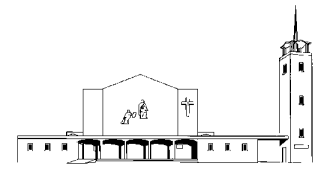




The Announcer



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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4TH FEBRUARY 2024

Gospel: *Mark 1: 29-39*

He cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another.

The week after next sees the start of the season of Lent, the forty days period before Easter. Seasons of the Church mark much more than just milestones of the faith. They are wonderful opportunities, if we enter into them freely, to embark upon a pilgrimage of discipleship and growth. Chronologically of course, Lent shadows the forty days leading up to the last events of Jesus' life on earth. Our own faith grows as we follow the contours of the Lord's life, so focusing on the approach of his passion inevitably rekindles our relationship with him. Walking the stations of the cross helps us to do this. If you have never done it I recommend it especially in lent. Our gospel today is outside those forty days-in fact it comes at the start of Jesus' ministry of three years-yet it offers some pointers to making a good Lent. We read that Jesus needed to withdraw to a lonely place to pray. If Jesus needed to do that, we certainly need to do the same. He entered into solitude so that he could be resourced by his Heavenly Father. On this occasion solitude was a literally a lonely location, but it wasn't always for him, nor need it be for us. When Jesus said that we should withdraw into our inner room to pray, he was talking as much of withdrawing into a metaphorical closeted place, into the very silence of our hearts. Here we can more easily hear what God wishes to say. We all need to resort daily to this place of silent encounter. Silence is a premium in a world of noise. Only when we are silent do we appreciate the quality of sound, the world around us and within us. We found this in lockdown. It reminded me of when I came to faith (or if you like when faith came to me), when I began to trust Jesus Christ and his love for me. It was like hearing the birds sing for the first time. It was if creation was speaking in decibels, shouting a new creation. Unless we turn off what we want to hear, we are less inclined to hear what God wants us to hear. Even less will we listen. As he listened in those quiet times to his Heavenly Father, Jesus was resourced for the circumstances of each day. We often forget that prayer is more listening than speaking. Try to start each day by stilling ourselves, centring upon the Lord and meditating upon a few words from the bible. Many pray what we call the offices of the day which helps to do this. You can access them for free on your phone. If you don't do this, why not start this coming Lent? The 'offices', are based on the traditional seven prayer times of the day, and take their name from 'officium' meaning service. It reminds us that prayer is the vital service undergirding all the work we do each day. Our gospel reading today is full of engaged service. As Lent approaches, may we be drawn into quietness before the Lord, but only as a launch pad for effective engagement. If Lent is about giving things up....old habits of mind, unhelpful diversions, the vices.... it is also about taking things on...becoming more virtuous, certainly more faithful, more hopeful and more loving... for the furtherance of the gospel. The reading today invites us to engage with Jesus' proclamation of the good news of the kingdom and to bring his wholeness to our broken world. Lent is an indulgent diversion, if it is not about that. Why not do something different this year? We could do worse than take up the challenge of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. CAFOD is inviting everyone to get walking to support the poorest in our world.... to walk 200km over the forty days of lent. We could be sponsored, but if not, why not sponsor ourselves for the distances we make. One thing is for sure we will meet new people on the way and discover new opportunities to '*joyfully bear fruit for the salvation of the world*', as our post-communion prayer today declares.



Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

will take place from **5-6pm on Monday**, due to the Confirmation meeting.

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

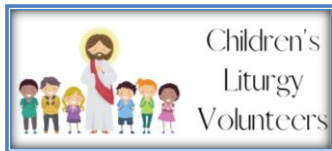
ANN DANAGHER of Woodside Court died recently. Her funeral will be on **Wednesday 7th February at 2.30pm.** *May they rest in peace.*

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Giovanni Siracusa, Teresa Giannattasio, Onofrio Maniscalco and Ann Danagher and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Caterina Re, Angelo Cuffaro, Giuseppe Galione, Phyllis Dolan, Rosa Augello, Mary Davies, Irene Willmer, Filomena Tona, Antonino & Vincenza Cusumano and Mary Syed. *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 7th March.** 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.**

POPE'S INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY is for the terminally ill. Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the

necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

AYLESFORD PRIORY PILGRIMAGE DAY will be



on **Thursday 16th May.** More details to follow in due course. Please put the date in your diary.

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. The first Stations of the Cross will be on **Friday 16th February at 12.30pm**



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 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.

CONFIRMATION PRAYER PARTNERS are needed for all the candidates on the programme. A prayer partner prays for a candidate at least twice a day, whilst they are preparing to make their Confirmation. 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 2023/2024: The next meeting for children in year 3 will be on the **4th February**.

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Wednesday 28th 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.

SCHOOLS/UNDER 5'S

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL: Open day for Nursery is on **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.

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S 200 CLUB winner for February is no. 22, Michelle Stone. Congratulations!

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.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE MATCHING SERVICE:



Caritas Social Action Network, in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services are matching Ukrainian people displaced by the brutal war with people in the Catholic community willing to host them as they adjust to life in the UK. This programme has now been extended until March 2024. If you have room in your home and in your heart to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by war, then please visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> for more info. Prayer cards are available beside the newsletters.

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



CRIB APPEAL: This year the amount collected was £578.32 for the Catholic Children's Society, Westminster. Thank you!

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

CHURCH CLEANING: Elizabeth Nsonwah, Toni Iamarino, Penny Bengé & Antonia Di Piano. Thank you for your help.

FINANCE

FINANCE: Matt Morrissey, the Chair of the Finance Committee will be giving a talk after Mass **this weekend** 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.



Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 3rd February Saints Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>John Barry RIP (St Blaise Blessing)</i>	Page 134 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Job 7: 1-4, 6-7 <i>Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	Ps 146 — Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.
Sun 4th February FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Irene Willmer RIP anniv</i> 11.15am <i>Antonino & Vincenza Cusumano RIP</i>	2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23 <i>I should be punished if I did not preach the Gospel.</i>
Mon 5th February St Agatha 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Justina Ogbodu RIP</i> 5-6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!
Tues 6th February St Paul Mikki & Companions 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Alma Elizabeth 1st birthday intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel: Mark 1: 29-39 <i>He cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another.</i>
Wed 7th February St Colette 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Kevin Cullen RIP</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 12 noon Funeral Onofrio Maniscalco RIP 2.30pm Funeral Ann Danaher RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)</p> 1st Reading: Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 31-11:1 Gospel: Mark 1: 40-45
Thurs 8th February St Josephine Bakhita 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Bridget Morgan</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 9th February St Apollonia (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament /11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>John Brown RIP</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 10th February Saint Scholastica 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Salvatore Cutillo & Maria Petrarca</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>Thanksgiving – Iris & Terry</i>	<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.
Sun 11th February SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Deceased members of Pinto Family</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Mon 5th 7pm Confirmation, crypt Tues 6th 1pm Lunch club, crypt Tues 6th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Tues 6th 7.30pm RCIA, crypt Wed 7th 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*