



The Announcer



St Augustine's Catholic Church

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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)
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YEAR B

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

12TH MAY 2024

Gospel: *John 17: 11-19*

Consecrate them in the truth, your word is truth.

Is artificial intelligence (AI) good or bad? Certainly, we are already quite dependent upon it, and we can see some of its benefits. Yet we hear of the ways in which it can distort reality and spread misinformation. Artificial intelligence invites us to consider what makes us different from machines and what is the essence of being human. Made in the image of God, we are not robots but sentient human beings, drawn into loving relationship with one another and with Him. Machines have no conscience, even if they can play on the conscience of others. Ultimately, AI depends on the programmer and the information it receives determines its results. That of course is worrying, because if the programmer has a warped understanding of reality, and wants to promote deception and misinformation, there are few constraints against their doing so. If a society or government wants to promote untruth, AI is a ready tool for them to mould the thinking of peoples in one direction rather than another. AI then raises the perennial issue of what is truth and how our perception of that truth is often distorted. What is the truth that should inform the culture and mores of society, and what is the truth that should inform my conscience and mould my life? Christians believe that it is only through God's word that we see truth. Jesus in our gospel reading today asks the Father to consecrate the disciples 'in the truth, your word is truth'. He also talks of being true to the Father, 'Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us...I kept those you had given me true to your name'. Being true to the Father, true to his name means entering into a loving relationship with him. This is only possible through the Holy Spirit, the promise of the Father, the Spirit who is synonymous with truth...the Spirit of Truth, who leads into all truth. Pentecost, next week, marks the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, ten days after the Ascension which we celebrated a few days ago. It was during these ten days between the Ascension and Pentecost that the event related in our Acts reading today took place. The disciples decided to restore their number to twelve. Since Judas' defection, they had numbered eleven. The passage is interesting in that it shows the embryonic Church in decision making. Several things strike us as interesting. First, we can see that the gathering at which this important decision was made was not representative of the entire body of Jesus' followers. There were only one hundred and twenty persons gathered together on the occasion, all male, whereas we know that Jesus' followers numbered a much larger group than this, at least over five hundred, which would have included male and female followers. Second, we can see that they took an executive decision to nominate only two candidates for selection, rather than receiving nominations for more, given that the criteria for suitability will have been met by many others. Third, the criteria for suitability were that the candidates had to be disciples of Jesus since the start of his ministry, three years before, and to have encountered him after his resurrection. Fourth, their selection was bathed in prayer and removed from any taint of partiality, in that lots were cast. This incident shows clearly the importance of truth and tradition to the early Church. They were bearing witness to the truth of Jesus' death and resurrection, and to its centrality in the propagation of the faith. They were bearing witness also to the tradition of what Jesus had put in place. While they would soon appoint other apostles, (who had not been with Jesus for three years, such as Paul), the twelve did so only on the basis of their own apostolate chosen by Jesus. Truth is not democratic, but ordered from above. The Church which listens more to the will of the people than the Holy Spirit, ceases to bear witness to the catholic truth and soon becomes the purveyor of untruths, artificially generated or not, rather than divine wisdom.



Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS SUNDAY'S FIRST COMMUNICANTS:

Freya Bryant, Emma Ciruolo, John Collins, Elizabeth Eslava-Gonsalves, Honey-May Harrison, Cecilia Loda, Frankie Oliver, Santino Pagnello, Monica Pierce, Lorena Rowe, Ivy Webb, Santino Vazquez and Leo Vazquez.



PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Darrio Minichiello, Luciana Gianfrancesco and Gilda Teoli, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Elizabeth Coffey, Antonio Campaniello, Mary Wilson, Patrick Dempsey, Tadeusz Buczak, Calogero Milazzo, Antonina Morreale, Antonino Quintile, Fiorina Boskovic, Daly Dowlings, Margaret Galligan and Giovanni Tuzzeo. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will take place from 5-6pm on Monday evening due to the Confirmation meeting.

