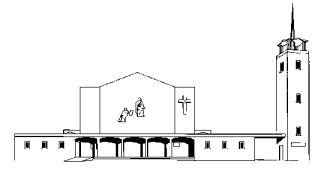




The Announcer



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 EASTER

28TH APRIL 2024

Gospel: *John 15: 1-8*

Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.

Jesus today describes himself as the true vine and ourselves as its branches. It is a picture of our communion in him and with each other, 'make your home in me, as I make mine in you... whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty'. A vine produces grapes for wine, so Jesus' vine produces fruit for the new wine of the kingdom. Our purpose is eucharistic, to give thanks and bring glory to our Heavenly Father. The vine is indistinguishable from its branches, so we are its very body, just as we are the metaphorical body of Christ. Through our incorporation into him, through the sacraments, especially in the communion of the mass, we become, as St Augustine said, more of what we already are. The spiritual



vine is dressed by the Father. The Father cuts away every branch that bears no fruit and prunes other branches to make them more fruitful. As a vine reaches out for something to hang on or climb up, a good vinedresser will train its branches horizontally and vertically and provide them with support, such as wire or trellis. Our Father gives the spiritual vine its supports also. The Church doesn't exist in a vacuum, but like a vine, has to interrelate with its surroundings. The Church is placed within its wider social context, from which it draws necessary support, though not life-giving sustenance. We are not compromised by that support, which has been divinely ordered, just as a vine is not compromised by its trellis. With its supporting surroundings, a vine will have a symbiotic, even reciprocal relationship. Such support helps the vine to be more fruitful. Thus, we should not despise the context within which we exist. A good vinedresser will not make it too easy for the vine. Struggling vines tend to make the best fruit. Similarly, when we face adversity, we are more likely to remember our purpose than when we are too comfortable. A good vinedresser tries to prevent the vine from putting all its energy into making leaves and shoots, since good fruit is his goal. When a vine comes up against difficulties, such as restricted water supply, scarce nutrients or competitors for space, it tends to produce better quality fruit. Easy access to water and nutrients will produce luxurious foliage rather than the best grapes. Applied spiritually, the spiritual vine of the Church that yearns for more of the water of the Spirit and more of the nutritional feeding of the Word, will produce more of the fruit of the kingdom than the Church which doesn't know the value of either. In order to get a good crop, the vinedresser will prune. Like a good gardener, the good vinedresser will be seemingly ruthless with the plant, because he knows that if you cut back, you are more likely to produce a better result. His object is less the production of many grapes than of a better quality of fruit. Jesus says that the Father will prune us. It reminds us that when we undergo 'pruning' through the difficult experiences of life, it is not without purpose. Even if we think that God has deserted us, he has not. The discipline of the Lord produces good disciples, so divine pruning is essential, such as being obedient, coming into repentance and living sacrificially. In this light, even calamitous events carry hidden signs of grace through which God works out his ultimate purposes for our lives. The Father acts as the vinedresser with a view to our redemption. Submission to his overall care is therefore essential. Cooperating with him within the vine fulfils what is in our interest. The reality of the natural as well as the spiritual vine is that if some branches are dead, they will need to be removed so that they do not imperil the health of the plant. This is different from pruning. Jesus makes it clear that where we reject him, we cannot remain in him. Such branches wither and ultimately die. We have in a sense cut ourselves off from him by our own action, so the removal of the branch is the logical response to what has already taken place. Don't cut yourself off, come to mass, stay in the vine, and be surprised at the fruit God grows.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

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

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Gilda Teoli, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Pauline Mitchell, Canon John Longstaff, George Heeney and Mary Mitchell. *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, 2nd, 16th & 30th 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: **28th April.**

AYLESFORD PRIORY PILGRIMAGE DAY

will be on **Thursday 16th 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 although there is a reserve list.**



PRAYER GROUP will be held in the crypt on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Next date will be on **Thursday 2nd 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 3rd 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.

ASCENSION DAY is on **Thursday 9th 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.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM will be on **Saturday 21st 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/

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 29th April at 7pm** in the crypt. The rehearsal will be on Monday 13th May at 7pm. It is necessary that you attend the rehearsal with your sponsor.

