



# 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 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024**

Gospel: *John 6: 60-69*

*Who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life.*

We can only wonder at the human body as we have seen it perform in the recent Olympics. The ancient Greeks thought that physical beauty reflected moral beauty. We don't agree with that even if the advertising industry tries to make us believe it. Nor do we expect that athletic performance to be chemically enhanced or disguised. We are suitably shocked when drug scandals arise or when someone has unfair advantage while playing under one gender while manifestly being of another. St Paul must have loved sport because he often uses sporting analogies in his letters. There is nothing immoral in fair competition, and like a good athlete, he sees himself, and us, as running a race, always focused upon the finishing line. That race



for us is the fulfilment of what God wants for us...to share in the very life of heaven, not looking back to the start. Of course, the stakes are much higher than medals or trophies. As in the church, so in sport, a good sportsman or woman will be concerned for the others competing, not least when team effort is involved. Teams have to work together like a human body for the good of the whole, with each part playing a vital role. Marriage is a supreme team effort. In fact, St Paul sees husband and wife as far greater than a team, since they become one body. From the perspective of creation, they are brought together for the survival of the species. Everything that we humans do can be done within our own bodies. The only thing that we cannot do on our own is procreate. This necessitates the use of another body, not in a casual or exploitative use but by being brought together into a faithful, freely consented relationship, reciprocally beneficial union, full of sacrificial love and open to donation. This marital resolution prefigures the reconciling mission of Christ in bringing together differences, the fashioning of true unity out of disunity. Within marriage there is an equality of male and female. Both husband and wife have to 'give way to one another'. This, St Paul says, is out of obedience to Christ. There is an equality of gift, even if the man gives with his gift and the woman receives with her gift. More than anyone else, St John Paul II, has unwrapped for us the implications of St Paul's theology of the body: how the communion of marriage, points to the greater reality of our divine communion with God, the ultimate goal of all life. The sacrificial love that a husband has for his wife points to the sacrifice that Christ makes for His Church. Christ sees the Church as his own body. Just as a husband sacrifices himself for his wife, as if it she is his own body, so Christ sacrifices himself for us, as his own body. Jesus often used the imagery of the wedding feast or himself as the bridegroom. Ultimately there is only one vocation. We are all called to marriage, the eternal union of the Church as the bride of Christ with Him. This is why the holy communion is a foretaste of such incredible fulfilment to come, full of joyful anticipation and transformative power. Our participation in God's very presence brings eternity into our time and space. More importantly, we are swept up into the eternal spaciousness and timelessness of heaven. We can never understand the depth of Jesus' love, nor access its immensity, unless we perceive his real presence in the communion, and not just perceive his real presence but became participants of Him. If not, we shall be like those disciples who deserted Him and rejected what they needed in order to draw life from Him. Earthly marriages run aground. The divine marriage to which we are pledged cannot fail if we are in communion. Are we divinely engaged? Are we spectators or participants of God's call to intimate union? Let our collect be our prayer. 'O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found'.

Fr Julian

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH** Lyra Kopsis and Myla Matthews who will be baptised this weekend.

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently including Paolo Ferraro, Les Atkins and Ciriaco Forgione and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Girolamo Re, Stanley Abrahams, Antonietta Randazzo, Gaetana Conti, Isabella Bennett, Vincenzo Giardina, Bridget Hegarty, Nora Warren, Laura Cacciatore, Alfonso Nula and Giuseppe Palminteri. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

**THIRTY HOURS' DEVOTION** will be held in church on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup>-Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August from 7am-10pm**. The sign-up sheets to offer to pray for some of the 30 hours of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament are now available on the blue board at the back of the church. Please do fill in your name for the half hour slots.

**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 **25<sup>th</sup> August, 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> September at the 9.15am Mass.**

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** will resume again at the 9.15am Mass on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Helpers are still needed. **If you can help, please do contact the presbytery immediately.**



**'CALLING PEOPLE OF GOODWILL'** is the Diocesan faith sharing book for the autumn, which contains 6 short Bible passages with reflections, questions and prayers to prompt discussion and action. **The cost of the book is £4.** If you would like to order one or be part of a discussion group, please contact the presbytery by the end of August.

