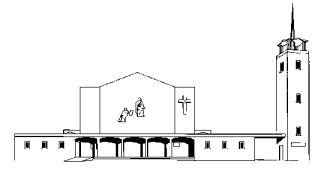




# The Announcer



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:hoddesdong@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)  
Italian safeguarding rep: Rossetta Tona – [italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**YEAR B**

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

Gospel: *Mark 1: 40-45*

*The leprosy left him at once and he was cured.*

This week sees Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, when anyone who wishes, may receive the ash upon their foreheads as a sign of penance. We will hear again the familiar words: 'Repent and believe in the gospel' or 'Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return'. These wonderfully liberating and enabling words remind me of my personal responsibility, that I have total freedom to respond and welcome the good news, through a change of mind, heart and direction, and that I should believe rather than disbelieve. They remind me also that I am on the *terra firma* of my Creator's designs. Falling into His hands, and coming to terms with my own mortality, is the first step of giving the immortal God glory. Both of these passages are taken from holy scripture. The first is the clarion



call of the gospel: Jesus' proclamation of the good news at the start of his mission. The second is taken from the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis, which reminds us that, though we receive creative life through the non-created breath of God, we are fashioned out of the very matter of the creation. Adam whose name means earth belonged to the earth before he belonged to heaven. Our representative parents rebelled against God, and the consequences of this rebellion are still with us. The fall of humanity-our alienation from God and one another- necessitated the sending of the second Adam, to reverse the sin of the first, so that we could be restored to the Eden of God's favour. And so Lent starts with this refreshing reminder that I need to be re-created in the name of Jesus the second Adam. Only through self-denial, renunciation and repentance can I enter upon the road to restoration. This is a path which self-congratulatory, self-inflated, self-obsessed humanity needs to walk in every generation. It is a universal proclamation of good news, perennially relevant to all peoples, but perhaps most of all to modern man. People today have chosen to deny their Creator, to go it alone. The consequences are all around us. Atomized living, narcissism, the breakdown of family and society, disrespect for law and order and the dignity of human life. Left to our own devices, we worship our own idols fashioned by our exploitative, unjust and immoral hands. Deciding that we can do without God, our state is more desperate than that of our first ancestors. How much we need to fall on our knees, repent, seek forgiveness for the disasters we have wrought on the world. If the leper in today's gospel could come to Jesus and fall on his knees before him, seeking cleansing for his condition, why do we find it so difficult? Is it because we are so clean and have no need of divine grace? Biblical leprosy was not the same as modern leprosy which is Hansen's disease. Regrettably, those who suffer from the latter have been associated with its stigma. As we see our Leviticus reading that stigma was one of uncleanness. There were good medical reasons why those suffering from contagious skin disease should go into isolation away from others, 'outside the camp' as Moses said. Biblical leprosy was contagious and contaminates, in a way that Hansen's disease is and does not. It is easy to see how leprosy became a metaphor for the ills of society, a society in need of cleansing and restoration. But why despair? The deep clean company is at hand, and a date fixed for the scheduled work to begin. Just give your agreement. No signature needed, just a desire to turn back from self-destruction and to remind yourself and others who calls the shots in your life. Don't run with the crowd. Don't be politically correct. Receive the penitential sign of the Cross in ash, and let the fruits of repentance grow.

Fr Julian

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** will be at **7pm on Ash Wednesday**.

**GIOVANNI SIRACUSA** of Lord Street died recently. His funeral will be on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 11.30am** with Don Antonio. *May he rest in peace.*

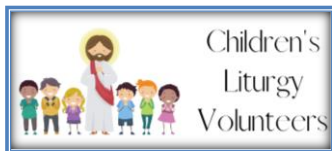
**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently including Giovanni Siracusa, Teresa Giannattasio, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Salvatore Di Maria, Freda Porter, Barbara Hoffman, Christopher Reid, Giuseppe Galione, Alfredo Santaniello, Molly Zwager, Hester Counsell, Josey Brien and Dorothea Nelson. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** those who will be received into full communion at the Easter Vigil: Rosa Muller Moreno, Gail Hunsworth Fox, Jenna Upson, Janet Cornelius, Angel Jaquez de Jesus, Maria Caruso & Chiara Caruso.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR:** Gabby Hanley will be running the Children's Choir at the 9.15am Mass on Sunday mornings. The children choir will be on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> 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 **18<sup>th</sup> February**.



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



**AYLESFORD PRIORY PILGRIMAGE DAY** will be on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May** and the coach will leave at 9am. The price of the coach is £17 and you can either bring a packed lunch or buy lunch there. If you would like to go, please complete the tear off slip and return it to the presbytery with the £17.



**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS ROTAS:** The next rotas for the period March – June will be drawn up shortly. Please therefore advise of any dates that you are **NOT** available during this

period by **26<sup>th</sup> February AT THE LATEST** to Pat Kavanagh for 9.15 am Mass (tel 07485 284007 or 01992 449282 or email [patandcarolkav@btinternet.com](mailto:patandcarolkav@btinternet.com)) and Dawn Bates for 6.30pm and 11.15am Masses (tel 440986 or email [hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk)). Please also advise of any changes in personal contact details e.g. address, telephone number etc. Once drawn up, all rotas will be dispatched by email unless requested otherwise. Thank you.

