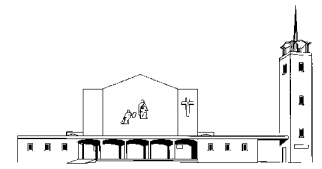




The Announcer



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

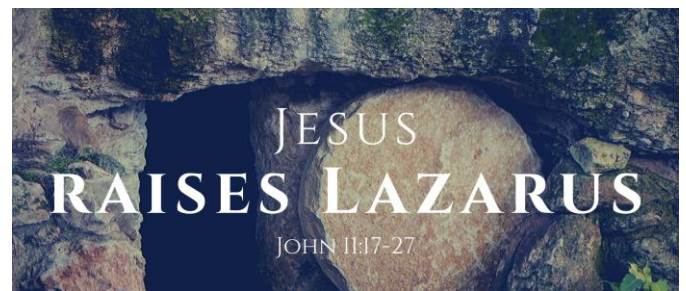
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

17TH MARCH 2024

Gospel: *John 11: 1-45*

I am the resurrection and the life.

What was going through Lazarus' mind as he lay seriously ill? Perhaps he was hoping that his friend Jesus would turn up and heal him. Certainly, his healing was the assumption of his sisters. Although Jesus knew that Lazarus was dying, he did not rush to Bethany, but stayed two more days where he was, and then turned up after Lazarus' death. Like the sisters, we pray for those seriously ill that they would recover. Like the sisters, our hopes are often dashed. Why



did Jesus allow his friend to die? Today's gospel reminds us that God's timing is not ours. Though our prayers often do not correspond in the time and way that we would like, prayers from the heart always have an answer. Jesus has his own time and way of acting on behalf of those whom he loves. God will reveal his glory in all who die in Christ, as in the death of Lazarus. We can look forward to our own resurrection, as Lazarus himself now does. Note that Lazarus still needs to be resurrected, as his raising is not strictly speaking a resurrection. Lazarus would have to die again, just as Jairus' daughter and the son of the widow of Nain had to die again. These, Jesus also raised from the dead. Of the three, the raising of Lazarus is the greatest miracle, since Lazarus had been dead for four days, not just one, or for a few hours. We do not know whether Jairus' daughter and the son of the widow of Nain became, like Lazarus, members of the embryonic Church. They certainly had their own good news to share. Yet Lazarus had more, sharing not just his own miraculous raising, but as all the disciples of Jesus were shortly to discover, the unique resurrection of his Saviour. The knowledge of his Saviour's resurrection, can only have strengthened him for that day when he had to face death a second time. He would have welcomed death as one who had been through it before, but more to the point, he would die knowing that he would soon see his friend again and be in his presence forever. If we have befriended Jesus in this life, acknowledged his saving power over death and sin, and made our peace with God and our fellow men, then with confidence in God we can look death in the face. Jesus says today, *'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die'*. Believing in Him, whatever the circumstances of our death, and indeed life, we can know Jesus as friend not judge. This friendship means access into eternal life now, though not yet the fullness but the foretaste of what is to come. Of course, we have the advantage of foresight and knowledge which wasn't available to Lazarus' sisters as they saw their brother die. Before the miracle, they were grief stricken and questioned their faith. Martha's words, like those so often of the psalmist, are plaintive if not complaintive, *'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died'*. Do we not hear these words in those who ask where was God when they most needed him? Yet in spite of her questioning, Martha elicits one of the greatest statements of faith in the New Testament, *'but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you'*. It is Martha on this occasion who seems to have the better part. Mary, on the other hand, though replicating Martha's words, *'Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died'* is overwhelmed by inconsolable grief. Jesus wept. Jesus met them, as he meets us, exactly where we are. He asks us, as he asked Martha, do we believe? The sisters had their own tombs to leave and grave clothes to put off, as do we. Jesus spoke words of life and hope for the sake of those standing around him. Our catechumens will shortly do the same, speaking for the sake of those who have not heard his message of life... the only message, quite frankly, that can bring life and peace to this troubled world.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

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

CARMINA MARTUCCI of Thurgood Road died recently. Her funeral will be on **Thursday 28th March at 12 noon.**

FRANCESCA PROVENZANO of Rodney Crescent died recently. Her funeral will be on **Monday 15th April at 1.15pm** with Don Antonio.

