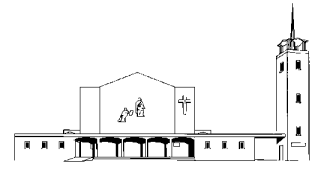




The Announcer



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

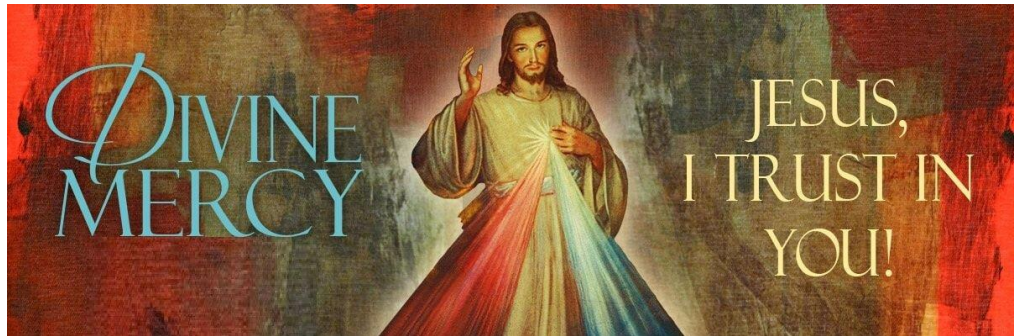
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)

7TH APRIL 2024

Gospel: *John 20: 19-31*

Eight days later, Jesus came.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed. The Resurrection of Jesus changes everything. In the light of that historical event, every action, every thought and every emotion are brought into judgment, but only because of God's mercy. The mercy which stems from the cross and empty tomb is everlasting, and it has triumphed over judgement.



Through the Resurrection, God revealed in the clearest way his merciful nature, his 'everlasting mercy' as the collect says. St Peter in the epistle says that it is from God's 'great mercy', that our changed status as God's children comes. Perhaps fittingly then today is Divine Mercy Sunday, which reminds us that our faith in God's mercy alone opens the door of salvation for us. St Faustina wrote in her diary 'let every soul trust in the Passion of the Lord, and place its hope in God's mercy. God will not exhaust His mercy to anyone. Heaven and earth may change, but God's mercy will never be exhausted. Oh, what immense joy burns in my heart when I contemplate Your incomprehensible goodness, O Jesus! I desire to bring all sinners to Your feet that they may glorify Your mercy throughout endless ages.' This echoes what St Peter says in his epistle today, that it is our faith in our Heavenly Father's loving mercy in raising Jesus from the dead and giving us new birth as his children, that gives us great joy. This is in spite of the trials of life, because our faith in God's merciful love and our status in the risen Christ, define us, not the difficulties we are going through. Death, evil, darkness, sickness, war, the vices and our sins do not have the last word because Jesus has triumphed over them, through them and in them. Our faith inducing joy and our joy inducing faith completely transcend them. Nor do our faith and joy depend upon sensory perception and scientific proof. We don't have to prove everything in order to believe. Thomas wanted empirical evidence that Jesus was alive. He wanted to literally touch Jesus' body. In this respect he may have been different from some of the other disciples. Last week's gospel suggests that John, for one, believed that Jesus was raised from the dead, even before he saw the risen Lord, though admittedly he did witness the empty tomb. While Jesus calls us to have faith in him, that faith does not depend upon our seeing him with our naked eyes, granted that one day we will see him face to face. In fact, he says speaking of future generations of Christians, the likes of you and me, that we are blessed in believing regardless of not having seen him like the disciples, who in contrast 'believe because you can see me'. Our faith, love and joy do not depend upon sight. St Peter says today that though 'you do not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described'. Can such joy and belief accommodate doubt? I have often heard it said that doubt is not the opposite of faith. This seems to run clean contrary to what Our Lord says in the gospel today. To Thomas he says, 'doubt no longer but believe'. It looks as if Jesus wants us not to doubt at all. Jesus clearly loved Thomas in spite of whatever unanswered questions he had. We also can be assured of our Lord's love for us, just as we can be sure that Jesus wants to lead us into a deeper relationship of trust. Perhaps this is why St Faustina was led to write at the top of her Litany of Divine Mercy: 'Let the doubting soul read these considerations on Divine Mercy and become trusting. God's love is a flower and Divine Mercy its fruit'. Fittingly then the phrase which sums up devotion to the Divine Mercy is, 'Jesus I trust in you'. Do we? May we echo the closing prayer of The Litany of Divine Mercy: 'Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself'.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Giuseppe Alio and Oscar Walters who will be baptised this weekend.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 7th April. At 3pm today, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed, preceded by Adoration at 2pm.



