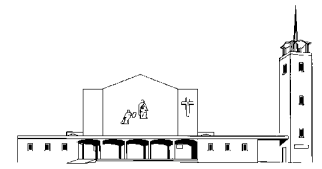




# The Announcer



## 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**

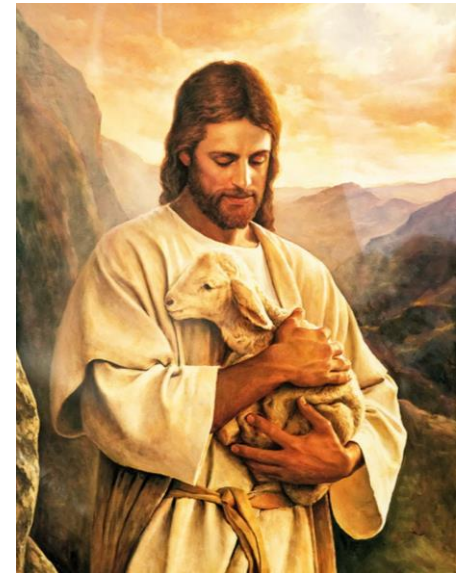
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2024**

Gospel: *John 10: 11-18*

*The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.*

I grew up on a hill farm in Mid-Wales. Conversations often revolved around sheep and those who looked after them. I remember seeing and hearing cases of good shepherding and bad shepherding. Fortunately, my recollections of good shepherding outweigh the bad. Jesus today defines the good shepherd as one who lays down his life for the sheep. He is speaking of himself but the reason why he picked the example of shepherding, is that it helps to illuminate what he meant. The best shepherd cares not just for his own flock, but is concerned generally for sheep and other shepherds. The good shepherd will look out for those sheep who have wandered from his neighbour's flock and return them to him. He will also be concerned for each sheep and lamb, and not just for any financial incentives which they might bring. As in first century Israel, so today, a good shepherd requires certain qualities. A caring heart for the young and the mother ewes goes without saying, and this means being adept at the birthing process. Caring for them involves keeping them healthy, by inoculating them, shearing them, cleaning their feet and eyes and dipping them at the right time. Feeding the flock is vital, sometimes with supplements to pasture, such as animal feed, hay or roots. On occasions, they will need to be relocated to new pasture, so that they have a



balanced diet of good grass, and with easy access to sufficient water. Crucially, the shepherd needs a resilience of spirit and a willingness for hard work in the face of sometimes extremely adverse weather conditions and difficult hours. Particularly busy is the lambing season when sleep has to be sacrificed. Like the shepherds in the Bethlehem fields, the modern shepherd has to keep watch over the flock even by night. Keeping watch is being vigilant in the defence and protection of the flock. The shepherd held his rod and staff for a purpose, not least to drive away wolves. Stray dogs rather than wolves are our problem. These may chase and so exhaust the pregnant sheep that they abort. Etched into my memory is a trailer taking away thirty dead sheep from my grandfather's farm, after a neighbouring sheep dog, whose owner had allowed it to roam freely, rounded them up, forced them into a corner and smothered them to death. Apart from dogs, carrion crows can be threatening, swooping in on an unsuspecting lamb. Eyes are especially vulnerable. Sometimes sheep will wander into danger, such as into thickets or high water. The shepherd's staff or crook with its bent head is ideally shaped to catch the sheep's neck and bring it back to safety. Essential to shepherding is the need to be open to learn and change, to adapt to whatever circumstances present themselves, for one never knows the difficulties that the flock encounter. Finally, and above all, it is vital to get to know one's flock which means observing them well. Jesus says of his spiritual flock, 'I know my own and my own know me'. Today is Good Shepherd Sunday when the Church draws out the shepherd like qualities needed for priesthood, and asks us to encourage the vocation and formation of new priests. In bringing to birth, nurture, caring, protecting, being present and vigilant we can see something of what Jesus meant when he called Peter and the apostles, and those they laid hands on, to be shepherds of the spiritual flock. It is an awesome responsibility and a wonderful calling to become a shepherd in the family of God. No one takes it upon themselves. At the heart of authentic priesthood, as of shepherding, is diaconal service. To become a priest, you first have to become a deacon. The good shepherd is one who serves. This is why the most pastoral of Pope Francis' titles is Servant of the Servants of God. Christian priesthood is not for the squeamish. Like Christian life, it can be messy. Mind where you tread, get used to the smells, enjoy fresh air and don't feel afraid of the dirt or the dark.  
Fr Julian

## PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Lucia La Rosa and Mia Done who will be baptised this weekend.

**BRENDAN O'SULLIVAN** of Hill Cross Farm died recently. His Requiem will be on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm.** *May he rest in peace.*

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently including Mary Hindley, Brendan O'Sullivan and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Maura Hudson, Concetta Lercara, Fr Philip McMichael, Fr Robert Tollemache, Maurice O'Sullivan, John Connors, Antonino Curaba, Florence & Albert Smith and Antonino & Giuseppa Cannatella. *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 be on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2nd, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June at the 9.15am Mass.**

### Children's Liturgy of the Word Volunteers

**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. Next date: **28<sup>th</sup> April.**

### AYLESFORD PRIORY PILGRIMAGE DAY

will be on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May** and the coach will leave at 9am. There will be Mass at 12 noon and opportunities for the Rosary and other devotions in the afternoon. You can either bring a packed lunch or buy lunch there. **Please note the coach is now full.**



**PRAYER GROUP** will be held in the crypt on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Next date will be on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.** All are welcome!

**MONTH OF OUR LADY:** During May, a decade of the Rosary will be prayed for before each Sunday Mass. If you would like to volunteer to lead this, please contact the presbytery.



**MAY PROCESSION** will be held on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.** Mass will be at 6pm and the May Procession will be after the Mass. This will be a service of the rosary, hymns and prayers in honour of our Blessed Lady. Tea and cakes will be available afterwards. **Volunteers**

are needed to help make the refreshments - if you can help, please contact the presbytery.

**ASCENSION DAY** is on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May** and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be at 9.15am with St Augustine's School, 2pm with St Cross School and 8pm.

### 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 by Tuesday 30th April.



**SPONSOR A LOURDES WHEELCHAIR:** The diocesan pilgrimage needs new wheelchairs to transport the assisted pilgrims. Each wheelchair costs £139. If you would like to sponsor a wheelchair in memory of someone, please contact Elizabeth Uwalaka at the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173 [elizabethuwalaka@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:elizabethuwalaka@rcdow.org.uk).

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM** will be on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September.** More details to follow.

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS:** If you have ever felt there could be more to being Catholic than you are currently experiencing, then consider the online or in person Life in the Spirit Seminars designed for those who want to come closer to Christ and live life filled with the Holy Spirit. There are several ways to participate. To find out more please visit [rcdow.org.uk/evangelisation/mission-and-discipleship/life-in-the-spirit-seminars/](http://rcdow.org.uk/evangelisation/mission-and-discipleship/life-in-the-spirit-seminars/)

### 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 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm** in the crypt. Please do return your sponsor & nomination forms as soon as possible.



#### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2024:

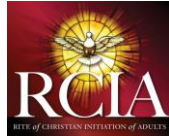
The next meeting for children in year 3 will be on the

**28<sup>th</sup> April.** The First Reconciliations will be on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 10.45am in church.

**BAPTISM COURSE:** The next course will be held on **Wednesday 24<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.



**RCIA:** ('Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) continues on the **23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.30pm in the crypt.** This is for those seeking full communion with the Church and those who wish to renew their faith. Please do come along.



### JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

**ST AUGUSTINE'S JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP,** linked to the Justice and Peace Commission of the diocese has been launched, headed by Martin Coleston and Ann Hussein. Watch this space for further details about events and programmes.

