



# The Announcer



## St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS Tel: 01992-440986

**Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies**

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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)

Safeguarding parish rep: Kathryn Hall – [hoddesdong@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:hoddesdong@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

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**YEAR B**

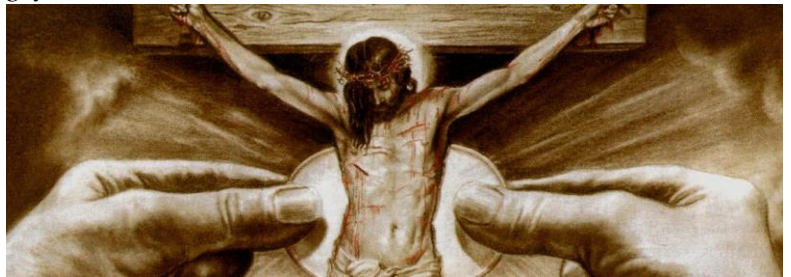
**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024**

Gospel: *John 6: 24-35*

*He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.*

I didn't see the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games, but apparently it staged a parody of the Last Supper, where a drag queen with a halo, was seen presiding at a pagan Olympian meal, surrounded by scantily cross-dressed people in the poses of the disciples, as depicted in Leonardo's famous painting. The organisers said that it was to promote community tolerance, but they choose a strangely intolerant way of doing so. Unlike the Last Supper, the feasts of paganism were often orgiastic and licentious. Against these, the Jewish Passover and the Christian eucharist were totally counter-cultural. Christianity, like Judaism before it, defined itself against such pagan table fellowships. St Paul in his letter to the Ephesians today, urges the Christians of Ephesus, a city of sexual licence, 'not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live'. St Paul affirmed whatever was good in non-Christian society as we see in his speech at Athens. While rejecting pagan ideas and lifestyles, the early Church embraced what was in tune with the revealed word of God. The logos after all was the cause of all that was good in the world. As the Church expanded, it filtered the surrounding cultures to further its mission. Faith never operates in a vacuum, and like the leaven that rises the dough, it always proves to be a blessing to its host culture. The classical ideas that the Church embraced helped to lay the foundations of our western civilisation. This means that attempts to de-Christianise the West will fragment the very fabric of society in its wake, as evidenced by the past ruinous effects of the French Revolution, of National Socialism or Communism. Given the centrality of Christianity why do western societies seem so bent on denying it? Why do many, some even within the Church, call for a change in the doctrine of the person and of marriage? It is sometimes said that in the past the Church was intolerant of certain ways of living because that was the world view that prevailed at the time. The argument goes, therefore, that since the world view has changed, the Church should change as well. But this is fallacious. That the early Church refused to accept what was socially tolerated at the time, we can see plainly from St Paul's Letter. 'You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires'. He calls for a renewal of the mind 'so that you can put on the new self'. This is not the language of capitulating to prevailing cultural norms or social engineering. St Paul says we need 'a spiritual revolution'. We humans will seek to fill our lives with anything but the truth. Our hearts are empty unless we find our identity in God. Many people spend their lives working for food, which, as Our Lord reminds us, 'cannot last'. Jesus alone provides the necessary sustenance for life and meaning for individuals and society at large. 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst'. It takes humility to respond to Jesus' words. Some of Jesus' Jewish audience found those words unpalatable. Even some of his disciples would betray him on the road to Jerusalem when he challenged them their need to enter into deeper communion with him. At the Last Supper one of his closest disciples would betray him. Some of the most enigmatic words in our mass are, 'on the night that he was betrayed'. Betrayal is part of the very language of the Last Supper. To parody the Last Supper as a pagan feast is to betray our Lord, but we also parody the Last Supper when we betray Jesus by turning our backs on him, and refusing his call to communion of soul and life. God wants to enter into relationship with us, so that the mass becomes the foretaste of our ultimate communion with our Creator-the marriage of bridegroom and the bride. No wonder the sacrament of marriage, which signifies the heart of what God wants for us, has become a battleground. No wonder the sacrament of the mass is disrespected, for it points to the truth of our identity in our Creator and his plan for our wellbeing. We are dependent on him. We can neither invent ourselves, nor engineer our pasts. We are meant for restored relationship in communion. Our collect today is very pertinent, 'Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored'. This is achieved only through our Lord Jesus Christ. He is 'the bread of God'...'which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world'. Do we eagerly desire communion with Him? Do we believe him?



Fr Julian

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH** Leo Davison, Ayodele Talabi and Mya-Rose Jones who will be baptised this weekend.



**POPE'S INTENTION FOR AUGUST** is for political leaders. Let us pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking caring of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poor.