May they rest in peace.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Antonietta Tagliarini, Anthony Donati, Francesca Provenzano and Carmina Martucci and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Margaret Staines, Donald Gifford, George Dyke, George Stubbs, John Doran, Kathleen Gemmell, Maureen Norman, Gaetano Martorana, Ted Leatherbarrow and Dave Greenall. *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 24th 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 **17th and 24th March.**

MARRIAGE THANKSGIVING MASS: The Cardinal will be celebrating the annual Mass for Matrimony at the Cathedral on **Saturday 25th May at 2.30pm.** All couples who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (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 11th 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 10th and 19th March we will be offering a novena to St Joseph.

AYLESFORD PRIORY PILGRIMAGE DAY will be on **Thursday 16th 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 contact the presbytery. **There are now only 16 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 4th April.** All are welcome!

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 19th-26th July 2024 - Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open via the application form <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173.



Options to travel by plane, train or coach are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve. All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by Tuesday 30th April.

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 the church.

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.

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

HOLY WEEK

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.**



CHILDREN'S LITURGY ON GOOD FRIDAY: Children should be taken straight to the crypt before the service and collected from the crypt.



HOLY WEEK – advanced notice of times:

Tuesday 26th March CHRISM MASS at Westminster Cathedral at 12 noon.



MAUNDY THURSDAY: 28th March

8.30am Exposition 9am Morning Prayer
9.15am-9.45am Confessions
7-7.30pm Confessions
8pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
9.30pm-Midnight: praying at Altar of Repose.

GOOD FRIDAY: 29th March

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.30am-10.30am Confessions
11 Churches Together Act of Witness (clock tower)
12-3pm Prayer before the Cross
3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
6.30pm-7pm Confessions
7pm Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY: 30th March

9.45am Morning Prayer
10-11am Confessions
9pm Mass of the Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY: 9.15am and 11.15am Mass

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



CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024:
The next meeting will be on **Monday 25th March at 7.30pm** in the church for the Lent Penitential Service.

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

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Wednesday 17th 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.



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 for further details.

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S 200 CLUB renewals are now due. Emails will be sent out shortly with ways to pay or you can see Lynn O'Bryan after the 6.30pm Mass, Theresa Casbard after the 9.15am Mass or Mary Briggs after the 11.15am Mass.

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER:

Congratulations to Mrs Joanne Walsh who will become the Executive Headteacher across both St Augustine's and St Cross Schools from 1st September 2024. We wish her all the best in her new role.



SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

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

CHURCH CLEANING: Pat Kavanagh, Sue Alvey and Val. Thank you for your help.

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.



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 16th March 9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Ben Ighade's ints</i>	Page 172 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Ezekiel 37: 12-14 <i>I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Decd members of Mills & Warden Families</i>	Ps 129 — With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
Sun 17th March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (ST PATRICK) 9.15am Mass <i>Ted Leatherbarrow RIP</i> 11.15am <i>For the Parish</i>	2nd Reading: Romans 8: 8-11 <i>The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.</i>
Mon 18th March Saint Cyril of Jerusalem 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Abigail Satwick's recovery</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
Tues 19th March ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Esther Lynch 100th Birthday intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel: John 11: 1-45 <i>I am the resurrection and the life.</i> NEXT WEEK'S READINGS PALM SUNDAY (YEAR B)
Wed 20th March 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Dave Greenall RIP anniv</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 12 noon Funeral Antonietta Tagliarini RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	1st Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-7 2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 6-11 Gospel: Mark 14: 1-15
Thurs 21st March 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Maud O'Neill RIP</i> NO 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.
Friday 22nd March St Nicholas Owen (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament /11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Eric & Mollie Field RIP anniv</i> 12.30pm Stations of the Cross 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Sat 23rd March St Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop 9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass <i>Anne Hennelly 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.
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i> Sun 24th March PALM SUNDAY 9.15am Mass <i>David Madsen & Salvatrice Castronovo RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Luciano Ricotta RIP 1st anniv.</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. Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 19th 1pm Lunch club, crypt Tues 19th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Wed 20th 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