



# 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: Joy Ighade – [hoddesdonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:hoddesdonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)  
Italian safeguarding rep: Rossetta Tona – [italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

YEAR C

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

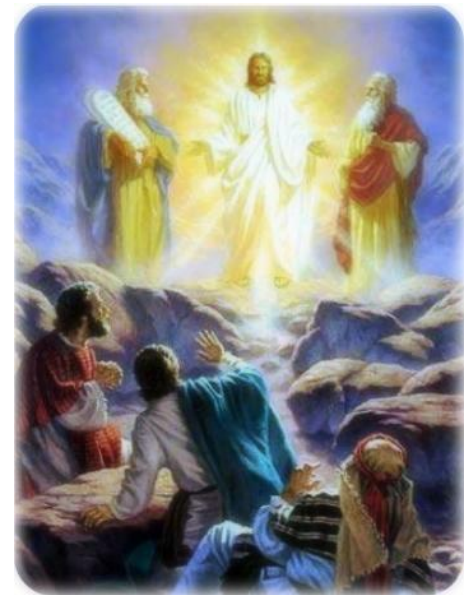
16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025

Gospel: Luke 9: 28b-36

*As Jesus was praying, the appearance of his face was altered.*

On the slopes of Mount Subiaso, high above Assisi there is a sculpture of St Francis lying on his back looking up into the night sky. Francis was something of a star gazer, familiar with Brother Sun and Sister Moon. Are we? We may have missed the recent planetary parade, but perhaps we saw the clear skies and marvelled at the beauty of the constellations last week. The planets of our solar system, though not stellar, appear brighter than the stars because they are nearer to us. How often do we look up, instead of looking down? In our reading from Genesis, God takes Abram (soon to be Abraham) outside. He tells him to look up and 'number the stars'. Their countless number would be paralleled in the countless number of his offspring. Abram believed it, and it was 'counted it to him as righteousness'. He placed his faith in God, in what God had spoken and promised. Do we? God had brought Abram outside to look up. God wants to bring us outside, not just to see what is outside, but to bring us outside of ourselves so that we see ourselves and the world around us in a different light. Before the invention of instant artificial light, the daily sunrise or gradual lighting up of the night sky gave earlier peoples a different awareness of time and light than us. Light for them wasn't some momentary event but a progressive revelation. This gave them a greater understanding of faith than we have. Faith progressively gives light, dispels darkness overtime and illuminates our way ahead.

Lumen Fidei (The Light of Faith), Pope Francis's first encyclical, questions the debased idea of faith in the modern age. Faith is not some leap, driven by blind emotion, into the dark, devoid of light, or alternatively, some kind of interior subjective light, which could never be proposed to others as an objective witness of itself. Rather faith illuminates our path, like 'a lamp which guides out steps in the night and suffices for the journey'. As we proceed on our journey, through life's ups and downs, faith doesn't give us blinding explanations of everything that happens but assures us of God's 'accompanying presence... which touches every story of suffering and opens up a ray of light'. The 'pioneer and perfecter of our faith' is Christ. He journeys with us, and it is through his light that we see ourselves and the circumstances of our lives, and the direction of our travel. The nearer we approach his passion and death, the more brightly shines the light of faith. Pope Francis says that, 'It is precisely in contemplating Jesus' death that faith grows stronger and receives a dazzling light..revealed as faith in Christ's steadfast love for us, a love capable of embracing death to bring us salvation'. In optical physics, what we see depends upon the source of light, rather than the object we see. Spiritually it is the same, our seeing depends upon the light of Christ, our source, and not simply what is illuminated. The light of faith illuminates something far greater. We are not satisfied with partial sight. Consequently, Pope Francis says that 'Faith by its very nature demands renouncing the immediate possession which sight would appear to offer'. Infact the divine source of light, just like the brightness of the sun, at time plunges us into a welcome blindness, encouraging us to contemplate that there is much more to see. This dark night of the soul, where we may think that God has left us, is infact an assurance of greater illumination to come and a spur to our journey of faith. We cannot possess the source of our illumination. We have to let Christ our light illuminate us. On the day of Transfiguration, the disciples just like Abraham, were led outside. They accompanied Jesus in his prayer retreat up Mount Tabor. They were plunged into darkness in order to see. The transfiguring of Jesus before them (his appearance 'altered and his clothing became dazzling white) subsumed whatever light they had. The radiant glory they see is not enlightened by themselves, but the revelation of Christ's own light, the source of all light, spiritual and natural, before whom everything and everyone is illuminated. That Moses and Elijah appeared also in glory talking to Jesus about what he was going to accomplish at Jerusalem (Luke calls it his exodus) reinforced their faith. In retrospect they would understand that Jesus' death could extinguish neither his glorious light nor God's plan for our enlightenment and salvation. It would bring into relief what the psalmist had already proclaimed prophetically, as true eternally, 'the Lord is my light and my salvation'.