**GIRIACO FORGIONE** of Carnaby Road died recently. His Requiem will be on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August at 12 noon** with Fr Antonio.

May he rest in peace.

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently including Giriaco Forgione and Francis Kimani and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Raymond alter, Colomba Ferrazzano, Patrick Wyndham, Irene Teoli, Doreen Willis, Sr Maria, Giuseppe Di Stefano, William McGettigan, Ellen Pearson, Gwyn Davies, Brendan O'Sullivan and Gerald Cookson. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

**THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** feast is on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August and is a Holy Day of Obligation**. Mass will be at 9.15am, 12 noon and 6pm.



Altar servers are needed for the Masses. If you can assist, please contact the presbytery.

**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 will be available soon.

**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 **11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August 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.

## **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.** The cost of the day will be £35 (£30 coach and £5 pilgrims' levy fee).

**WORTH ABBEY:** Our parish trip to Worth Abbey, an English Benedictine Monastery in West Sussex is on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August**. The coach will leave the church at 9am and stop off somewhere where you 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. **Please note that Mass that morning will be at 8am.**



## 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



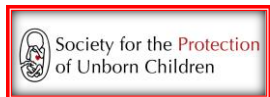
to collect from the presbytery either by email or in person. Entry to the Confirmation programme depends on regular attendance at Mass. More details will follow in due course.

**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.

### JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

#### **SPUC ANNUAL PRO-LIFE**

**PETITION DAY** will be held **next weekend**. This year's petition focuses on the two-child benefit cap, which you might have heard about in the news. Sadly, one of the biggest drivers of abortion in the UK is poverty, and one particular policy which penalises families and contributes to poverty is the current government policy on Universal Benefits. The two-child benefit cap targets the poor and vulnerable. Next weekend, there will be an opportunity to sign petition cards to help mothers to choose life.



### SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

**PARISH PICNIC** will be held in the Presbytery Garden on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August 12.30-4pm in the presbytery garden and the band will be playing.**



Parishioners are asked to bring food to share with others, and it doesn't have to be finger food. Please do bring your own drink and glasses, but paper plates and plastic cutlery will be provided. There are now lists on the blue board at the back of church for you to fill out, so everyone can see what food is being brought to share, so we don't end up with too much of the same thing. **Raffle prizes are needed for the raffle, so if you can donate something, please do hand it in at the presbytery before Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August- only new items please. Please do not bring the prizes on the day as the raffle does need to be organised before the day.** As we don't have many gazebos, if you would like to bring your own gazebo to put up on the day, please do so. **If you can help put out tables and chairs on Saturday morning, please do contact 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 5<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm** in the presbytery.



**ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S 200 CLUB** winner for August is number 15 Mrs Callaghan. Congratulations!

**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.

**NEW DAWN** is all about fostering renewal in the Catholic church. It meets 5-9<sup>th</sup> August at Walsingham. Booking on arrival is possible.

**VOLUNTEERS** are needed to help in the parish garden with weeding. **If you can help, please contact the presbytery.**

**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:

<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.



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#### **PILGRIMAGE DAY TO WALSINGHAM ON 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER - £35**

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](http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy).



Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday</b> 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Eugene Martin RIP</i>	<b>Page 114 in the Mass books</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Exodus 16: 2-4, 12-15 <i>I will rain down bread for you from the heavens.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<b>Ps 77 — The Lord gave them bread from heaven.</b>
<b>Sun 4<sup>th</sup> August EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN O.T</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Gwyn Davies RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Brendan O'Sullivan RIP</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Ephesians 4: 17, 20-24 <i>Put on the new self that has been created in God's way.</i>
<b>Mon 5<sup>th</sup> August The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Mary O'Connor RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel Accl.</b> Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; no one can come to the Father except through me. Alleluia!  <b>Gospel:</b> John 6: 24-35 <i>He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.</i>
<b>Tues 6<sup>th</sup> August THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Maurice Cattini RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b>  <b>NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>  <b>(YEAR B)</b></p>
<b>Wed 7<sup>th</sup> August Saint Sixtus, Pope &amp; Martyr</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	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Kings 19: 4-8 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Ephesians 4: 30-5:2 <b>Gospel:</b> John 6: 41-51
<b>Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> August Saint Dominic, Priest</b> 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Private intention</i> <b>NO</b> 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 9<sup>th</sup> August SAINT TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS</b> <b>(abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</b> 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Albert &amp; Alice Warden RIP</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 10<sup>th</sup> August ST LAWRENCE, Deacon &amp; Martyr</b> 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Eddie Ogbodu's intentions</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>Decd members of Batara, Balmaceda &amp; Clucas Families</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>Sun 11<sup>th</sup> August NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN O.T</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Kathy Rourke RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</b></p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	

**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