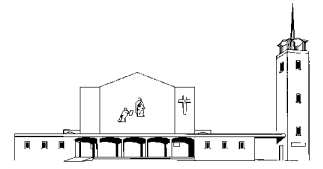




# The Announcer



## 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 C**

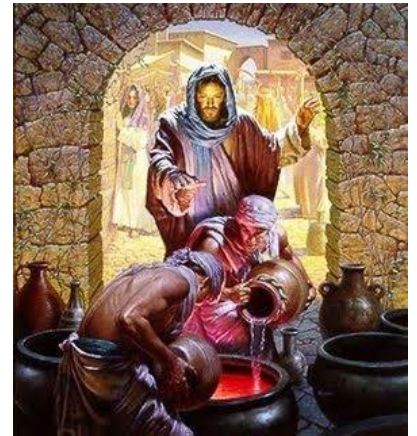
**SECOND SUNDAY IN O.T.**

**19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025**

Gospel: *John 2: 1-11*

*This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee.*

Last week we celebrated the Baptism of the Lord. Today we celebrate the Wedding in Cana at which Jesus miraculously changed water into wine. This was 'the first of his signs' recounted in the gospel of John. In the early Church these events were celebrated as Jesus' Epiphany even more so than the visit of the Magi. The Wedding Feast at Cana is recounted only in John's gospel, and like the rest of the gospel is immersed in Jewish symbolism. It is through this lens that Jesus is presented as the fulfilment of the hopes not just of Israel, but of the whole of humanity. Strangely, the new lectionary which is held to follow closely to the original text misses out that the wedding took place on the third day. As he wrote his gospel, John would know that mention of the third day would resonate for the early Christians. It was on the third day that Jesus was resurrected. His resurrection conquered death and opened the door to eternal life. It heralded the transformation of the existing created order. Consequently, here at the wedding feast of Cana, we have more than an intimation that Christ, even at the start of his ministry, is going to transform creation. We cannot fail to notice the significance that John gives to Mary at the start of the story. It is Mary whom John tells us was present at the wedding, before he mentions the presence of Jesus and the disciples. Clearly Mary was more than an ordinary guest, otherwise why would she care that the wine had run out or take it upon herself to instruct his servants, without consulting her host, that they should follow whatever her son told them? The Church sees this as revealing Mary's compassionate, intercessory role, drawing others towards the authoritative voice of her Son. Perhaps the wedding was among one of the priestly families related to Mary. We know that Mary was of priestly Aaronic descent in at least one of her branches, since her cousin Elizabeth was descended from Aaron. The existence of stone jars for ritual purification is very revealing. A priestly family would have preferred stone to the usual clay jars, as stone is less easily contaminated. Against this backdrop of Jewish rites of purification, by changing the water into wine, Jesus manifested himself as humanity's True High Priest whose actions transcend the realm of ritual. That there were six stone jars is probably significant. In the numerology of the bible, six represents man and the natural creation. In Genesis there are six days of creation, and on the last of these, man is created. The primal substance of creation is water. In Genesis it is over water that the Spirit hovers and from which life emerges. It is water that Jesus tells the servants to fill the jars with. The water held in the six jars is representative of the created order which is now about to be transformed at the intervention of Jesus. In his Prologue of his gospel, just before he recounts this miracle, John tells us that all things came into being through the Logos, the Word who becomes flesh in the person of Jesus. Now in the wedding at Cana, Jesus is revealed as the one who can transform creation itself. To trust Jesus is to open the door to a transformed life. What Jesus manifests at Cana, he manifests also in his other miracles, in his conversion of souls, in his Resurrection and in the transformation of the whole of creation at his return. Crucially we should not forget the context for the miracle. Jesus will refer frequently in his parables to the wedding banquet to which all are invited. Cana points to Jesus as the true host of the banquet, who blesses with his abundance and who joyfully meets the needs of all the guests. Like the Holy Communion which he commanded his followers to celebrate, and the open table fellowships of his ministry, Cana points us towards the eschatological wedding banquet of the Lamb at the consummation of all things. 'Blessed are those invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb'. That culmination is not yet here. At Cana, Jesus had not yet gone to the cross and the new wine of the kingdom through his water, blood and Spirit had not yet been poured out. This is why he says to Mary, 'My hour has not yet come'. Through changing the water into wine, John said that Jesus 'manifested his glory'. This is climactic. Glory belongs to God. Throughout the Jewish scriptures, nature veils God's glory from human beings. God's glory is to be experienced but not seen. Here that same glory is unreservedly ascribed to Jesus. That glory is now unveiled, and made visible in his person and actions, and to his people. Amazingly the invitation to all is to share that glory. As our gospel antiphon says, 'God called us through the gospel, so that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ'. Who would wish to reject it?



Fr Julian

## PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Oluwatomiwa Awoyemi who will be baptised this week.

**CRIB APPEAL:** Our Crib offerings are donated to the Catholic Children's Society. The Society provides a range of services to help disadvantaged children and families including mental health support, early years education and emergency grants for families in crisis. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCB website [www.cathchild.org.uk/crib](http://www.cathchild.org.uk/crib).

