



# The Announcer



## St Augustine's Catholic Church

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

**Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies**

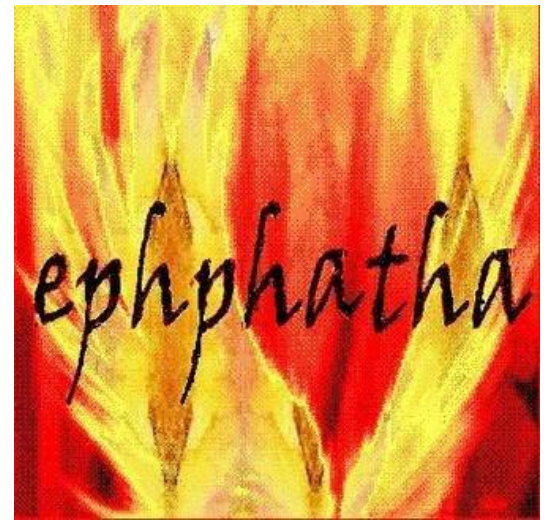
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FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon" Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 9am-4pm)  
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**YEAR B TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPT 2024**

Gospel: *Mark 7: 31-37*

*He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*

Jesus travelled quite extensively during his three years of public ministry. In today's gospel we find him in modern day Lebanon, returning from the district of Tyre, on the Mediterranean coast. Mark then tells us he made his way home by travelling by way of Sidon, through the Decapolis region. This was a little out of the way, as Sidon was further up the coast from Tyre and south of Beirut. An easier route would have been eastwards through the Decapolis. The Decapolis was an area of originally ten Greek towns planted on Jewish soil, which acted as a confederation for economic and social reasons, like our metropolitan boroughs and cities that come together to form a large metropolitan county. They were heavily Gentile areas, Greek speaking and privileged enclaves within the Roman empire. Although Jesus' intention may have been in the first place to reach the dispersed Jewish communities in these places, by not confining himself to what was Jewish land, he effectively prepared the ground for the later Gentile mission of His Church. At Sidon a deaf man with a severe speech



impediment was brought to him for healing. All the miracles of Jesus differ. On this occasion Jesus took the man aside from the crowd. He put his fingers into his ears and touched his tongue with saliva. Looking up to heaven, he sighed and then spoke the word 'Ephphatha', which means 'be opened'. This is a Greek form of an Aramaic word, spoken in this part of the world, which reveals the ordinary language used by the Lord. Ordinary also were the materials which Jesus used to heal this man, though in other respects, his spittle and his fingers were hardly ordinary. At the heart of our faith is our conviction that God uses what he has created to mediate his grace. This is what sacramental means. Jesus' sacramental actions were adopted by the early Church in its rite of baptism, and are still enshrined in the extraordinary form of baptism. The likelihood is that if you were baptised before the 1970s, your priest would have said the word 'Ephpheta, which means Be opened' over you, whilst touching your ears and nostrils with a salivared finger in the shape of the cross. The intention of the prayer was that your ears be opened to hear the word of God and your airwaves released to proclaim the gospel. Other parts of the traditional baptism service that didn't make it into the newer ordinary form, generally in use today, include the priest blowing three times over the child in the form of the cross, inviting the activity of the Spirit. Jesus did not blow over the deaf man but he sighed. In that sigh is Jesus' empathy with the man's plight. He knew how difficult life had been for him, cut off by his deafness and forced to live a life of involuntary solitude. In uttering the word 'Ephphatha' Jesus was opening the man's whole being to the possibility of a life as yet un-lived. Now he could share in all he had missed, and hear the stories of God's graciousness to his people. More than that, Jesus had opened him up to the transforming life of heaven so that through this divine encounter, the man would know the profound reconciling love of God for himself. Our Lord must be sighing today, as he contemplates the state of his native landscape, so much in need of being open to His gentle touch and healing grace. There are many with closed ears to the cries of the needy. May they be open to the voice of reason and reconciliation, and turn a deaf ear to cries of revenge. Lips need to be released to speak words of forgiveness and sealed to words of war. May those held hostage to false gods be set free, and walls of hatred collapse. And what of ourselves? Are we grateful for our hearing and speech? And we are attuned to what is edifying and life-transforming? Are we really listening to the Son of God, letting his word impact our life? Listening goes deeper than just hearing. Are we allowing ourselves to be drawn aside by God's Spirit to be ministered to? Are we open to what Jesus alone can give? As our gospel acclamation says today, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life'

Fr Julian

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**MASS ON MONDAY** will be at 9.15am with St Augustine's School and St Cross School in church.

**PAOLO FERRARO** of Paddick Close died recently. His Requiem will be on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 11am.** *May he rest in peace.*



**POPE'S INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER** is for the cry of the earth. Let us pray that each of us listen with our hearts to the cry of the Earth and of the victims of environmental disasters and the climate crisis, making a personal commitment to care for the world we inhabit.

