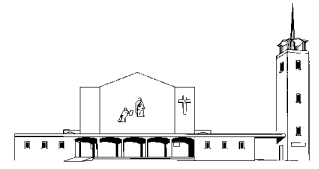




The Announcer



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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

16TH FEB 2025

Gospel: *Luke 6: 17, 20-26*

Blessed are you who are poor. Woe to you who are rich.

Recently I was on pilgrimage with diocesan priests in Assisi and Siena. We walked in the footsteps of St Francis, St Clare and St Catherine, saints who shook the foundations of the mediaeval world, and whose lives and teaching still impact us today profoundly and for the better. When Pope Francis chose his pontifical name, it was that of the humble *poverello* of Assisi. Much of Pope Francis' teaching is grounded in the Christian principles by which Francis lived, not least his love of simplicity and for the whole of creation as gifted by a loving Creator. At San Damiano, Francis heard Christ on the crucifix speak to him: Francis rebuild my church. Francis took these words literally and soon rebuilt the ruined church. It was only later that he realised that Jesus was asking him to rebuild not just a material building but the fabric of the living Church itself. It was at San Damiano that Francis composed the verses of the beautiful Canticle of Creation, in which he praises creation and sees its respective elements as members of his family. The Canticle has been put to music many times (the hymn *All Creatures of our God and King* is one), but invariably each version misses out the last lines of the Canticle, which for Francis is arguably its climax. *'Woe to those who die in mortal sin. Blessed are those who will find Your most holy will, for the second death shall do them no harm. Praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility'*. We have become soft on sin. Many today talk of the sacredness of creation and yet are contemptuous of any imperative to be holy. Francis loved creation but he knew that we mar it, and ourselves, through our sinfulness. He saw death as our sister, kindly to the body, but had no truck with death occasioned by mortal sin. He took Jesus at his word, experienced the fullness of life, and teaches us to avoid anything that depletes it. In Luke's Sermon on the Mount, our gospel today, Jesus similarly uses words of admonition. *'Woe to you who are rich..who are full now..when people speak well of you'*. Blessings on the other hand are for the humble, the impoverished, the hungry, those who weep, and for those who put Christ first. In the face of ridicule and distain, Francis embraced "lady" poverty, and found great riches in heaven. He trusted totally in the provenance of God. Both the prophet Jeremiah and the psalmist today remind us that those who find the surety of God are like trees planted by the water, that will produce fruit in season. The tree was one of St Catherine of Siena's favourite images for the Christian life. Like natural trees, if we allow ourselves to grow in Christ we will produce fruit. As a tree finds nourishment from the soil, so the soul finds nourishment in humility and love. This love for Catherine is love of self-knowledge. Such is not a selfish love, but brought to awareness through the love of God. To know ourselves we have to know first how much God loves us. Just as a tree grows and puts out its branches, so as we grow in the Christian faith, we discern what best brings glory to God. The inner strength of our tree is its marrow, identified as our patience, by which she understands our waiting upon the Lord and our patiently identifying with him in his suffering love. As our love grows so does our sorrow. In seeking to do God's will, we enter into more of what the cross of Christ means, his sorrowful passion for us and the whole world. Our own personal sorrow comes also from our increasing awareness that we are inclined to sin, and do sin, in spite of the fact that Christ has done all to reverse the sin of Adam. Yet our baptism into Christ and His saving blood continually cleanse and renew us, helping us to turn in repentance and resume penitential lives of virtue. We are drawn into deeper communion and a greater identification with God in his loving purposes. The eucharist and our communion with Christ sustains us and his sustenance calls us into ever greater yearning for greater communion. or as our post-communion prayer puts it today, *'Having fed upon these heavenly delights we pray, O Lord, that we may always long for that food by which we truly live, through Christ our Lord'*



Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Chiara Lowen, Ava Falzone-Cobine and Abie and Ophelia Fitzgerald who will be baptised this weekend.

FRANCES BARRON of Town Farm Crescent died recently. Her funeral will be on **Tuesday 18th February at 11am** at Woollensbrook Crematorium.

MARGARETE FRYDRYCH of Hoe Lane died recently. Her funeral will be on **Wednesday 26th February at 2pm**.

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

PETER FRY of Kingsfield died recently. Details of his funeral will follow in due course.