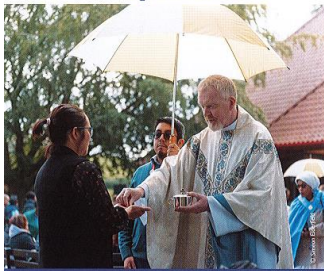
**THE SANTA MARTA GROUP** was established in 2014 by Pope Francis to combat human trafficking and modern slavery. SMG is now delivering 'Awareness and Guidance for Communities' to encourage local action and to prevent human trafficking and modern slavery taking place in our midst. **On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May the Santa Marta Group will hold a meeting at the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Joseph 1, King Edward's Road, Ware, SG12 7EJ from 6.45pm - 9.30pm.** All are welcome.

### SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

#### **PRIEST TRAINING**

**FUND:** This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place **this weekend.** There are currently **49** men studying at Allen Hall seminary, **13** of whom are from our own Diocese. Last year **3** deacons were ordained for Westminster Diocese. The Priest Training Fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations). Thank you for your generosity.

#### **Good Shepherd Sunday 21 April 2024**

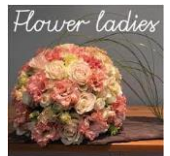


**CHILDREN'S READING BOOKS:** The trolley with the religious children's books has now been moved inside the church as several books have been damaged and drawn on. Children are most welcome to use the books, but please do treat them with respect and return them after use. Thank you.

**SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP:** The next meeting date for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April** 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 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 2pm** in the presbytery. (Please note the change of date)

**FLOWER LADIES** are looking for more volunteers to join their team. No experience is necessary as training will be given. If you are interested, please contact Gemma Castle on 01992.462215.



**ST ELIZABETH'S CENTRE,** a specialist school in Much Hadham has Governor vacancies. For further info on the school and the vacancies, please visit <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/st-elizabeths-a-place-of-kindness-peace-and-support/>,

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Michele & Pelle De Luca, Sophie & Angelo Lenguito & Alex Thomson. Thank you for your help.

**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:

<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.



Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b> 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Rosalia Grana RIP</i>	<b>Page 261 in the Mass books</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Acts 4: 8-12 <i>This is the only name by which we can be saved.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<b>Ps 117 — The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.</b>
<b>Sun 21<sup>st</sup> April 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Florence &amp; Albert Smith RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Antonino &amp; Giuseppa Cannatella RIP</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 1 John 3: 1-2 <i>We shall see God as he really is.</i>
<b>Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Maureen Murphy RiP</i> <b>6pm</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel Accl.</b> Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!
<b>Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> April ST GEORGE, Martyr, Patron of England</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Michael Delaney RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel:</b> John 10: 11-18 <i>The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.</i>
<b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup> April Saints Erkenwald &amp; Mellitus</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Margaret Whelehan RIP</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b>  <b>5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>  <b>(YEAR B)</b></p> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Acts 9: 26-31 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 1 John 3: 18-24 <b>Gospel:</b> John 15: 1-8
<b>Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> April SAINT MARK, Evangelist</b> 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Filomena's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday intentions</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 26<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>(abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</b> 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>John Evans intentions</i> <b>2.30pm Funeral Brendan O'Sullivan RIP</b> 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>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b> 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Natalina Tura 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>For the Parish</i>  <b>Sun 28<sup>th</sup> April 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Decd members of McGrath family</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Muriel Irechukwu's intentions</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>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</b>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	
<b>Tues 23<sup>rd</sup></b> 1pm Lunch club, crypt <b>Tues 23<sup>rd</sup></b> 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt <b>Tues 23<sup>rd</sup></b> 7.30pm RCIA, crypt	<b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup></b> 4.30pm Support group, presb <b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup></b> 6pm Brownies, crypt <b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup></b> 7pm Baptism course, church

**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