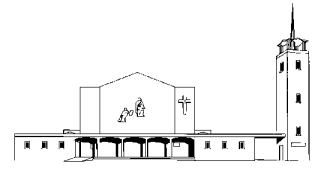




The Announcer



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 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: Joy Ighade – hoddesdonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Italian safeguarding rep: Rossetta Tona – italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

YEAR C

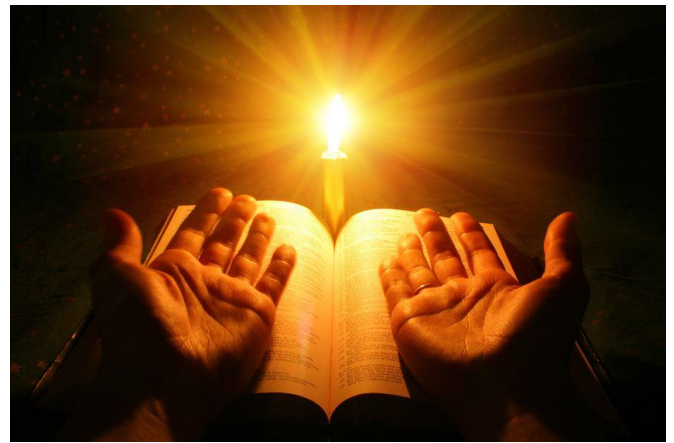
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2ND FEB 2025

Gospel: *Luke 2:22-40*

My eyes have seen your salvation

About hundred years ago it was customary for most women to be 'churched' after childbirth. This was an act of thanksgiving for a safe delivery, and a way of welcoming the mother back into the worshipping community after her time of isolation. The theology behind this ceremony was based in part upon two events that we celebrate today on the Feast of Candlemas, from the gospel of Luke. These are Jesus' presentation in the Temple and Mary's ritual purification after giving birth to Jesus. Leviticus said that all Jewish mothers were to undergo purification thirty-three days after the circumcision of their son on the eighth day. The period was twice as long for a female. A sacrifice had to be offered, and Mary and Joseph offered two small pigeons or doves. This was clear evidence that the couple were not wealthy, as otherwise they would have offered a lamb. While at the Temple they also 'bought back' Jesus. According



to the law all first born males had to be dedicated to God, as a thanksgiving offering to God for saving the first born of Israel from the angel of death during the Passover and Exodus. For animals this offering might mean ritual sacrifice. For sons, unless they were to be dedicated to God and left in the Temple, they could be redeemed, or 'bought back' from the priest for the price of five shekels. The father would recite a blessing and hand the child and the fee to the priest. The priest would then bless the child and hand the child back to the father. On the occasion of Jesus' presentation we are told that a man named Simeon came into the Temple and took Jesus up into his arms and blessed God, saying the famous words of what we know as the Nunc Dimittis, 'Lord now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel'. We might assume from his priest-like actions that Simeon was actually a priest but we are not told that. All we are told is that he was a 'devout and righteous' man, 'waiting for the consolation of Israel'. He was so aligned to God's will, so trusting that God's word would be fulfilled, that the Spirit led him to be at the right place at the right time into a divine encounter with the holy family. The Spirit had also revealed to Simeon in advance that he would die only after he had set eyes on the long-awaited Messiah. Such dependence and insight is utterly remarkable, but it is what is found in those who allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit of God. Speaking also under authority from the Spirit, he imparted to the couple words which made them marvel. Jesus was the Saviour, the glory of Israel who would enlighten the non-Jewish world. This had been God's plan from eternity, that salvation would be brought to the whole of humanity, through the chosen people and now in the person of Mary's child, it would be accomplished. The child would bring turmoil. In words reminiscent of Mary's song of praise at visit to Elizabeth, Simeon prophesies that as a result of Jesus, many, among his own people, will be divested of their power, while others will rise to prominence. Jesus's very being will cause opposition, 'a sign that is opposed'. All will be laid bare before him. Truth will be seen for what it is. Everyone will be transparent before him, so that our motivations are exposed, held up to scrutiny and brought into the light of judgment. While he doesn't refer directly to Jesus' passion, Simeon talked to Mary of her own passion: 'a sword will pierce through your own soul also', a depiction which gives us the characteristic image in popular devotion of Mary's heart pierced by a sword. This is not just the sword of the Spirit, the word which will scrutinize her own soul but her personal identification with her son as she sees his own heart rent apart for our sins. La Sainte Union, the two hearts of Jesus and his mother united in passion and purpose. The mother is the daughter of Zion, but it is Jesus who is Israel's glory and the nations' light. He alone is the Saviour. How Israel needs to know his glory and the nations his light. Only the glory and light of his salvation can bring to the same table Jew and Gentile, break down walls of hatred, heal our brokenness and establish our lasting peace.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

COMBONI MISSIONARIES: We welcome Fr John Downey who will be talking about his work and making a Mission appeal in the parish **this weekend**.



FIRST FRIDAY MASS will be held on **Friday 7th February** at 7pm.

FRANCES BARRON of Town Farm Crescent died recently. Her funeral will be on **Tuesday 18th February at 10.15am**.