Fr Julian

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS** to Dan Beary and Priscilla O'Connor who will be married in church this weekend. May God bless them in their married life.

**THOMAS HEARNE** of Park Lane died recently. His Requiem will be on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm.**

**PAOLA MELILLO** of The Canadas died recently. Her Requiem Mass will be on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm.**

**PAULINE WHELEHAN** died recently. Her Requiem Mass will be on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 12 noon.**  
*May they rest in peace.*

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently including Antonia Castiglione, Thomas Hearne, Pauline Whelehan and Paola Melillo and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Milly Yarwood, Palmino Ingino, James O'Brien, Margaret Staines, Donald Gifford, George Dyke, Gaetano Martorana, George Stubbs, John Doran, Maria Cimino, Katheleen Gemmell, Ted Leatherbarrow, Francesca Provenzano and Maureen Norman. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*



**POPE'S INTENTION FOR MARCH** is for families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR:** Gabby Hanley will be running the Children's Choir at the 9.15am Mass on Sunday mornings. Next date: **23<sup>rd</sup> March.**

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** will be held at the 9.15am Mass on **16<sup>th</sup> March.** More helpers are needed and training will be given. Please contact the presbytery



**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 husband and wife's names, wedding date, number of years married, postal address, email (or phone number, if no email) by **Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> April.**

**PRAYER GROUP** will meet again on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** at 7.30pm in the crypt and will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month.

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

**AYLESFORD PRIORY PILGRIMAGE DAY** will be held on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED**

(ACN) will be making an appeal **next weekend.** ACN has stepped up its support for Christians in Lebanon, Syria and Holy Land in response to the deepening crisis offering food, medicine, help with education, pastoral programmes and other desperately-needed assistance. **There will be a retiring collection after all Masses.** If you wish to get involved in the charity, or if you wish to be an ACN volunteer, please contact John Ravi on 07932973650, [John.Ravi@acnuk.org](mailto:John.Ravi@acnuk.org) or you can go to [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org).



A C N

**MAUNDY THURSDAY MASS:** 12 volunteers, male or female, are needed to have their feet washed. If you can take part, please sign your name on the list at the back of the church. **During the Mass, there will also be a Rite of Re-commissioning and commissioning for the Ministers of Holy Communion, so if you are a Minister, please attend the Mass at 8pm.**

### **MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION, READERS**



**& ALTAR SERVERS:** If you can assist at any of the services of Holy Week, please sign your name on the lists on the notice board in the porch, beside the foodbank.

### LENT

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

### **LENTEN ALMS: Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2025:**

This Holy Year invites us to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'. We invite you to consider supporting work being done in the Diocese of Westminster to bring hope into many lives. Your contributions will help fund vital projects across our Diocese, including Youth & Evangelisation, Social Action, Marriage & Family Life, and Catholic Education Initiatives. You will find the box throughout Lent in the church. Thank you for your kindness and support.



**CAFOD LENT FAST DAY** was on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March.** Envelopes will be collected **this weekend.** You can donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.



**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS LENTEN REFRESHER** for all Eucharistic Ministers will be held on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March from 11-12 noon** in church.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE for the parish will be on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April** at 11.30am and 7.30pm.

**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 18<sup>th</sup> March 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 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm.**



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** The next meeting will be on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm** in the crypt.

**SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS**

**EMMAUS WALK** will be held on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** at 2pm. Meet outside the Feathers pub, Wadesmill. Fr Julian will lead it.

