



# The Announcer



## St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS Tel: 01992-440986

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**YEAR B**

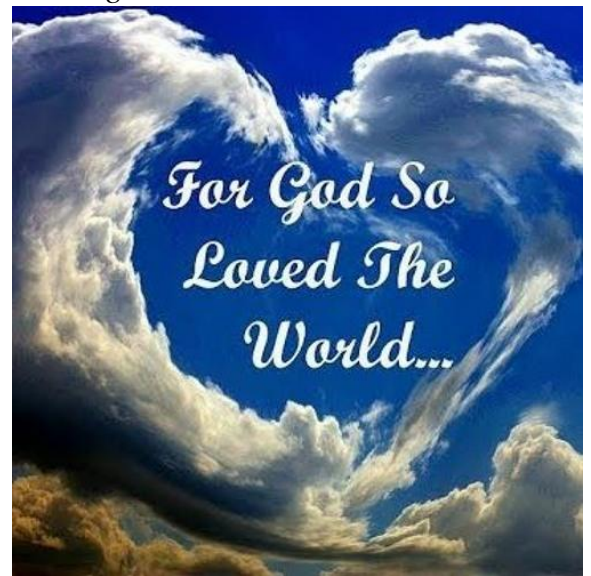
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024**

Gospel: *John 3: 14-21*

*God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved.*

The bible tells us that we have been wonderfully and fearfully made. God has created us in his own image, which means that he has given us an ability to create also. All the wonderful creations of human minds take their blueprint from the created world. Yet our human creativity is a pale imitation of the Creator's work. A work of art may be convincing but it is ultimately flat and lifeless in comparison to the real thing. If someone depicted us, it wouldn't be us in the fully fleshed, animated sense. We can't have a meaningful conversation with a photograph or an avatar. God does much more than depict us, he brings into being fully animated human beings. We are created to be like him, to enter into the fulness of God given life. The problem is that so often, instead of acknowledging the source of our creativity, we think that we are the creators and turn the order of creation upside down. God has made us in his own image and we have returned the compliment by making God in our image. With God dethroned, and without amoral compass, our free



will becomes enslaved, resulting in the destruction of God's creation. Our Old Testament reading shows how the 'infidelity upon infidelity' of the children of Israel brought destruction down upon their own heads, resulting in their eventual deportation to Babylon and exile. By our sinfulness we have exiled ourselves from God, and are counted as spiritually dead before him. Like the children of Israel, our relationship with God needs restoration. We are desperately in need of someone to help us and God knows it. He provides a way back. 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life'. God's gift to those who believe in Jesus Christ is access now (and not just when we die) into the very creative life of heaven. St Paul in today's epistle, puts it like this, 'God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ...and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus'. If our fallen state means that we were as good as dead, through the living Christ we are brought to new life. Like the bells in one of my former churches, rendered useless by the conflagration of the blitz, we need to be recast. We can't recreate ourselves, but God can, because he created us in the first place. He calls forth a new creation, not dissimilar to the old, but with an entirely different spirit. Whereas we prided ourselves as our own workmanship, our new person is entirely God's work. 'We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live'. The artist is God, and the medium is Jesus. St Paul often extols the visible and invisible creation, yet he reserves its highest accolade to those brought to life in Jesus. We are simply 'God's work of art'. Are we conscious that we are a sublime work of art brought into being in Jesus Christ? It's all his doing. 'It is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit'. Left to our own devices we make more than a mess of the canvas. Even so, we are always in need of some heavenly varnishing, touching up and an occasional makeover. The divine artist sees to the necessary renewal. He is also waiting to install his latest creations. No cosmetic procedures or cryonics required, just a desire for a new heart and a longing to return from exile.

Fr Julian

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** will take place on Monday from 5-6pm, due to the Confirmation meeting.

**ANTONIETTA TAGLIARINI** of Pecks Hill died recently. Her funeral will be on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon.**

**CARMINA MARTUCCI** of Thurgood Road died recently. Her funeral will be on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon.** *May they rest in peace.*

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently including Alejandro Gomez, Antonietta Tagliarini Anthony Donati and Carmina Martucci and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Ernest Swarbrick, Agnes Piper, Iolanda Fattore, Salvatrice Castronovo, Rosa Vasile, Pietro Cracchiolo, Salvatore Morreale, Angelo Orsini, John Kelly, Rosa Abella, Sheila Barry, Ted Leatherbarrow, Felicia Abella, Milly Yarwood, Palmino Ingino, Giuseppina Gibilaro and James O'Brien. *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 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> March 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 **17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March.**



**MARRIAGE THANKSGIVING MASS:** The Cardinal will be celebrating the annual Mass for Matrimony at the Cathedral on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm.** All couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024 are invited. If you would like to attend, please contact the presbytery **by the 11<sup>th</sup> April** with the husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).



**NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH:** During Adoration between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March we will be offering a novena to St Joseph.

**SYNODAL JOURNEY:** On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March during coffee in the crypt there will be an opportunity to discuss further Pope Francis's Synodal journey.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY MASS:** 12 volunteers, male or female, are needed to have their feet washed. If you can take part, please sign your name on the list at the back of the church. **During the Mass, there will also be a Rite of Re-commissioning and commissioning for the Ministers of Holy Communion, so if you are a Minister, please attend the Mass at 8pm.**



**MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION, READERS & ALTAR SERVERS:** If you can assist at any of the services of Holy Week, please sign your name on the lists on the blue board in the porch.

**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. **There are now only 22 spaces left.**



**PRAYER GROUP** will be held in the crypt on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Next date will be on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April.** All are welcome!

### LENT

**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.



**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.

**PENITENTIAL SERVICE** for the parish will be on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30am and 7.30pm.**

**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 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm** in the crypt.



**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024:** The next meeting will be on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March from 7-8pm** in the crypt.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2024:** The next meeting for children in year 3 will be on the **17<sup>th</sup> March.**

**BAPTISM COURSE:** The next course will be held on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 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.



**JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE**

**CAFOD FAST DAY:** The total amount collected was £795.90. Your generous donations will support families around the world and help them with the resources to feed their families for good. Thank you!

**SCHOOLS/UNDER 5'S**

**ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL** have nursery tours available. Please contact the school office on 01992 463549 or [admin@staugustines.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@staugustines.herts.sch.uk) for further details.

**ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S 200 CLUB** winner for March is no. 71, Simone Brown. Congratulations!

**SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS**

**SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP:** The next meeting date for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March** 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 28<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm** in the presbytery.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Elizabeth Nsonwah, Tina Pegna & Sophie & Angelo Lenguito.

**FINANCE**



**PLANNED GIVING:** Boxes of envelopes for the new financial year are available from the back of the church from this

**weekend.** If you would like to start donating through the envelopes/standing orders, forms will be available beside the boxes. There is no further cost to the donor but the parish is able to claim another £1 for every £4 donated under Gift Aid.

**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.



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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](http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy).

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<p><b>Sat 9<sup>th</sup> March St Frances of Rome</b>            9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <b>Greta Griffin RIP</b></p>	<p><b>Page 162 in the Mass books</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> 2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23  <i>The wrath and mercy of God are revealed in the exile and in the release of his people.</i></p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass*            6.30pm Mass <b>Giuseppina Gibilaro RIP anniv</b></p>	<p><b>Ps 136 — O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!</b></p>
<p><b>Sun 10<sup>th</sup> March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT/ MOTHERING SUNDAY</b>            9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i>            11.15am <b>Private intention</b></p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Ephesians 2: 4-10  <i>You who were dead through your sins have been saved through grace.</i></p>
<p><b>Mon 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>            8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.15am Mass <b>Marie Fry's intentions</b>  <b>5-6pm</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>Gospel Accl.</b> Glory and praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!</p>
<p><b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>            8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.15am Mass <b>Daphne Huxley RIP</b>            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>Gospel:</b> John 3: 14-21  <i>God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved.</i></p>
<p><b>Wed 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>            8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.15am Mass <b>Milly Yarwood RIP</b> followed by coffee in the crypt            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS            FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT            (YEAR B)</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Jeremiah 31: 31-34  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Hebrews 5: 7-9  <b>Gospel:</b> John 12: 20-30</p>
<p><b>Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>            7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            8am Mass <b>Deceased members of Mezzullo Family</b>            NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b>            Saturday 10.30 – 11am &amp; 5.30 – 6.15pm            Sunday 8.45 – 9am &amp; 10.45 – 11am            or ask Fr Julian at any other time.</p>
<p><b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>            (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)            11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament /11.50 Benediction            12 noon Mass <b>Maureen Crotty RIP</b>            12.30pm Stations of the Cross            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>ROSARY</b>            The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<p><b>Sat 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>            9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <b>Ben Ighade's ints</b></p>	<p><b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b>            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>4.00pm Italian Mass*            6.30pm Mass <b>Decd members of Mills &amp; Warden Families</b></p> <p><b>Sun 17<sup>th</sup> March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (ST PATRICK)</b>            9.15am Mass <b>Ted Leatherbarrow RIP</b>            11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p>	<p><b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b>            Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p> <p><b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered            Charity No. 233699</b></p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	
<p><b>Mon 11<sup>th</sup></b> 7pm Confirmation, crypt</p>	<p><b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup></b> 7.30pm RCIA, crypt</p>
<p><b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup></b> 1pm Lunch club, crypt</p>	<p><b>Wed 13<sup>th</sup></b> 6pm Brownies, crypt</p>
<p><b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup></b> 2.30pm Warm Spaces, 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 parroccchiani 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