MARIA CIMINO of Stanstead Road died recently. Her Requiem will be on **Wednesday 10th April at 11am.**

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

EUGENE MARTIN of Monks Close died recently. His Requiem will be on **Friday 19th April at 2.30pm.**

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

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Eugene Martin, Rosalia Grana, Brendan O'Sullivan, Maria Cimino, Francesca Provenzano and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Salvatore Insalaco, Marie Riccardi, Baby Marie Brien, Paolo Conti, Michael Taylor, Thomas McDonnell, Anna Chiparo, Richard Trebus, Giuseppe Pizzo, Michaela Cantwell, Tom McGrath and Peter Tanner. *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, 7th & 21st April 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.

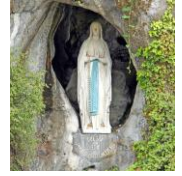
AYLESFORD PRIORY PILGRIMAGE DAY will be on **Thursday 16th May** and the coach will leave at 9am. The price of the coach is £17 and you can either bring a packed lunch or buy lunch there. If you would like to go, please contact the presbytery and complete the tear off slip at the bottom of the newsletter. **There are now only 5 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 2nd May.** All are welcome!

MAY PROCESSION will be held on **Friday 3rd May.** Mass will be at 6pm and the May Procession will be after the Mass. More details to follow in due course.

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.



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

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 15th 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 **14th April.** The First Reconciliations will be on the 13th and 27th April at 10.45am in church.

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Wednesday 24th 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): The new programme will take place on the **23rd 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.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

ABORTION TIME LIMIT: Please ask your MP to support the abortion time limit reduction amendment to reduce our abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks

can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. Cards are on table in the porch. Please Send to:- Charles Walker, MP, Houses of Parliament, London SW1 0AA.



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.

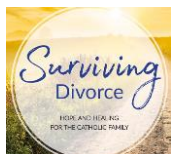
SCHOOLS/UNDER 5'S

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. Please see Lynn O'Bryan after the 6.30pm Mass, Theresa Casbard after the 9.15am Mass or Mary Briggs after the 11.15am Mass. The winner for April is no. 195, David Greenall. Congratulations!

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S are fundraising by collecting good quality items for re-use by the company Bag 2 School. These can include men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts and accessories. Please donate your bag to the Under 5's by **Friday 26th April**. Please note the playgroup is closed until Monday 15th April.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS



SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP: The next meeting date for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wednesday 24th 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 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.



MARY'S MEALS are inviting us to collect any unwanted foreign currency*. There are envelopes at the back of church for you to take home and put all your foreign coins and notes into. Please return the envelope with the money to the presbytery. *They will also take UK coins/notes that aren't legal tender.

CARE FOR CALAIS are asking for crochet hooks, knitting needles, wool and bras, which are new or look like new, in various sizes for the asylum seekers staying at the Delta Hotel. You can drop them off at St Catherine and St Pauls Church office on weekday mornings.



CHURCH CLEANING: Elizabeth Nsonwah, Tina Pegna & Sophie & Angelo Lenguito. Thank you for your help.

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

FINANCE

LENTEN COLLECTIONS: The Holy Places collection after the Passion Liturgy on Good Friday raised £175.98. The amount raised in Lenten Alms was £254.82. Thank you for all the donations.

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
<p>Saturday 6th April SAT WITHIN OCTAVE OF EASTER 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Decd members of McGrath Family</i></p>	<p>Page 255 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Acts 4: 32-35 <i>United, heart and soul.</i></p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Michaela Cantwell RIP</i></p>	<p>Ps 117 — Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.</p>
<p>Sun 7th April 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY) 9.15am Mass <i>Tom McGrath RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p>	<p>2nd Reading: 1 John 5: 1-6 <i>Anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world.</i></p>
<p>Mon 8th April THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Lloyd Grandison RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Alleluia!</p>
<p>Tues 9th April 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Isabelle Ball RIP & Marie Dobinson RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>Gospel: John 20: 19-31 <i>Eight days later, Jesus came.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B)</p>
<p>Wed 10th April 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Patrick Bradley RIP anniv</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 11am Funeral <i>Maria Cimino RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>1st Reading: Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19 2nd Reading: 1 John 2: 1-5 Gospel: Luke 24: 35-48</p>
<p>Thurs 11th April Saint Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Marie Fry's intentions</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Friday 12th April (abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Janina Pachala RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> <p>The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<p>Saturday 13th April Saint Martin I, Pope 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Ugochukwu Irechukwu RIP</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</p> <p>Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p>
<p>Sun 14th April 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER 9.15am Mass <i>Bill Anthony RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Carlo Ferraro RIP anniv</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
<p>Tues 9th 1pm Lunch club, crypt</p>	<p>Tues 9th 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 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