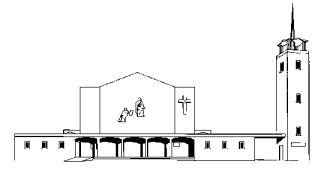




# The Announcer



## 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**

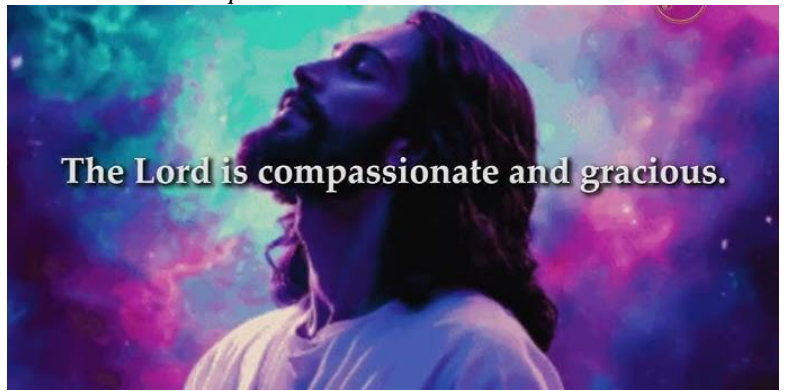
**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

**23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2025**

Gospel: *Luke 13: 1-9*

*Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.*

Images in churches once played a vital role in disseminating the faith, especially when people couldn't read or write. A popular image sometimes found on walls or floors is the Christian version of the classical wheel of fortune. As Christians do not believe in fortune or luck, the figure of fortuna is replaced with a commanding depiction of Christ. The wheel reminded onlookers then (as it reminds us today) that this world offers no abiding security. As the wheel turns characters rise and fall underlying that we cannot put confidence in our wealth, strength, fame or success as these can be lost as quickly as they can be gained. Our only security is to be found in



Christ who as the wheel turns remains the only constant in the scene. To trust him is to ascend, to reject him is to fall. Did not Simeon say of Christ that he would be responsible for the rising and falling of many? At the end of his epistle today St Paul warns the Corinthian Christians to look to their standing, *'lest anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall'*. Specifically, he invites them to learn from the Jewish scriptures, from what happened to their ancestors in the faith as they journeyed out of captivity to the freedom of the Promised Land. Many of those who left Egypt didn't reach their destination because they rebelled against God. Paul doesn't mince his words. He says that they died because they desired evil over good. It might seem surprising that the offence singled out by Paul is grumbling. Paul seems to have encountered quite a few grumblers in his travels around the churches. Grumbling suggests a lack of gratitude and faith in God's goodness. It is related to the word 'grim', with all the connotation of that threatening, unhealthy word. We can grumble against God and others, because of self-righteous inclinations, assuming that our standards are perfect, whereas in reality they are defective, ungracious and self-reflective. Grumbling can take different forms. Is the glass always half empty rather than half full? Are we inclined to curse the darkness rather than light a candle? Do we quickly identify problems but not lift a finger for their resolution? St Paul reminds us that though the chosen people were blessed and even *'drank from....Christ, they were eventually 'overthrown in the wilderness' and did not repent. 'Repent... for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'*, shouts our gospel antiphon. Repentance means a complete change of heart, will and mind, a turning back to God, entrusting ourselves into His hands, and recognising His gracious provision and love. Repentance is the key note and motor of any Christian life. It opens the door of grace, induces humility and forms a loving attitude to life and others. It counteracts that inclination in us to become presumptuous, assuming that we have some established right to God's mercy, without exercising mercy towards others. Our psalm today reminds us of God's compassion and mercy. The Lord is *'slow to anger and rich in mercy'*. Are we? We might even identify sins in others, and hold those sins against them, even though we may have been forgiven the very same sins ourselves. Do we project our own habitual sins or inclinations on to others, even by overidentifying them in others? If something bad happens to someone do we rush to judgment and assume that it is an inevitable, consequential punishment for sin? In today's gospel, Jesus warns against such a facile identification. He cites two contemporary calamities in which many people had died-the massacre of Galileans by Pilate and the collapse of a tower at Siloam. The popular perception was that those who died perished because their sins were far greater than the sins of those who escaped. While Jesus leaves us in no doubt that there are consequences for unrepented sins, the relationship between sin and what happens in the world is subtle. We cannot and should not extrapolate from natural disasters and political events the moral standing of those who suffer. Judgment belongs to God, not to us. We should not be held captive by an ideologically deterministic way of thinking and acting that leaves no room for mercy, forgiveness or reconciliation. The psalmist today reminds us that the Lord *'gives full justice to all who are oppressed'*. Jesus calls us to be like our Heavenly Father, and that being so, we are called to share God's passion without discrimination.

