



The Announcer



St Augustine's Catholic Church

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

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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
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YEAR C

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

23RD FEB 2025

Gospel: Luke 6: 27-38

Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Think of the person you most hate, or the person most different to you. Jesus calls us to love that person and to love them as ourselves. Notice that we are not to love them as we love ourselves, but to love them as ourselves. The difference is crucial as we may not love ourselves very much. We are to love them as ourselves. On another occasion Jesus tells his disciples to love one another as he has loved them. This is even more demanding than to love another as ourselves. Today's gospel is also about love. Jesus tells us to love not only those who can reciprocate our love. 'If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them'. Christian love should exceed what passes for love in the world. Recently Pope Francis has said that 'Christian love is not a concentric expansion of interests that little by little extend to other persons and groups'. Citing the love shown by the Good Samaritan, he says that Christian love is a 'love that builds a fraternity open to all, without exception'.



Some have seen these comments as a criticism of a more restrictive policy towards immigration in America. The Vice-President of the USA suggested that we should love first our family, then our neighbour, and then our community, followed by our fellow citizens and only after that the rest of humanity. Whether they are a criticism or not, Pope Francis reminds us that every human being has an innate dignity, fashioned in the image of God, regardless of how they are perceived or their associations. The idea that there should be gradations in our loving, an 'ordo amoris' or love in right order, was popularised by our St Augustine, and later developed by St Thomas Aquinas. God has to come first, and love of God will be expressed through love for others, first for the family. The Good Samaritan saw to the needs of the person lying half-dead on the road, but had his family been travelling with him his first duty of care would have been to have secured their safety before volunteering to help. It would have been a dereliction of his parental or marital responsibility to have done otherwise. We could say that Maximilien Kolbe exercised such discernment when he chose to die in the gas chamber instead of a family man. Take again honouring one's parents. This was one of the ten commandments, and Jesus reminded the religious leaders that if one's parents were in financial need, there was an obligation to help them before expending on what was seen as a more holy outlay. Concern for one's parents was itself a holy concern. When Jesus calls us to put him first before family, it is a prioritisation of responsibilities not an abnegation of responsibilities towards one family. Love for God has to be the first principle in this ordo amoris, but that might mean that on occasions we express that love by loving our neighbour more than our family. For both St Augustine and Aquinas our love of neighbour takes precedence over our love for our family, if the neighbour's needs are greater. A lot has to do with the immediacy of the situation which presents itself. In this respect it is useful to remember that the word neighbour comes from the word which means close by, and it is therefore the nearness of neighbours which makes them particularly subjects of our concern. Love has to be practically shown to those who have a more immediate call upon our charity, whether through their proximity to us or through the severity of the circumstances which they face, which might be far from us in distance, and so not neighbours in a conventional sense. Nevertheless, it is easy to become plausible humanitarians while ignoring needs on our own doorstep. How much love can we face or show? To love in general but not in particular is not really love. In Peanuts, Linus says, 'I love mankind....it's people I can't stand'. Dispassionately keeping our neighbour at arms-length while assuming that we are exercising compassion by throwing money at a problem is not necessarily loving. Even more to love our neighbour when that neighbour might be our 'enemy' is sacrificial love indeed. It is entering into Christ's sacrifice on the cross....when we were enemies of God, St Paul reminds us Christ died for us. When we were enemies.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will be held from 6-6.45pm on Monday due to the Confirmation meeting.

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, Joan Martin, Peter Fry and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Enrico & Maria Rega, Salvatore Gambrone, Assunta Fonzo, Pietro Morreale, Dorothy Cooper, Ellen McElligott, Denis James, Josephine Gibilaro, Antonietta Tagliarini, Joseph Phelan and Muriel Tear. *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: 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 **9th March.**

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



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.

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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be held on **Friday 7th March** at 11am at St Augustine's, Broxbourne at 11am and also Hoddesdon Baptist church at 7.30pm.

