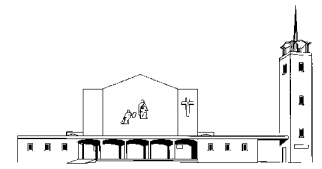




The Announcer



St Augustine's Catholic Church

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

Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies

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Also in residence: Fr Mathews Valiyaputhenpura Joy (Chaplain to Knanaya community)
Safeguarding parish rep: Kathryn Hall – hoddesdonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Italian safeguarding rep: Rossetta Tona – italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

YEAR B

CHRIST THE UNIVERSAL KING

24TH NOV 2024

Gospel: *John 18: 33-37*

It is you who say that I am a king.

I'm writing this on the feast of St Edmund the Martyr. England had two kings as its national saints, before it adopted St George. One was St Edward the Confessor, penultimate monarch of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom, whose shrine is still to be seen at the heart of Westminster Abbey, which he founded. The other was St Edmund the Martyr, a 9th century king of the East Anglians, whose name is immortalised in Bury St Edmunds, his eventual burial place. Both of these kings are depicted on the famous Wilton Diptych, behind King Richard II as he dedicates England

('Mary's dowry') to the Virgin. St Edmund holds the arrow which killed him. Captured by the pagan Vikings, and asked to renounce his faith, he refused and was summarily shot against a tree. We can also see St Edmund in the painting by Durante Alberti in the Chapel of the English College at Rome. This time he is alongside St Thomas Becket. As the two saints kneel before the Trinity, blood pours out of Christ's side and falls onto the globe of the world and specifically onto England and Wales. This painting inspired countless English and Welsh seminarians who gave up their lives for the restoration of the Catholic faith in this land. According to tradition they would sing the Te Deum in front of this painting before leaving on mission for these shores. The example and intercession of Becket and Edmund, martyred yet glorified, must have encouraged them greatly as they considered the persecution that awaited them here. The opposition seemed invincible yet through standing up for the truth they had conquered. Becket was murdered at Canterbury for resisting the Crown's encroachment upon the Church, while Edmund had through his blood relinquished his own crown for a more glorious crown. Both of these saints revealed that they bore a higher allegiance to God's kingdom than to any earthly kingdom. 'My kingdom' Jesus tells Pontus Pilate 'is not of this world'. We have become so accustomed to earthly ideals of kingship that we forget its ideal is heavenly. Earthly rulers receive whatever earthly power they have, not from themselves, but from heaven. The aurora which surrounds monarchy comes not from its occupant but from God. Kingship, Shakespeare reminds us, is hedged by divinity. Yet as Jesus would tell Pilate at his trial, the governor would have no authority if it had not been given to him from above. Today's solemnity is Jesus the Universal King. His kingship is the kingship of truth. He is the truth behind all things and in all things, to whom all things tend. The whole of the created cosmos owes allegiance to him. Whoever seeks the truth, seeks Christ. Whoever honours the truth, honours Christ. His is the true kingship of all. With him we are in the realm of what is truly universal. The truth is that God loves, redeems and sustains all that he has created. Everything has to come into alignment with the truth of God. Pilate didn't know what the truth was, and so he didn't recognise the truth of Jesus' kingship, even as he conceded that Jesus was a king. 'So, you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice'. Jesus's words realign us with truth. He shows us the truth about ourselves, our desperate need to return to the Father, to seek his peace and reconciliation. Jesus is the corrective to all untruth, the vanquisher of deception, the one who has exposed the lies of the evil one. It is no wonder that our world increasingly cannot distinguish between what is false and what is true, because it has lost sight of what truth is, or rather who truth is. In Jesus we see the truth made personal to us. In Him, the God-given dignity of every person is truly reflected. True personhood is diminished when Christ goes unrecognised. The restoration of our true selves comes in recognising his royal claims to truth. It does not come from our self-identification, as if we could manufacture our identity. The opposite of being free is to be living a lie. Let us be set free by truth, and not enslaved to whatever is false and untrue. 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free'. And God is not content just to restore ourselves. Listen to our collect for today. God wants 'to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe'. Does he have our allegiance? We would be fools to ignore his claims, for as the prophet Daniel reminds us, 'His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty which shall never pass away, nor will his empire ever be destroyed.'



Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

DESMOND O'SULLIVAN formerly of our parish died recently. His funeral will be on **Monday 25th November at 10.30am.**

GIUSEPPE CANNATELLA of Glenester Close died recently. His funeral will be on **Monday 25th November at 1.15pm.**

LUIGI CALVINO of Bevil Court died recently. His funeral will be on **Monday 2nd December at 11am.**

ONOFRIO DILETO of Ware Road, Hoddesdon died recently. His funeral will be on **Tuesday 3rd December at 9.15am.**

FRANCESCA COMPARETTO of Beyers Prospect died recently. Her funeral will be on **Wednesday 4th December at 11.30am.**

PATRICIA DUNNE formerly of Hoddesdon died recently. Her funeral will be on **Tuesday 10th December at 11am.** *May they rest in peace.*

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Onofrio Dileto, Patricia Dunne, Francesca Comparetto, Desmond O'Sullivan, Luigi Calvino, and Giuseppe Cannatella for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Maisie & Maddie Morrissey, Richard Dundon, Catherine Mancey, Mett Curtis, Giuseppe Maniscalco, Eileen Smith, Desmond Castle, Calogero Tagliarini, John Donovan, Antonio Fiondella, Anne Fagan, Marty Rooney and Keith Collins. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

ADVENT

RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS: Our Parish Penitential Services will be on **Monday 16th December at 11.30am and 7.30pm.**

PARISH CAROL SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 22nd December at 6pm** with adult and children choirs.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: There will be a children's Nativity Mass at 5pm on **Christmas Eve** and children can dress as a shepherd or angel. There will also be Mass at Midnight on **Christmas Eve.** On **Christmas Day,** Mass will be at 9.15am and 11.15am.