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently including Paolo Ferraro and Patricia Coughlan and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Francesco Acquisto, James Magee, Neville Alles, Antonino Dileto, Millie Corbet, Jean Weaver, Francis Jones, Concetta Morreale, Bernardo D'Agosta, Philip Scully and Stanley Abrahams. *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 **8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> September & 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> October at the 9.15am Mass.**

**TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN SINGING:** We are creating a supplement for our hymn book, with worship songs which we would like to introduce to the church. To get the ball rolling, we would like to hold a workshop session for anyone interested in singing. The emphasis will be teaching the melodies and to get everyone enjoying singing together. Our first session will be held on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September in the crypt 1.30-3.30pm** with a break for tea and coffee. Gabby Hanley.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** will be held at the 9.15am Mass on **15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September.** Helpers are still needed. **If you can help, please do contact the presbytery.**



**PRAYER GROUP** will be meeting on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** at 7.30pm in the crypt and will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month.

**EUCCHARISTIC FESTIVAL:** On **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September,** the Feast of the Holy Cross, Cardinal Nichols invites everyone to a Eucharistic Festival in the Cathedral, starting with Mass at 12:30pm and finishing around 4pm. The afternoon will include

Adoration, Rosary, Confessions and a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction. A relic of Bl Carlo Acutis, whose Canonisation has recently been announced, will also be present.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM** will be on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September.** We



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 2 spaces left. The cost of the day will be £35 (£30 coach and £5 pilgrims' levy fee.

'**INSTRUCTIONS FOR MY FUNERAL MASS**' leaflets are available beside the newsletters at the back of church, if you wish to complete one. Please hand the completed copy into the presbytery.

**GOD OF COMPASSION: THE PSALMS IN CONVERSATION** will be held on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September** from 6-8pm at the London Jesuit Centre, W1K 3AH. The Psalms offer contrasting pictures of God's compassion – how can a Jewish perspective on this shared scripture enrich our understanding of God? Tickets are free, and the talk will be followed by a Q&A and a drinks reception. Please reserve your ticket here: <https://god-of-compassion-psalms-event.eventbrite.co.uk>

### 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 on **24<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm.** 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. **The register begins this weekend.**



**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. The first meeting will be on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September.**

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2026:

If your child is in year 2 and is interested in making their First Holy Communion next year, please do contact the presbytery to register your interest.



**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



**MARCH FOR LIFE** will be held on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September** and starts with Mass at 11am at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. The March will be held from 1.30-4pm and leaves Emmanuel Centre and finishes at Parliament Square. The March will proclaim the central message "Life from Conception - No Exception!" A stage will be set in Parliament Square with keynote speeches, ending with a solemn time of prayer or remembrance.

**GOOD NEWS SATURDAY** is on **Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 11-2pm** at the Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park Jesuit Refugee Service discuss refugee issues.

## SCHOOLS

**ST CROSS SCHOOL** will be holding a Summer Fair on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September from 12-3pm.** There will be stalls, bouncy castle, food and much more.

**ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S 200 CLUB WINNER** for September is number 116, Lina Mariconda. Congratulations!

## SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

**GROUP:** If you've experienced a bereavement please feel welcome to come to the parish support group. We are not a counselling service, but can always point people in that direction, if it is necessary. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 2pm** in the presbytery.



## Separated & Divorced Support Group

## SEPARATION SUPPORT

**GROUP:** The next meeting for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September from 4.30-6pm** in the presbytery. **Participants should be attending Mass.**

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Michele & Pelle De Luca, Sophie & Angelo Lenguito and Alex Thomson. 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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<b>PILGRIMAGE DAY TO WALSINGHAM ON 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER - £35</b>	
Name:	.....
Contact no.:	.....
Email address:	.....
Next-of-kin name & contact number:	.....
<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="https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy">rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy</a> .	

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September Blessed Virgin Mary</b> 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Marietta Pini RIP</i>	<b>Page 129 in the Mass books</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 35: 4-7 <i>The ears of the deaf shall be unsealed and the tongues of the dumb shall be loosed.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<b>Ps 145 — My soul, give praise to the Lord.</b>
<b>Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Sept TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN O.T</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Stanley Abrahams RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Thanksgiving from Nsonwah Family</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> James 2: 1-5 <i>God chose the poor to be the heirs to the kingdom.</i>
<b>Mon 9<sup>th</sup> September St Peter Claver, Priest</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass with both schools <i>Patricia Coughlan RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel Accl.</b> Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!
<b>Tues 10<sup>th</sup> September</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Liam Martin RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel:</b> Mark 7: 31-37 <i>He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.</i>
<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup> September</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Antoniette Cox 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 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>  <b>(YEAR B)</b></p> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 50: 5-9 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> James 2: 14-18 <b>Gospel:</b> Mark 8: 27-35
<b>Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> September The Most Holy Name of Mary</b> 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Nan Purcell RIP</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 13<sup>th</sup> September St John Chrysostom, Bishop (abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</b> 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Pauline Callanan 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 14<sup>th</sup> Sept EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Vincenzo Genuardi RIP</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>Kathleen Robb's intentions</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>
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> September TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN O.T 9.15am Mass <i>Mary Beary RIP anniv</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	
<b>Tues 10<sup>th</sup></b> 1pm Lunch Club, crypt	<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup> September</b> 6pm Brownies, crypt
<b>Tues 10<sup>th</sup></b> 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup> September</b> 7.15pm Baptism course

**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