



The Announcer



St Augustine's Catholic Church

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Also in residence: Fr Mathews Valiyaputhenpura Joy (Chaplain to Knanaya community)

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YEAR B

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7TH JULY 2024

Gospel: *Mark 6: 1-6*

A prophet is only despised in his own country.

In our gospel today, Jesus returns to his hometown of Nazareth. Instead of finding love and acceptance, he faces rejection and ostracism. Instead of welcoming him, they subject him to scathing criticism. While recognising his teaching and actions, rather than being convicted by them, they objectivise him. Where is Jesus' hometown today? Perhaps the Church is the nearest we can come to it. We are Jesus' brothers and sisters, but do we reject his claims and ostracise him? Are we any better than the people of Nazareth? What is the measure of our obedience, as he asks us to follow his commands, to love others as he loves us, to love our neighbour as ourselves, to do what he wants? An indication of our loyalty is to be found in mass attendance. Attendance at mass is a declaration of our love for Jesus, a response to his love for us, a love so great that he gives himself totally to you through his body and blood. 'Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him', declares our antiphon today. Jesus makes himself especially present as we gather together and share the holy eucharist, yet so many of us turn our back on him. 'Why what has my Lord done', we might ask, as asks the hymn, *My Song is Love Unknown*? Is his love unknown? Once, you met him in your first holy communion. He longs to see you regularly at his banquet and cannot understand why you have rejected the one who so loves you. There was a time when you met him at confirmation. You were blessed by his Holy Spirit. He confirmed his love for you and you confirmed your love for him, but that love has grown cold. Even the faith which you had is fast disappearing. When difficult things happen rather than drawing closer to Christ, we turn away, to seek solace in other things. Why would we wish to cold shoulder the grace of God? He has all the resources we need. Whatever circumstances, whatever our path in life, whatever the work in hand, when we entrust it to him, he blesses it. In the office, in our school, at home, the wisdom and peace of God bring to fruition our honourable endeavours. As a popular prayer runs, 'Go before us Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name'. Whenever we turn away from Him and decide to go it alone, we find ourselves in a dark place. The problems which beset us increase without Christ at our side. We become once again slaves to sin and habit, and less than live. Yet for the prodigal it is never too late to turn back. Our search for happiness is no longer elusive when met by the gift of God's gladness, for as our collect says: 'O God, who in the basement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for in those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness'. God wants to fill our hearts with joy, and has shown us how. Through Jesus' sacrifice, God has rescued us from ourselves. We are not the authors of our own destiny. By breaking our enslavement to sin...sins committed in the past, present sins and sins of the future...the door to our rehabilitation is open. Let us then seek his forgiveness by returning to him. The psalmist today pleads for mercy: 'Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt. Indeed, all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's disdain'. It is easy to read this as the rich and the proud scorning and disdainful the one pleading mercy. Perhaps we should rather read it as our souls seeking mercy because we have become scornfully rich and disdainful in pride. The way of the world is to refuse Christ's offer of life. Have we become 'rich' instead of recognising our desperate poverty and need of God? Have we become complacent and proud in the face of God who alone can sort us out and prevent our destructive ways? Are we defiant and obstinate like the chosen people of Israel, to whom Ezekiel was sent, as recounted in our first reading? Years later another defiant and obstinate person Saul was brought to his heels. He came to recognise that he could never be in control of his life. God had a plan for him, just as God has a plan for you and me. That person became St Paul, who reminds us that God is incomparably greater than whatever we face in life. In fact, Jesus is able to turn those very difficulties into opportunities to show his glory. 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness'.



Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Alana La Rosa who will be baptised this weekend.



POPE'S INTENTION for July is for the pastoral care of the sick. Let us pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick grant the Lord's strength to those who receive it and to their loved ones, and that it may become for everyone an ever more visible sign of compassion and hope.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Ian Witham and Ernest Beades and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Antonio Orlandi, Calogero Merulla, Patricia Connell, Carlo Ciaravella, Gaetano Amodeo, Erlinda Cabrera-Velasco, Angelo Cacciatore, Angelo Pullara, Lisa O'Sullivan, Providencie Accomando, Kane Glavey, Antonio Bossis, Michael Weaver, Rose McCafferty and Denis Lynch. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

ERNEST BEADES of Old Highway died recently. His Requiem will be on **Tuesday 16th July at 12 noon.**
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 **7th July, 11th, 18th and 25th August 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: **7th July.**

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM will be on **Saturday 21st September.** We have the chance to go on pilgrimage to Walsingham with Cardinal Vincent and the Auxiliary Bishops. The theme of the Pilgrimage is 'Be it done unto me according to thy word', echoing Our Lady's words at the Annunciation.