## LENT

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is on **14<sup>th</sup> 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.



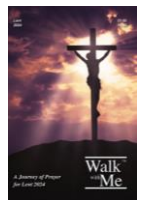
**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be prayed in church each Friday (12.30pm after Mass) and Saturday (9.30am before Mass.) Exposition of the blessed Sacrament will take place at 9am on Saturday mornings in Lent.

**EXTRA CONFESSIONS IN LENT:** Fr Julian will be available to hear confessions on Fridays in Lent during Exposition 6-7pm.



**LENTEN ALMS: Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2024** Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. You will find the box throughout Lent in front of the lectern.

**LENT WALK WITH ME** journey of prayer booklets for £1 can be found at the back of church by the newspapers. There are also children's booklets together with calendars, which are also £1. Please place your money in the newspaper box at the back of the church.



**LENT EXTRA** magazines with daily Lent meditations are also available from the back of church for £2.75

## 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 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm** in the crypt.



**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024:** The next meeting will be on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February from 7-8pm** in the crypt.

**CONFIRMATION PRAYER PARTNERS** are needed for all the candidates on the programme. If you would like to become a prayer partner, please print your name on the sheet on the blue board at the back of the church.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2024:** The next meeting for children in year 3 will be on the **25<sup>th</sup> February**.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** Application forms for children currently in year 2 who wish to make their First Holy Communion in **May 2025** are still available to collect from the presbytery, or you can email the presbytery to request the form. Details of the course will be given with the form. You will need to commit to attending weekly Mass. If you are unable to commit, please defer applying for the course until next year. **Please note the deadline to return the forms is on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

**BAPTISM COURSE:** The next course will be held on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm** in the church. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.



**SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS**

**SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP:** The next meeting date for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 2pm** in the presbytery.

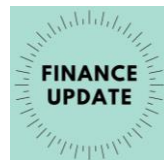
**JIGSAW MATS & JIGSAWS** are needed for Warm Spaces on Tuesday afternoons. If you can donate any, please drop them into the crypt on Tuesdays between 2.30-5pm, or drop them into the presbytery.

**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:** Matt Morrissey, the Chair of the Finance Committee gave a talk last weekend on the finances of the church. A copy of his talk will be available in next weekend's newsletter.



**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:

<b>Account Name:</b>	<b>WRCDT Hoddesdon</b>
<b>Sort Code:</b>	<b>40-05-20</b>
<b>Account Number:</b>	<b>31264370</b>

**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.



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**PILGRIMAGE DAY TO AYLESFORD PRIORY ON 16<sup>th</sup> MAY.**

Name: .....

Contact no: .....

Email address.....

Next-of-kin name & contact number:  
.....

Please return to the presbytery in an envelope with your name on together with the £17.

**PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY**  
Your personal details will be held on file. After the Pilgrimage day, your details will be securely destroyed. You can read the full privacy policy on [rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy](https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy).



Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Sat 10<sup>th</sup> February Saint Scholastica</b> 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Salvatore Cutillo &amp; Maria Petrarca</i>	<b>Page 137 in the Mass books</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46 <i>The leper must live apart: he must live outside the camp.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>In Thanksgiving – Iris &amp; Terry</i>	<b>Ps 31 — You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.</b>
<b>Sun 11<sup>th</sup> February SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am <i>Decd members of Pinto Family</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Corinthians 10: 31-11:1 <i>Take me for your model, as I take Christ.</i>
<b>Mon 12<sup>th</sup> February</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Teresa Delaney's intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel Accl.</b> Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!
<b>Tues 13<sup>th</sup> February</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Decd members of travelling community</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel:</b> Mark 1: 40-45 <i>The leprosy left him at once and he was cured.</i>
<b>Wed 14<sup>th</sup> February ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass with St Cross School <i>Greta Griffin RIP</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 2.00pm Mass with St Augustine's School <i>McDonagh &amp; Maughan Family intentions</i> 7pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8pm Mass <i>Francesco Distefano RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)</b></p> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Genesis 9: 8-15 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Peter 3: 18-22 <b>Gospel:</b> Mark 1: 12-15
<b>Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> February St Claude La Colombiere</b> 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Michala &amp; Family</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b></p> Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.45 – 9am & 10.45 – 11am or ask Fr Julian at any other time.
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b> (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament /11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Erich Colina RIP anniv</i> 12.30pm Stations of the Cross 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROSARY</b></p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
<b>Sat 17<sup>th</sup> February</b> 9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>John Griffin RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b></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>Terry McIntyre RIP 10<sup>th</sup> Anniv.</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b></p> Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.
<b>Sun 18<sup>th</sup> February FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Maria &amp; Onofrio Panepinto RIP anniv</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</b></p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	
<b>Tues 13<sup>th</sup></b> 1pm Lunch club, crypt <b>Tues 13<sup>th</sup></b> 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	<b>Wed 14<sup>th</sup></b> 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