**GIOVANNI PECORARO** of Eleanor Way died recently. His funeral will be on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 11.30am. There will be no 9.15am Mass that morning.**

**LESLEY SYKES** of Heath Row died recently. Her funeral will be on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 12 noon.**

**MARIA MESSINA** of Fairfield Road died recently. Her funeral will be on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm.**

**SANTE TORO** formerly of Crossfield Road died recently. His funeral will be on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 10am. There will therefore be no 9.15am Mass that day.**  
*May they rest in peace.*

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently including Sante Toro, Lesley Sykes, Maria Messina and Giovanni Pecoraro and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Vincenzo Papa, Calogero Bonomo, Giuseppe Tambuzzo, Baby Marie Hounslow, Giuseppa Rotondo, Francesca Gaiteri, Martin Graham, Giuseppe Ricotta, Angelo Barile, Keith Newell, Mary Nolan, Elsie Phipps, Jill Logsdail, Giuseppe & Onofria Maniscalco, Giuseppa Tamburello, Alice Carrubba, Kathleen Keane and Giuseppe Tambuzzo. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*



**POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY** is for the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is

necessary to build a better world, might always be respected

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR:** Gabby Hanley will be running the Children's Choir at the 9.15am Mass on Sunday mornings. The children choir will resume on the **26<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** will be held at the 9.15am Mass on **19<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

**MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY** at Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 2:30pm** The Cardinal invites couples in the Diocese celebrating in 2025 their 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> 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).

**PRAYER GROUP** will not be meeting in January, but will resume again on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February** at 7.30pm in the crypt and will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month.

**VOCATIONS "COME AND SEE":** Any man who may be interested in exploring a vocation to the Priesthood or Permanent Diaconate is invited to a Vocations Morning on **Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 10am-2pm** at Vaughan House, London SW1P 1QN. To find out more and to register, please contact Canon Roger Taylor at [rogetaylor@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rogetaylor@rcdow.org.uk).

### **CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE**

will be held on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January** at St Augustine's Broxbourne, at 7pm on behalf of Churches Together in Hoddesdon. All are welcome.



**COMBONI MISSIONARIES** will be making a Mission appeal in the parish on the **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February.**

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> January 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 27<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm.**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** The next meeting will be on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025** 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 'PRAYER PARTNERS'** are needed for all the children in year 3 on the First Holy Communion programme. A prayer partner prays for a child at least twice a day, whilst they are preparing to make their First Holy Communion. If you would like to become a prayer partner, please print your name in capital letters on the blue sheets on the blue board at the back of the church.



**BAPTISM COURSE:** The next course will be held on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 7.15pm** 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 WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:** The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal **this weekend**. SPUC exists to radically transform culture so that abortion is not only abolished, but becomes truly unthinkable. To accomplish this mission, the Society is positioning initiatives in politics, education, legislation and culture. Through these efforts, we will restore a respect for the sanctity of human life to our society. This year's appeal postcards call on the Government to adhere to the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child. You will find the postcards beside the newsletters. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers.



**SPUC:** The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is currently being examined by a Committee of MPs. Last week, this committee put out a call for evidence, asking for written submissions about the bill. The committee will start taking oral evidence from **20<sup>th</sup> January**, so for the most realistic chance to have your evidence considered please submit it by then. The Committee asks for evidence from people with relevant expertise. While this is not specified, it could include, medical or legal expertise, as well as experience of disability, in the social care sector, or of caring for someone with disability or illness. We have produced a guide on how to write and submit your evidence which can be found at <https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2025/january/terminally-ill-adults-end-of-life-billcall-for-evidence>

### 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](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> February.**

### SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

**PARISH MAGAZINE** in full colour, 60 pages is now available to buy from the presbytery during the week. 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 30<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm.**



**MARRIAGE CARE** is a charity that runs marriage preparation courses for couples marrying in a Catholic church, and is looking for new course facilitators. Please call Karen on 0800 389 3801 or visit <https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/mpcf/>.

**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

**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



**PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES:** We are now preparing to order new sets of offertory envelopes. If you no longer use your envelopes or would like to move to a standing order, please contact the presbytery.

**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>

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January Blessed Virgin Mary</b> 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Pietro Dileto RIP anniv</i>	<b>Page 971 in Sunday Missals</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 62: 1-5 <i>The Bridegroom rejoices over the bride.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<b>Ps 96 — Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples</b>
<b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup> January SECOND SUNDAY IN O.T.</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Kathleen Keane RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Giuseppe Tambuzzo RIP anniv</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Corinthians 12: 4-11 <i>The one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.</i>
<b>Mon 20<sup>th</sup> January St Fabian, Pope &amp; Martyr</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <b>NO</b> 9.15am Mass <b>11.30am Funeral Giovanni Pecoraro RIP</b> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel Accl.</b> Alleluia, alleluia! God called us through the gospel, so that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!
<b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup> January St Agnes, Virgin &amp; Martyr</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Keith Newell RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel:</b> John 2: 1-11 <i>This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee.</i>
<b>Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> January St Vincent, Deacon &amp; Martyr</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15 Mass followed with coffee in the crypt <i>Sr Leonard Azzopardi's intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b>  <b>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>  <b>(YEAR C)</b></p> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Nehemiah 8: 2-4a <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Paul 12: 12-30 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 1: 1-4, 4: 14-21
<b>Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b> 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>O'Connor Family intentions</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b> 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 24<sup>th</sup> January St Francis de Sales, Bishop &amp; Dr (abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</b> 11-11.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament <b>12 noon Funeral Lesley Sykes RIP</b> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>ROSARY</b> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, APOSTLE</b> 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Francesca Comparetto RIP</i>	<b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b> 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>Giuseppe &amp; Onofria Maniscalco RIP &amp; Giuseppa Tamburello RIP</i>	<b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b> Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.
<b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup> January THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Alice Carrubba RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</b>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	
<b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup></b> 1pm Lunch club <b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup></b> 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	<b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup></b> 7.30pm Come and See, crypt <b>Wed 22<sup>nd</sup></b> 7.15pm Baptism course, church

**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 parroccchiani 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