria Gonzalez, Patricia Hume, John McDaid, Gaetana Lomanto, Nicola Giardina, Antonia Fantocchi, Madge Phelan, Mary O'Donovan, Giuseppe Tambuzzo and Joseph McDonagh. *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 **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!



ANNUAL MASS FOR MATRIMONY: The Cardinal will be celebrating the annual Mass for Matrimony at the Cathedral on **Saturday 25th May at 2.30pm.** More details to follow in due course.

ANNUAL MASS OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES will be held in the Cathedral on Saturday 10th February at 2.30pm.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK At the 7pm Mass on **Friday 2nd February,** Fr Julian will offer the anointing of the sick. Confession will be available during adoration from 6-7pm.



LENT



ASH WEDNESDAY is on **14th February** and Mass will be at 9.15am with St Cross School, 2pm with St Augustine's School and 8pm. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting (for those aged 16-60) and abstinence (for those aged 14+). This means that we consciously choose to eat less – one main meal only – and that (as on all Fridays) we avoid meat.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: If anyone is interested in leading the Stations during Lent, please contact the presbytery.

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 6th February at 7.30pm** in the crypt.



CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024: The next meeting will be on **Monday 5th February from 7-8pm** in the crypt.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023/2024: The next meeting for children in year 3 will be on the **28th 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.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE



CAFOD: Join us for the Big Lent Walk in 2024! By taking on the challenge of walking 200km in 40 days, you will be part of a massive team helping people as they overcome poverty. In 2024, we will be joined by SCIAF (Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund) as we take The Big Lent Walk to the whole of Great Britain. CAFOD's Big Lent Walk makes it simple to put your faith into action this Lenten season by connecting with your local and global community in a meaningful way. To find out more, visit cafod.org.uk/walk.

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The total collected was £239.32. Thank you!

SCHOOLS/UNDER 5'S

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL: Open days for Nursery dates are: **Mon 29th January @9:15am** and **Mon 5th February @9:15am**.

GOVERNOR VACANCY: St Augustine's School are looking for a Foundation Governor. Training is provided to help Governors fulfil their very important role. All skills are welcome, including HR and SEND. If you are a practising Catholic and are interested in giving something back to your local Catholic school, please let Fr Julian or the school know. More information can be found at <https://education.rcdow.org.uk/governance-admissions/>



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 21st February from 4.30-6pm in the presbytery.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: If you've experienced a bereavement please feel welcome to come to the parish support group. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 22nd February at 2pm** in the presbytery.



FIRE WARDENS are needed for each weekend Mass. Training will be given. If you are interested in volunteering, please do contact the presbytery.

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

CHURCH CLEANING: Michele & Pelle De Luca, Sophie & Angelo Lenguito & Alex Thomson. Thank you for your help.

FINANCE

FINANCE: Matt Morrissey, the Chair of the Finance Committee will be giving a talk after Mass on the weekend of the **3rd/4th February** 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

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.



PRAYER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY



God of light and truth, you call all men and women to live lives of holiness and justice.

Help us to see in one another: a heart which is tender, a mind which is humble and a care for our brothers and sisters; so that together we may build up the Body of Christ as a sign of hope and mercy for all. We make this prayer through Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<p>Sat 27th January St Angela Merici (Holocaust Memorial Day) 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Tino Necchi RIP</i></p>	<p>Page 132 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 <i>I will raise up a prophet and I will put my words into his mouth.</i></p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Mary O'Donovan RIP</i></p>	<p>Ps 94 — O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.</p>
<p>Sun 28th January FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Giuseppe Tambuzzo RIP anniv</i></p>	<p>2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35 <i>An unmarried woman can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy.</i></p>
<p>Mon 29th January 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Kathleen Curran RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!</p>
<p>Tues 30th January 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Friends & Family of Martin & Mary McDonagh</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>Gospel: Mark 1: 21-28 <i>He taught them with authority.</i></p>
<p>Wed 31st January St John Bosco, Priest 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Fr Chris Eaton's intentions</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 11.30am Funeral John Griffin RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)</p>
<p>Thurs 1st February 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Christopher Whelehan RIP</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>1st Reading: Job 7: 1-4, 6-7 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23 Gospel: Mark 1: 29-39</p>
<p>Friday 2nd February THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament /11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Irene Martin Loughman's intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7pm Mass <i>Giovanni, Pietro & Providenza Accomando RIP</i></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>Sat 3rd February Saints Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>John Barry RIP (St Blaise Blessing)</i></p>	<p>ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</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>Sun 4th February FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Irene Willmer RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Antonino & Vincenza Cusumano RIP</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 30th 1pm Lunch club, crypt</p>	<p>Wed 31st 6pm Brownies, crypt</p>
<p>Tues 30th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt</p>	<p>Thurs 1st 7.30pm Prayer group, 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*