ADORATION WITH TAIZE will be held on Sunday **16th March, 27th April, 18th May and 15th June** from 7-8pm in church.

AYLESFORD PRIORY PILGRIMAGE DAY will be held on **Thursday 15th May** and the coach will leave at 9am. The price of the coach is £17.50 and you can either bring a packed lunch or buy lunch there. If you would like to go, please complete the tear off slip and return it to the presbytery with the £17.50.



Why not join "**CELEBRATE**" for a relaxed faith filled festival for all the family, taking place at Worth School in the beautiful grounds of Worth Abbey **16th - 20th August?** Go to "celebratetrust.org" for more information and to book, or contact Tony and Linda Barrell 01992 442430.

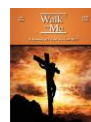
LENT

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.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be prayed in church each Friday (12.30pm after Mass) and Saturday (9.30am before Mass.) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at 9am on Saturday mornings in Lent.

EXTRA CONFESSIONS IN LENT: Fr Julian will be available to hear confessions on Fridays in Lent during Exposition 6-7pm.



LENT WALK WITH ME journey of prayer booklets for £1 can be found at the back of the church by the newspapers. There are

also children's booklets for £1 and children's calendars for 25p. Please place your money in the newspaper box in the wall at the back of church.

LENT EXTRA magazines are available for £2.95 from the back of church. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

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 25th 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.

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.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

FENCES: We will soon be replacing the fences in the presbytery garden down Esdaile Lane together with the fences adjoining the Under 5's. The cost of this will be £9,000. If you would like to donate, any donations would be grateful.

SINGING WORKSHOP will be held on Saturday 29th March from 2-3.30pm in the crypt. This will be an opportunity of introduce new worship songs in

preparation for a Spring Celebration which will be held on Saturday 26th April from 2-3pm in the church. All are welcome to attend.

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: Michele & Pelle De Luca, Sophie Lenguito & Alex Thomson. 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

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PILGRIMAGE DAY TO AYLESFORD PRIORY ON 15th MAY.

Name:

Contact no:

Email address.....

Next-of-kin name & contact number:

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Please return to the presbytery in an envelope with your name on together with the £17.50

PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY
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 rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<p>Saturday 22nd February CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Bill Pollard RIP</i></p>	<p>Page 991 in Sunday Missals 1st Reading: Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13 <i>The Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed.</i></p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p> <p>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></p>	<p>Ps 103 — <i>The Lord is compassionate and gracious.</i> 2nd Reading: Corinthians 15: 45-49 <i>Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.</i></p>
<p>Mon 24th February 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Sheila Doyle RIP</i> 6-6.45pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Alleluia!</p>
<p>Tues 25th February St Walburga 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Giovannina Minichiello RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>Gospel: Luke 6: 27-38 <i>Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.</i></p>
<p>Wed 26th February 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15 Mass <i>Maria-Teresa Distefano RIP</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 2pm Funeral Margarete Frydrych RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) 1st Reading: Sirach 27:4-7 2nd Reading: Corinthians 15: 54-58 Gospel: Luke 6: 39-45</p>
<p>Thurs 27th February St Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Dr 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Josephine Murphy RIP</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>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>Friday 28th February St Oswald (abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Patricia & Connie Murphy RIP</i> 1.30pm Funeral Joan Martin RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p>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>Saturday 1st March ST DAVID, Bishop, Patron of Wales 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Isabella Abrahams RIP</i></p>	<p>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>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Denis O'Donovan & William Phelan RIP</i></p> <p>Sun 2nd March EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Decd members of Aguilon Colina Family</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the parish</i></p>	<p>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
<p>Mon 24th 7pm Confirmation, crypt Tues 25th 1pm Lunch club Tues 25th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt</p>	<p>Tues 25th 7.30pm Come and See, crypt Wed 26th 6pm Brownies, crypt</p>

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