The coach will leave the church at 8am, to get to Walsingham in good time for the 12 noon Mass. After lunch, we will walk the Holy Mile and conclude with Benediction in the grounds of the Anglican Shrine. We have a 35-seater coach. To book a place on the coach, please contact the presbytery. The cost of the day will be £35 (£30 coach and £5 pilgrims' levy fee. Payment is not required yet.

WORTH ABBEY: We are hoping to have a parish trip to Worth Abbey, an English Benedictine Monastery



on **Thursday 8th August.** The coach will leave the church at 9am and stop off somewhere where we will have time to have a walk and get lunch. We will then travel onto Worth Abbey where you will have the chance to visit the gardens and also the Abbey. We will stay for the Monastic Mass and then leave at 6.30pm. The price of the coach will be £27. If you would like to go, please fill in the tear off slip and return it to the presbytery, together with your money.

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.

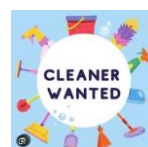
CATECHETICS



CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2025: Application forms for the Confirmation programme for young people in Year 9 or above, or going into Year 9 in September are now available to collect from the presbytery either by email or in person. Entry to the Confirmation programme depends on regular attendance at Mass. More details will follow in due course.

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/>



ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S require a cleaner to start as soon as possible for 2 hours per week. For more info, please contact Lynn at staugustinesunder5s@hotmail.co.uk or call 01992.460614.

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S 200 CLUB winner for July is No. 99, Michael Lyons. Congratulations!

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL has a vacancy for a School Office Administrator. For info, please visit https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view/school-office-administrator_95204.htm
The position is Full Time 32.5hours Monday-Friday.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

PARISH PICNIC will be held in the Presbytery Garden on **Sunday 11th August 12.30-4pm**. In order to get an idea of numbers, if you would like to attend, please fill out the slip and return it to the presbytery, or just send an email to confirm your numbers. Thank you.



SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP: The next meeting date for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wednesday 31st July** 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 5th September at 2pm** in the presbytery.

GOOD SHEPHERD COMPANY from the Holy Land, Bethlehem, which is based in Nottingham will be visiting our parish **on the 13th/14th July** to sell their produce. This will include crosses, rosaries, cribs, religious statues and much more. Their goal is to support and help the Christian families in the Holy Land to stay at work as olive wood carvers as it is one of the most important sources of income for them, as 90% of the Christians rely on this sale. So, by selling their produce here on their behalf, this will prevent the Christians from leaving the country in search of better work opportunities.



CHURCH CLEANING: Pat Kavanagh, Sue Alvey and 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.



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**PILGRIMAGE DAY TO WORTH ABBEY
ON THURSDAY 8TH AUGUST - £27**

Name:

Contact no.:

Email address.....

Next-of-kin name & contact number:

.....

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.

**PARISH PICNIC
SUNDAY 11TH AUGUST 12.30-4pm**

Name:

Contact no:

Email address.....

How many people attending.....

PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY

Your personal details will be held on file until the picnic & will then be destroyed. You can read the full privacy policy on rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy.

**PILGRIMAGE DAY TO WALSINGHAM
ON 21ST SEPTEMBER**

Name:

Contact no.:

Email address.....

Next-of-kin name & contact number:

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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
Saturday 6th July Saint Maria Goretti, Virgin & Martyr 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Deceased members of Stickland & Byrne Family</i>	Page 103 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Ezekiel 2: 2-5 <i>The sons are defiant and obstinate and they shall know that there is a prophet among them.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	Ps 122 — Our eyes are on the Lord till he show us his mercy.
Sun 7th July FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Paul & Deirdre McGrath</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Philomena Robb</i>	2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10 <i>I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me.</i>
Mon 8th July 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Ned Connors RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!
Tues 9th July Saint Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Christopher & Carolyn Gower's intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel: Mark 6: 1-6 <i>A prophet is only despised in his own country.</i>
Wed 10th July 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Angelo & Carmela De Luca and Michelina De Piano RIP anniv</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)</p> 1st Reading: Amos 7: 12-15 2nd Reading: Ephesians 1: 3-14 Gospel: Mark 6: 7-13
Thurs 11th July SAINT BENEDICT, Abbot 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Rosemary Hay RIP</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 12th July St John Wall and St John Jones (abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Ned Brien RIP anniv</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Saturday 13th July Saint Henry 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Alberto Beschizza 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 14th July FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Luciano & Rosalia Dilena RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Nicola & Margherita Barone 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	
Tues 9th 1pm Lunch club, crypt Tues 9th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Wed 10th 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