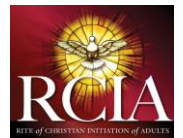


FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2024:

The next meeting for children in year 3 will be on the **28th April.**

RCIA: (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

continues on the **7th May 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,

In his reflection for Friday of the Passion of The Lord (Good Friday) a few weeks back, Pope Francis wrote: "Lord Jesus, help us to see in your Cross all the crosses of the world...the cross of people thirsty for justice and for peace." Who wouldn't want a more just and peaceful world in which to live? Thankfully, our own Diocese of Westminster has its Justice and Peace (J and P) Commission which "exists to promote action and reflection on peace and social justice in the Diocese of Westminster, in the light of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching.". It works closely with other organisations, including CAFOD and CARITAS. Carrying on from the previous work of several parishioners (thank you, you know who you are!) we are re-launching the St. Augustine's J and P Group. As part of the J and P Network within the diocese and together our voices will be heard; we can and will make a difference! The campaigns that the Commission run are varied and currently include:

Cancel the Debt; Environmental Justice; Fairtrade; Housing & Homelessness; Israel & Palestine; Migrants & Refugees and UN Global Ceasefire. The role of Ann and myself is to acquaint parishioners with the aims and activities of the Commission and to help coordinate our parish's response. Please do not leave participation to the usual few; this is YOUR opportunity to promote Catholic Social Teaching and make a real difference that, as individuals, would be difficult to achieve. We want to hear from our younger parishioners and from parents of young and teenage children who are concerned about the world in which their children will grow up in. Indeed, anyone who has an interest in the social teaching of the Catholic Church and wants to see a more just and peaceful world is welcome. Please do not let work/family/leisure commitments prevent your participation; time commitments will be down to the individual and minimal. Please drop us an email to say that you are interested in finding out more or if you have any particular questions. In peace,
Martin and Ann
HoddesdonJandP@proton.me.

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 2nd 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.



CAFOD'S SUDAN CRISIS APPEAL: Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis - extreme hunger. Please give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal. Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. Thank you for your generosity and prayers. You can also text CAFODSUDAN to 70450 to donate £10 or donate using the QR code.

SCHOOLS

GOVERNOR VACANCY: St

Augustine's School are looking for a Foundation Governor (Immediate start). Training is provided to help Governors fulfil their very important role. All skills are welcome, including HR, SEND and SAFEGUARDING. 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. For more information, please visit <https://education.rcdow.org.uk/governance-admissions/>



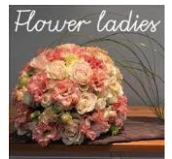
SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

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 29th May** 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 2nd 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: Elizabeth Nsonwah, Toni Iamarino, Penny Bengé & Antonia Di Piano. 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:

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
Saturday 27th April 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Natalina Cura RIP</i>	Page 264 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Acts 9: 26-31 <i>Barnabas explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul on his journey.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	Ps 21 — You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.
Sun 28th April 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9.15am Mass <i>Decd members of McGrath Family</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Muriel Irechukwu's intentions</i>	2nd Reading: 1 John 3: 18-24 <i>His commandments are these; that we believe in his Son and that we love one another.</i>
Mon 29th April ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, Virgin & Dr 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Joanna Anderson RIP</i> 5-6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!
Tues 30th April Saint Pius V, Pope 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Bridget & Martin Moriarty RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel: John 15: 1-8 <i>Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.</i>
Wed 1st May St Joseph the Worker 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Eugene Martin RIP</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B)</p> 1st Reading: Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48 2nd Reading: 1 John 4: 7-10 Gospel: John 15: 9-17
Thurs 2nd May Saint Athanasius, Bishop & Dr 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Fr Julian & Fr Mathews' intentions</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 3rd May SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES, Apostles (abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Eugene Martin RIP</i> 6pm Mass Rosalia Grana RIP followed by the May Procession	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Saturday 4th May THE ENGLISH MARTYRS 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>David Hale RIP</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>For the Parish</i> Sun 5th May 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9.15am Mass <i>Friends, staff & volunteers of Marie Curie</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Linda & Vincenzo Tuzzeo RIP</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. Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Mon 29th 7pm Confirmation, crypt	Wed 1st 6pm Brownies, crypt
Tues 30th 1pm Lunch club, crypt	Thurs 2nd 2pm Bereavement group, presb
Tues 30th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Thurs 2nd 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 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