



The Announcer



St Augustine's Catholic Church

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

Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies

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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
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YEAR B

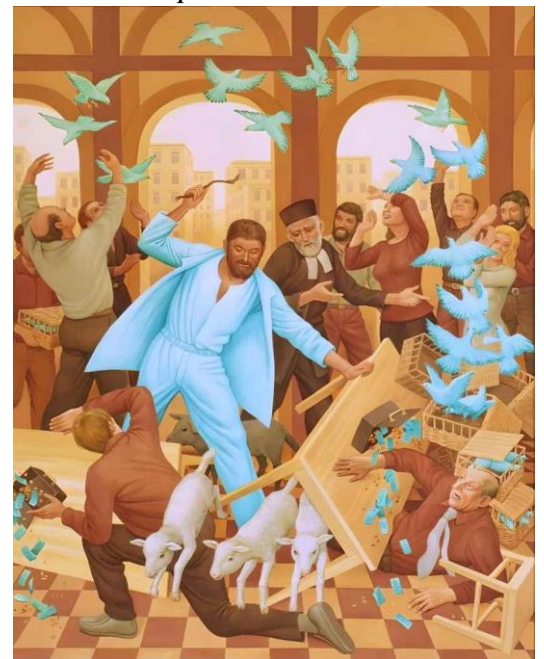
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

3RD MARCH 2024

Gospel: *John 2: 13-25*

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

The Temple at Jerusalem was the designated place for the major feasts of Israel and pre-eminently where the chosen people entered into God's presence. The Temple however was not exclusively for the Jews. This is why in Mark's account of the cleansing of the Temple, Jesus proclaimed that 'my house shall be a house of prayer for all nations'. One of the largest courts in the Temple was called the Court of the Gentiles where all non-Jews were allowed to pray. A boundary notice warned the Gentiles on pain of death from proceeding any further into the Temple complex. It would have been in this court that the cleansing of the Temple (today's gospel) took place. Instead of allowing non-Jews space to pray, the Temple authorities had set up a market place for the transaction of goods. Cattle, sheep and pigeons for Temple sacrifices were sold in the only place accessible for the nations. As they were forbidden to proceed beyond this court, encroachment upon it was a real infringement of gentile privilege. There were other reasons however for Jesus' reaction. Those who purchased animals sold in the Temple could do so only in Temple currency, which had to be obtained through official money-changers. We know from elsewhere that the Temple authorities were charging an extortionate rate of exchange, which benefited their own pocket. This explains why in Mark's gospel, Jesus accuses the authorities of making God's house into 'a den of thieves'. When Jesus was asked to justify why he had acted so violently against the money-changers and the sellers of the animals, he implied that his own body was a greater Temple and that the visible Temple at Jerusalem was only provisional. Later in John's gospel, Jesus would tell the Samaritan woman, that before long true worshippers would worship not exclusively in Jerusalem. He was prophesying of His Church. After Pentecost, not only would his followers become a temple of the Holy Spirit, they would also assemble together in different places, throughout the known world, rather than just in Jerusalem. Safety determined where they could meet. Private houses recommended themselves. However before long the size of gathering forced the early Christians to worship in designated places, distinguishable from their homes. Otherwise why would St Paul need to remind the early Church that what they should be doing here should differ from what they did in their houses? We can see how such areas soon became 'holy', set part from activities done in the home, which would eventually give rise to buildings consecrated for communal worship, differing from the worship offered in daily life. Our cathedrals, basilicas and churches, mostly built by the catholic faithful, and saturated with prayer and even martyrs' blood, are holy places and should not be used for profane uses. Whatever the pull of disco-dancing, to paraphrase St Paul, do you not have disco halls for these? Gimmicks will not bring life to our churches, only the gospel of Christ crucified and raised from the dead. The power of consecration is tangible where the Word is proclaimed, the sacraments celebrated, and the people of God animated by the Holy Spirit. May we offer the temples of our own bodies for consecration as well, not least in this time of lent. Let us offer ourselves for some divine cleansing. Are there any heavy tables that Jesus needs to overturn in our lives? Are we robbing God and others? It's time for a spiritual spring-clean.



Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

'INSTRUCTIONS FOR MY FUNERAL MASS' leaflets are available beside the newsletters at the back of church, if you wish to complete one. Please hand the completed copy into the presbytery. **If you would like it emailed to you, please do email the presbytery to request a copy.**

MAUREEN CROTTY of Shakespeare Court died recently. Her funeral will be on **Monday 4th March at 11.30am.**

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

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Alejandro Gomez, Maureen Crotty, Antonietta Tagliarini and Anthony Donati for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Pauline Maffrett, Claudio Agnes, Joseph Willing, Delia Virgo, Sonia Wilson, Veronica Perrotta, Providenza Esposito, Mary Banks, Francesco Cannatella and Ciriaco Di Chiara. *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 10th & 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 **3rd, 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 in the Diocese, 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 with the husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).



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 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 complete the tear off slip and return it to the presbytery with the £17.



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!

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.

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.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE for the parish will be on **Monday 25th 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 12th March at 7.30pm** in the crypt.



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

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

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

RIGHT TO LIFE: Support an amendment to reduce the abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in the abortion law. Please collect a postcard today from the back of the church, beside the newsletters and post it to your MP in support of this amendment!

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.



URGENT APPEAL FOR CLOTHING: Care for Calais would like to thank all who have donated clothes recently. They have just had a big donation which will take time to sort, so ask for no further donations for the time being.

WARE CHORAL SOCIETY will be performing War & Peace on **Sat 9th March at 7.30pm** at The Drill Hall, Ware. Tickets are £15 and can be purchased from Theresa Casbard 07742022223 or Anne Byrne 467097.

RETROUVAILLE - Do you need help in your marriage? Retrouvaille **RETROUVAILLE** A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you

want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on **14-16 June 2024.** Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

CHURCH CLEANING: Elizabeth Nsonwah, Toni Iamarino, Penny Bengé and Antonia Di Piano.

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

FINANCE

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 16th 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.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 2nd March St Chad 9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Greta Griffin RIP	Page 154 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Exodus 20: 1-17 <i>The Law was given through Moses.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass Denis O'Donovan & William Phelan RIP	Ps 18 — You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.
Sun 3rd March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass Vincenzo Lombardi RIP 11.15am For the Parish	2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 22-25 <i>Here we are preaching a crucified Christ, an obstacle to men, but to those who are called, the wisdom of God.</i>
Mon 4th March St Casimir 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Saint Lucia 11.30am Funeral Maureen Crotty RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, whoever believes in me will never die. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Gospel: John 2: 13-25 <i>Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.</i>
Tues 5th March 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Betty Pollard RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)
Wed 6th March 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Pat Molloy RIP followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23 2nd Reading: Ephesians 2: 4-10 Gospel: John 3: 14-21
Thurs 7th March Sts Perpetua & Felicity 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass Providencie Accomando RIP 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 8th March St John of God (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament /11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Jackie Whelehan RIP 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 9th March St Frances of Rome 9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Mass Greta Griffin RIP 4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass Giuseppina Gibilaro RIP anniv	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.
Sun 10th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9.15am Mass For the Parish 11.15am Mass Private intention	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 5th 1pm Lunch club, crypt	Wed 6th 6pm Brownies, crypt
Tues 5th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Thurs 7th 7.30pm Prayer group, 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 parrocciani 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