**BROWNIES** will be holding a leaving party for Brown Owl on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April from 6pm** in the crypt. Tea and cakes will be served and all are welcome.

**SINGING WORKSHOP** will be held on Saturday **29<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm.**

**MISSIO AND MILL HILL MISSIONARIES** require a volunteer for our parish to be the Local Secretary as Ellen Bartlett has now stepped down from the role. Local Secretaries look after the Red Box members in their parish, ensuring that boxes are emptied and



organising the distribution of the free quarterly magazine, *Mission Today*. More information at [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk). Please make yourself known to Fr Julian who will contact Missio to get you started

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Pat Kavanagh, Sue Alvey, Val and Mima Salvo. 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:

<b>Account Name:</b>	<b>WRCDT Hoddesdon</b>
<b>Sort Code:</b>	<b>40-05-20</b>
<b>Account Number:</b>	<b>31264370</b>

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**PILGRIMAGE DAY TO AYLESFORD PRIORY ON 15<sup>th</sup> MAY - £17.50.**

Name: .....

Contact no: .....

Email address.....

Next-of-kin name & contact number:  
.....

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](http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy).



**Jubilee 2025**  
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<p><b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March St Louise de Marillac</b>            9.00am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament            9.30am Stations of Cross  <b>10am Requiem Mass David Patmore RIP</b>  <b>(No confession from 10.30-11am)</b></p>	<p><b>Page 212 in Sunday Missals (red books)</b>  <b>Page 156 Parish Mass Books (purple books)</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18  <i>God enters into a covenant with Abram, the man of faith.</i></p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass*            6.30pm Mass <b>Ted Leatherbarrow RIP</b></p> <p><b>Sun 16<sup>th</sup> March SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>            9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i>            11.15am Mass <i>Deceased members of Donato &amp; Soldano Families</i>            7-8pm Adoration with Taize</p>	<p><b>Ps 27 — The Lord is my light and my salvation.</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Philippians 3: 17-4:1  <i>Christ will configure us to his glorious body.</i></p> <p><b>Gospel Accl. Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.</b> From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my beloved Son, listen to him.' <b>Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.</b></p>
<p><b>Mon 17<sup>th</sup> March ST PATRICK, Bishop, Patron of Ireland</b>            8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.15am Mass <i>Ben &amp; Justin Ighade's intentions</i>            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p> <p><b>Tues 18<sup>th</sup> March St Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop</b>            8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.15am Mass <i>Terry McIntyre RIP</i>            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>Gospel:</b> Luke 9: 28b-36  <i>As Jesus was praying, the appearance of his face was altered.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b>  <b>THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT</b>  <b>(YEAR C)</b></p>
<p><b>Wed 19<sup>th</sup> March ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>            8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            9.15 Mass <i>Eric &amp; Mollie Field RIP</i> followed by coffee in the crypt            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Exodus 3: 1-8a, 13-15  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12  <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 13: 1-9</p>
<p><b>Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> March St Cuthbert, Bishop</b>            7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament            8am Mass <i>In honour of St Anthony</i>            NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b>            Saturday 10.30 – 11am &amp; 5.30 – 6.15pm            Sunday 8.45 – 9am &amp; 10.45 – 11am            or ask Fr Julian at any other time.</p>
<p><b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>  <b>(abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</b>            11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction            12 noon Mass <i>Dave Greenall RIP anniv</i>            12.30pm Stations of the Cross            6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROSARY</b></p> <p>The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p><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.</p>
<p><b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March St Nicholas Owen, Martyr</b>            9.00am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament            9.30am Stations of Cross 10am Mass <i>Carmina Martucci RIP</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b></p> <p>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>For the Parish</i></p> <p><b>Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>            9.15am Mass <i>Florence &amp; Albert Smith RIP</i>            11.15am Mass <i>Tita &amp; Giuseppe Castiglione RIP</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</b></p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	

#### REGULAR EVENTS

<b>Tues 18<sup>th</sup></b> 1pm Lunch club	<b>Tues 18<sup>th</sup></b> 7.30pm Come and See, crypt
<b>Tues 18<sup>th</sup></b> 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	<b>Wed 19<sup>th</sup></b> 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