ADVENT EXTRA magazines are available to buy from the table at back of church for £2.95. Please pay your money into the newspaper box.

REPOSITORY now has Advent calendars, Christmas cards and Christmas decorations for sale. Please do pop in to take a look.

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 **24th November, 8th and 22nd December** at the 9.15am Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY will be held at the 9.15am Mass on **1st & 15th December.**

PRAYER GROUP will be meeting on **Thursday 5th December** at 7.30pm in the crypt and will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month.

NOVEMBER LIST OF THE DECEASED: Lists for you to write the names of your departed relatives and friends are beside the newsletters. Please return the lists to the presbytery, along with any Mass offering.

MENS BREAKFAST will be held on **Saturday 30th November** 8:30am in crypt, short talk at 9:00, Mass at 10:00. An opportunity for men to share and get together. Do join us at any time, when and if you can.



PARISH TRIP TO ST ALBANS ABBEY will be on **Friday 13th December.** The coach will leave the church at 9am and leave St Albans at 3pm. We will have Mass at the

Abbey at 12 noon. The price of the coach is £13 per person. Can you please drop your money into the presbytery to confirm your place. There are now only 3 spaces left on the coach. **Please note there will be no Exposition or 12 noon Mass on Friday 13th, but Mass will be at 7pm with Exposition at 6pm.**

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

COME AND SEE will continue on **Tuesday 26th November at 7.30pm** for all who want to learn more about becoming a Catholic, or if you missed one of the Sacraments or if you simply want to renew your faith.



YOUTH CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2025: The next meeting will be on **Monday 2nd December from 7-8pm** in the crypt. A letter has now been emailed to parents with dates for next year. If you have not received it, please contact the presbytery.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The next meeting will be on **Sunday 1st December**.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2026: If your child is in year 2 and is interested in making their First Holy Communion in 2026, please do contact the presbytery to register your interest.

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Wednesday 27th November 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

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS are a fun and meaningful way to give gifts and make a difference to some of the poorest communities around the world. Catalogues are now available at the back of the church.



BROXBOURNE FOODBANK If you wish to donate Christmas food items, please do so by early December as there is a four-week

turnaround for food donations. At the moment, the Foodbank need: tins of meat, fruit, vegetables and fish, tins of rice pudding and custard, squash, UHT juice and UHT milk. You can leave your donation in the foodbank box at the back of church.

ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL: Inside the newsletter is a copy of a recent letter from the Bishops of England and Wales. Our MP is Lewis Cocking. If you have not written to him yet, please do so at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.



SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL will be holding Open Days for prospective parents for children applying for a place in nursery or reception for September 2025. The dates are: Monday 2nd December at 10am and Wednesday 4th December at 2pm. To book a viewing, please contact 463549.

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S are looking for enthusiastic early years practitioners. Applicants need to be qualified to level 3 in Early Years Childcare and Education or equivalent. For further information please email staugustinesunder5s@hotmail.co.uk or call on 01992 460614. Apply with covering letter and CV to St Augustine's Under 5s Charlton Close Hoddesdon EN11 8DR. **CLOSING DATE Friday 13th December 2024**

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

THE BROXBOURNE CATENIANS are holding their annual Christmas meal on **Monday 2nd December** at Brickendon Grange Golf Club. Cost is £35, 6pm for 7pm. Dress code something festive! Contact Alfie Gattuso 0779 1011972.

FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS will be served in the crypt after the 6.30pm Mass on **Saturday 30th November and both Masses on Sunday 1st December**.

WARE CHORAL SOCIETY will be performing English Carols on **Saturday 7th December, 7.30pm** at The Drill Hall, Ware. Tickets £15 from Theresa Casbard 07742022223 or Anne Byrne 467097.

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION IN WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: The annual Christmas concerts which celebrate the mystery of Christ's Incarnation in carols and readings will be held on **18 and 19 December at 7.30pm**. Tickets can be purchased from Ticketmaster; go to www.ticketmaster.co.uk and type in Westminster Cathedral when prompted.

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 held in the New Year in the presbytery.



BROXBOURNE COMMUNITY CHOIR & ST AUGUSTINE'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR will be presenting "Christmas Around the World" on **Sat 7th December at 3pm** at Christ Church Ware. Adults £10 and children under 16 free. Tickets from Gabby 07875221543.

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.



Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Saturday 23rd Nov St Clement, Pope & Martyr 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>	Page 160 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Daniel 7: 13-14 <i>His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	Ps 92 — The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.
Sun 24th Nov OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, King of the Universe 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Deceased brothers of Catenian Association</i>	2nd Reading: Apocalypse 1: 5-8 <i>Rulers of the kings of the earth....he made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God.</i>
Mon 25th Nov St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 10.30am Funeral Desmond O'Sullivan 1.15pm Funeral Giuseppe Cannatella RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!. Alleluia! Gospel: John 18: 33-37 <i>It is you who say that I am a king.</i>
Tues 26th November St John Berchmans 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)</p> 1st Reading: Jeremiah 33: 14-16 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3: 12-4:2 Gospel: Luke 21: 25-28
Wed 27th November 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass followed by coffee in the crypt <i>Holy Souls</i> 5-7pm 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.
Thurs 28th November St Catherine Laboure 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> NO 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.
Friday 29th November (abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 12 noon Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<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.
Saturday 30th Nov SAINT ANDREW, Apostle 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</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.
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
Sun 1st December FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>Pius Ogbodu RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Francesco Distefano RIP</i>	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 26th 1pm Lunch Club, crypt	Tues 26th 7.30pm Come & See, crypt
Tues 26th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Wed 27th 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