**PRAYER GROUP** will resume again on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September** at 7.30pm in the crypt and will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month.

## **DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM**

will be on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 complete the tear off slip and return it to the presbytery with the money.** There are now 14 spaces left. The cost of the day will be £35 (£30 coach and £5 pilgrims' levy fee).

## 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



**RCIA:** ('Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) will resume in September. This is for those who want to learn more about the Catholic church, if you missed one of the Sacraments or if you simply want to renew your faith.

## **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.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** A letter has now been emailed to parents regarding the 2024/2025 course. If you have not received the email, please contact the presbytery.

**BAPTISM COURSE:** The next course will be held on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September from 7.15–8.15pm** in the church. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.

## SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

**COLUMBAN MISSION APPEAL:** We are grateful to those who support the appeal last week. The sum of £735.50 was raised. Thank you.

## **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 5<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm** in the presbytery.



**SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP:** The next meeting for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wednesday 25th September from 4.30-6pm** in the presbytery.

**NATIONAL WEEKEND FOR MEN** will be held from **13th-15th September** at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. This is a great way to grow in Christian faith! Eucharist, sport (for the more able), relaxation and a bar are included. Relax, recharge & renew. For more information and to book see [www.harvesters.org.uk](http://www.harvesters.org.uk) and/or contact Tony Barrell : 01992 442430.

**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**

**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.



----- cut ✂ here -----

<p><b>PILGRIMAGE DAY TO WALSINGHAM ON 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER - £35</b></p>
Name: .....
Contact no.: .....
Email address.....
Next-of-kin name & contact number: .....
<p><b>PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY</b> 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 <a href="http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy">rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy</a>.</p>

**From St Augustine's Confessions**

"Late have I loved You, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved You! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for You. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which You created. You were with me, but I was not with You. Created things kept me from You; yet if they had not been in You they would not have been at all. You called, You shouted, and You broke through my deafness. You flashed, You shone, and You dispelled my blindness. You breathed Your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for You. I have tasted You, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for Your peace."

(bk X, xvii, §38)



**Love by George Herbert 1593-1632**

LOVE bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,  
 Guilty of dust and sin.  
 But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
 From my first entrance in,  
 Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
 If I lack'd anything.  
 'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'  
 Love said, 'You shall be he.'  
 'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,  
 I cannot look on Thee.'  
 Love took my hand and smiling did reply,  
 'Who made the eyes but I?'  
 'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame  
 Go where it doth deserve.'  
 'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the  
 blame?' 'My dear, then I will serve.  
 "You must sit down," says Love, 'and taste my  
 meat.'  
 So I did sit and eat.

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK**  
 St Augustine – 28<sup>th</sup> August

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, Apostle</b> 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Tom Delaney's intentions</i>	<b>Page 123 in the Mass books</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18 <i>We will serve the Lord, for he is our God.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Giuseppe Grippi</i>	<b>Ps 33 — Taste and see that the Lord is good.</b>
<b>Sun 25<sup>th</sup> August TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN O.T</b> 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Alfonso Nula RIP</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Ephesians 5: 21-32 <i>This mystery has many implications for Christ and his Church.</i>
<b>Mon 26<sup>th</sup> August Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>For the renewal of the parish</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel Accl.</b> Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!
<b>Tues 27<sup>th</sup> August Saint Monica</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Bill Pollard RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel:</b> John 6: 60-69 <i>Who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life.</i>
<b>Wed 28<sup>th</sup> August Saint Augustine, Bishop &amp; Dr</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Giuseppe Distefano 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>TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>  <b>(YEAR B)</b></p> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> James 1: 17-18, 21-22, 27 <b>Gospel:</b> Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23
<b>Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> August The Passion of Saint John the Baptist</b> 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Thanksgiving from Nsonwah Family</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 30<sup>th</sup> August Saints Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line &amp; Margaret Ward, Martyrs</b> <b>(abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</b> 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Megan McDonnell RIP 1<sup>st</sup> anniv</i> 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 31<sup>st</sup> August Saint Aidan, Bishop</b> 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>For the re-conversion of Britain</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 1<sup>st</sup> September TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN O.T</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Francesca Crimardo RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Linda &amp; Vincenzo Tuzzeo RIP</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	

### REGULAR EVENTS

**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