DARRIO MINICHELLO of Beech Walk, died recently. His Requiem will be on **Wednesday 5th June at 11am.** *May he 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

not be able to continue. Next dates: **9th & 23rd June.**

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. Please note there will be no meeting in June.

MONTH OF OUR LADY: During May, a decade of the Rosary will be prayed for before each Sunday Mass.

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

POPE'S INTENTION FOR MAY

is for the formation of men and women religious, and seminarians. Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.



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

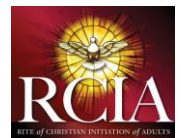
CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024:

The last meeting will be on **Monday 13th May at 7pm.** It is necessary that you attend the rehearsal with your sponsor. If your sponsor is not available, then please attend with a parent who will clearly explain to the sponsor afterwards the procedure. **The sponsor should arrive at 7.45pm in the church for the rehearsal.**



BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Wednesday 19th June from 7-8pm** 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 **21st 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.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

PRIEST TRAINING FUND: Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Priest Training Fund. The total amount collected was £728.54. The response of prayer for vocations, love and concern for the clergy, and for the current seminarians, was heart-warming. The formation of priests is of top priority, it is our future. May God Bless you for your generosity.



MISSIO: In 2023, our parish raised £6,409.58 through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Our missionary community here at St Augustine's is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Visit mission.org.uk to find out more.

MAY PROCESSION: Thank you to all who helped to make the procession such a success; thanks to the sacristan Filomena Mezzullo, Gemma Castle for the floral arrangements and to all those who made cakes and helped with the refreshments.

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 6th June at 2pm** in the presbytery.

BROXBOURNE COMMUNITY CHOIR will be "Starting the Summer with a song" and performing a concert on **Sat 1st June at 3pm**, Christ Church Ware. Adults £10, children under 16 free. Tickets available from Gabby on 07875221543.

CHURCH CLEANING: Pat Kavanagh, Sue Alvey & Val. 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.

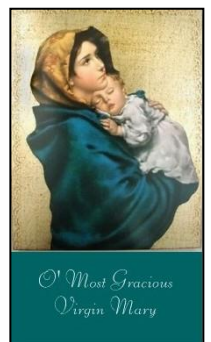


PRAYER OF THE WEEK

May is the month of Mary!

THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary, that never was it known, that anyone who had recourse to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but graciously hear and grant my prayer. Amen.



Liturgy this week		Today's Liturgy	
Saturday 11th May 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass Gaetano Alfieri & Costanza Teoli RIP		Page 273 in the Mass books	
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass Margaret Galligan RIP		1st Reading: Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26 <i>We must choose one of these to be a witness to his resurrection with us.</i>	
Sun 12th May 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9.15am Mass Daly Dowlings RIP 11.15am Mass For the Parish		Ps 102 — The Lord has set his sway in heaven.	
Mon 13th May Our Lady of Fatima 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass In thanksgiving 5-6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		2nd Reading: John 4: 11-16 <i>Anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.</i>	
Tues 14th May SAINT MATTHIAS, Apostle 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass Liberato Reveglia RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy. Alleluia!	
Wed 15th May 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass All those taking exams followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		Gospel: John 17: 11-19 <i>That they may be one like us!</i>	
Thurs 16th May St Simon Stock 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass Annette Thomas RIP NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		NEXT WEEK'S READINGS PENTECOST SUNDAY (YEAR B)	
Friday 17th May (abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Brendan O'Sullivan RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		1st Reading: Acts 2: 1-11 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13 Gospel: John 20: 19-23	
Saturday 18th May Saint John I, Pope and Martyr 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass Barbara Murphy RIP anniv		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.	
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass For the Parish		ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.	
Sun 19th May PENTECOST SUNDAY 9.15am Mass Rita & Bob McWalters 11.15am Mass Gomez Family intentions		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.	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday		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	
REGULAR EVENTS			
Mon 13th	7pm Confirmation, crypt	Tues 14th	2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt
Tues 14th	1pm Lunch club, crypt	Wed 15th	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