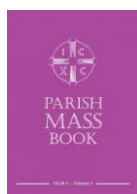
JOAN MARTIN of Monks Close, Broxbourne died recently. Her funeral will be on **Friday 28th February at 1.30pm**.
May they rest in peace.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Frances Barron and Joan Martin and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including John McDaid, Gaetana Lomanto, Nicola Giardina, Antonia Fantocchi, Madge Phelan, Caterina Re, Angelo Cuffaro, Giuseppe Galione, Phyllis Dolan, Rosa Augello, Mary Brown, Mary O'Donovan and Francesco Bondi. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*



POPE'S INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY is for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

MASS BOOKS: We are looking into the possibility of ordering a set of new Mass books, to save printing the readings each week. We would like to know as a parish whether this is something you would like us to do? The cost for 100 books would be £3.95 each, and to order the 6 sets would cost £2,370.00. **There are now some Mass books which you can buy from the repository, the price is £5.95 each.**



NEW SUNDAY MISSALS are now available to buy from the repository for £19.95.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Gabby Hanley will be running the Children's Choir at the 9.15am Mass on Sunday mornings. The children choir will continue on the **2nd February**.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY will be held at the 9.15am Mass on **9th February**.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY at Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday 17th May 2025 at 2:30pm** The Cardinal invites couples in the Diocese celebrating in 2025 their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th and any year over 60 wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage. Please contact the presbytery with these details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, number of years married, postal address, email (or phone number, if no email) by **Wed 2nd April**.



MEN'S BREAKFAST will be held on **Saturday 8th February** at 8:30am in the crypt. There will be a short talk at 9:00am and Mass at 10:00am. This is an opportunity for men to share and get together. Do join us at any time, when and if you can.



PRAYER GROUP will resume again on **Thursday 6th February** at 7.30pm in the crypt and will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month.

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 continues on **Tuesday 4th February 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 held in the crypt on **Monday 10th February at 7pm**.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION PRAYER PARTNERS are needed for all the candidates on the programme. A prayer partner prays for a candidate at least twice a day, whilst they are preparing to make their Confirmation. If you would like to become a prayer partner, please print your name on the sheet on the blue board at the back of the church.





FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

PROGRAMME: The next meeting will be on **Sunday 9th February** at 5pm in the crypt.

If you have not yet paid the £8 for the book for the children, can you please drop it off to the presbytery.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

PROGRAMME: Application forms for children currently in year 2 who wish to make their First Holy Communion in **May 2026** are still available to collect from the presbytery, or you can email the presbytery to request the form. Details of the course will be given with the form. You will need to commit to attending weekly Mass. If you are unable to commit, please defer applying for the course until next year. **Please note the deadline to return the forms is on the 16th February 2025.**

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE



SPUC COLLECTION: The amount collected was £217.74. Thank you for your donations.

SCHOOLS/UNDER 5'S

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S are looking for enthusiastic early years practitioners. Applicants need to be qualified to level 2/3 in Early Years Childcare and Education or equivalent. 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 7th February.**

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS



PARISH MAGAZINE in full colour, 60 pages is now available to buy from the presbytery during the week. The magazine is also available to buy from the repository after Mass at the weekend. The price is £5 to cover the cost of printing.

CHURCH CLEANERS: Two more cleaners are needed to join the Wednesday group for one hour per month. If you can help, please contact the presbytery.

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 presbytery on **Thursday 20th February at 2pm.**



£676.56 for the Catholic Children's Society, Westminster. Thank you to all who donated.

CHURCH CLEANING: Elizabeth Nsonwah, Toni Iamarino and Penny Benge. Thank you for your help.

DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES can be viewed online <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs>.

FINANCE

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



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

Missionary Prayer

Father of all, you sent your Son to carry out your mission of redeeming the world. Today, many still have not heard his message of truth and love. Our world is torn by war and conflict, by poverty and injustice. Let the light of your Gospel of love so shine in the world that it may be transformed into a worthy home for all your children of every race and country. Bless all missionaries throughout the world that their work may bear fruit.

Together with them, may we too share in the missionary work of the whole Church that your Kingdom of justice, love and peace may come in all hearts and in all nations.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CRIB APPEAL: This year the amount collected was

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Saturday 1st February Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Francesca Comparetto RIP</i>	Page 1119 in Sunday Missals 1st Reading: Malachi 3: 1-4 <i>The Lord whom you seek will come to his Temple</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Mary O'Donovan RIP</i>	Ps 24 — The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory!
Sun 2nd February THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Mary Brown</i>	2nd Reading: Hebrews 2: 14-18 <i>He had to be made like his brothers in every respect.</i>
Mon 3rd February St Blaise 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Private intention</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia! Gospel: Luke 2, 22-40 <i>My eyes have seen your salvation.</i>
Tues 4th February St Gilbert of Sempringham 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Mary & John Hanley & Family</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)</p>
Wed 5th February St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15 Mass <i>Theresa & Andrew Delaney's ints</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	1st Reading: Isaiah 6: 1-2a, 3-8 2nd Reading: Corinthians 15: 1-11 Gospel: Luke 5: 1-11
Thurs 6th February St Paul Miki & Companions 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Alma Liddell-Aguillon's birthday intentions</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.45 – 9am & 10.45 – 11am or ask Fr Julian at any other time.</p>
Friday 7th February (abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Mary Savage & Family intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7pm Mass <i>John & Ada Brown RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass. <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 8th February St Josephine Bakhita 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Matthew Swindell's intentions</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 9th February FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Albert & Irene Willmer RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Maria & Onofrio Panepinto RIP anniv</i>	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 4th 1pm Lunch club	Tues 4th 7.30pm Come and See, crypt
Tues 4th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Wed 5th 6pm Brownies, crypt
	Thurs 6th 7.30pm Prayer group, 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 parrocciani 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