May they rest in peace.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Margarete Frydrych, Frances Barron, Joan Martin, Peter Fry and Ernesto Davila and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Alfredo Santaniello, Molly Zwager, Hester Counsell, Dorothea Nelson, Pietro Gaiteri, Bridget Tyrrell, Anthony Donati, Francis Cassar, Luigi Lanza, Angelo Licata, Lucia La Corte, Terry McIntyre, Moyra O'Neill and Briegre Gromley. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

THIS SUNDAY IS RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY. The theme, Pilgrims of Hope: Our Journey Together Towards Racial Justice, invites Catholics across England and Wales to reflect on the collective journey towards racial justice in our schools, parishes and the wider society. Bishop Paul McAleenan says "It is my hope that our Racial Justice Sunday 2025 resources will not only assist but inspire the People of God to continue walking and praying together on the path to racial justice." <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/rjs25-resources/>



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: There are now some Mass books which you can buy from the repository, the price is £5.95 each. **NEW SUNDAY MISSALS** are also 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 **16th February**.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY will be held at the 9.15am Mass on **23rd March**.



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**.



PRAYER GROUP will meet again on **Thursday 13th March (instead of the 6th)** at 7.30pm in the crypt and will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS ROTAS: The next rotas for the period March - June will be drawn up shortly. Please therefore advise of any dates that you are **NOT** available during this period by **19th February AT THE LATEST** to Pat Kavanagh for 9.15 am Mass (tel 07485 284007 or 01992 449282 or email patandcarolkav@btinternet.com) and Dawn Bates for 6.30pm and 11.15am Masses (tel 440986 or email hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk). Please also advise of any changes in personal contact details e.g. address, telephone number etc. Once drawn up, all rotas will be dispatched by email unless requested otherwise. Thank you.

A VOCATION DAY to Priesthood and Permanent Diaconate will be held on **Sat 1st March 10-2pm** at Sacred Heart of Jesus parish hall, 1 King Edward's Road, Ware SG12 7EJ. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. To find out more and to register your attendance please contact: 07977599110.

LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY is on **5th March** and Mass will be at 9.15am with both schools, 2pm and 8pm. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting (for those aged 16-60) and abstinence (for those aged 14+). This means that we consciously choose to eat less - one main meal only - and that (as on all Fridays) we avoid meat.

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 18th 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 24th 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 23rd 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.**

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Wednesday 12th March 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.

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 21st February.**

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

EMMAUS WALK on Sat 22nd Feb - meet outside The Star in Standon High Street (SG11 1LB) 2pm. Fr Julian will lead it.

CONCERT FOR UKRAINE will be held on **Friday 21st February at 7.30pm** at the Ukraine Cultural Centre, 28 Flamstead End Rd, Cheshunt EN8 0HT. Entry is free with a request for a charitable donation.


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 6th March at 2pm.**



CHURCH CLEANING: Pat Kavanagh, Sue Alvey and Val. Thank you for your help. Two more cleaners are needed for the Wednesday group. Please contact the presbytery if you can 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

PRAYER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Heavenly Father, thank you for leading us, may we never falter on this journey we have undertaken. Instead we offer you the difficulties and the challenges encountered on this road, knowing that each pilgrim step, taken in faith, and in love for you and our brothers and sisters will bring us closer to that end which is your desire for us – justice for all your people.

Let the words of the Prophet 'Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord that he may teach us his ways, that we may walk in his paths' guide our thinking and decisions. Remind us again, Lord, that to achieve racial justice we must remind ourselves that all are equal, all are gift, all are brothers and sisters.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Saturday 15th February St Claude La Colombiere 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>John Griffin RIP</i>	<p align="center">Page 987 in Sunday Missals</p> <p>1st Reading: Jeremiah 17: 5-8 <i>Cursed is the man who trusts in man; blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord.</i></p> <p>Ps 1 — Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.</p> <p>2nd Reading: Corinthians 15: 12, 16-20 <i>If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and leap for joy, says the Lord, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel: Luke 6: 17, 20-26 <i>Blessed are you who are poor. Woe to you who are rich.</i></p> <p align="center">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)</p> <p>1st Reading: Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13 2nd Reading: Corinthians 15: 45-49 Gospel: Luke 6: 27-38</p> <p 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> <p align="center">ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p align="center">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK Any parishioner sick, frail, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.</p> <p align="center">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p> <p align="center">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	
Sun 16th February SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Bert & Molly Zwager RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Briege Gromley</i>	
Mon 17th February 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Leonard Johnson RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Tues 18th February 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Noleen Nolan</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Wed 19th February 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15 Mass <i>Bridget Mongan</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Thurs 20th February Sts Francisco & Jacinta Marto 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Thanksgiving Ogbodu Family</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Friday 21st February St Peter Damian, Bishop & Dr (abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Salvatore Pendino's intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Saturday 22nd February CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Bill Pollard RIP</i>	
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i> Sun 23rd February SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Enrico & Maria Rega RIP anniv</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Lena Kurtrick</i>	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 18th 1pm Lunch club Tues 18th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Tues 18th 7.30pm Come and See, 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