Fr Julian

## PRAYER & LITURGY

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

'INSTRUCTIONS FOR MY FUNERAL MASS' leaflets are available beside the newsletters at the back of church, if you wish to complete one. Please hand the completed copy into the presbytery.

**THOMAS HEARNE** of Park Lane died recently. His Requiem Mass 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.**

**ANTONIA CASTIGLIONE** of New Road died recently. Her Requiem will be on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 11am** with Don Antonio.

**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 David Greenall, Rosalind Needham, Brendan O'Sullivan, Calogero Bellanca, Susan Harwood and Robert Cullen, Florence & Albert Smith & Tita & Giuseppe Castiglione. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

**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 **30<sup>th</sup> March.** More helpers are needed and training will be given. Please contact the presbytery

**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 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 **this weekend.** ACN has stepped up its support for Christians in Lebanon, Syria and

Holy Land in response to the deepening crisis. **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



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on 07932973650, [John.Ravi@acnuk.org](mailto:John.Ravi@acnuk.org) or you can go to [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org).

**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.



**EASTER VIGIL:** Please pray for Becky Twiggins and James Wood who will be received and confirmed, Robert Holmes, Laura Devanny and Louis Cadman who will be baptized and confirmed and Daisy Homes who will be confirmed.

### 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'. 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.



**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 **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.** The Confirmation candidates will have their Penitential Service on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 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 25th 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 24th March at 7pm**. Sponsor forms have now been emailed to parents. If you did not receive the email, please contact the presbytery.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** The next meeting will be on **Sunday 6th April** at 5pm in the church.

**SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS**

**BROXBOURNE FOODBANK** is in urgent need of tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, rice, pasta, cereals and UHT milk. Donations can be left in the foodbank box at the back of church.

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

**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 24th April at 2pm**.

**MISSIO AND MILL HILL MISSIONARIES**



require a volunteer for our parish to be the Local Secretary to look after the Red Box members. 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.

**WARE CHORAL SOCIETY** will be holding a Spring Concert on **Sat 5th April at 7.30pm** at the Drill Hall, Ware. Tickets £15 & can be purchased from Theresa Casbard 07742022223 or Anne Byrne 467097.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** will be held **Saturday 29th March** 8:30am in Crypt, short talk at 9:00, Mass at 10:00. Do join us at any time as and when you can

**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**



**PLANNED GIVING:** Boxes of envelopes for the new financial year are available from the back of the church from this weekend.

If you would like to start donating through the envelopes/standing orders, forms will be available beside the boxes. Gift Aid can increase every eligible donation by 25% (25p on every £1 donated) at no extra cost to parishioners or the church.

**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 15th MAY**

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).

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<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>	<b>Page 217 in Sunday Missals (red books)</b> <b>Page 160 Parish Mass Books (purple books)</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Exodus 3: 1-8a, 13-15 <i>"I Am" has sent me to you.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<b>Ps 103 — The Lord is compassionate and gracious.</b>
<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>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12 <i>The way of life of the people with Moses in the desert was written down for our instruction.</i>
<b>Mon 24<sup>th</sup> March</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Peter Fry RIP</i> <b>6-6.45pm</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel Accl. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God. Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.</b>
<b>Tues 25<sup>th</sup> March THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Briana Kelly &amp; children intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 13: 1-9 <i>'Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'</i>
<b>Wed 26<sup>th</sup> March St Margaret Clitherow</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15 Mass <i>Joan &amp; Eugene Martin RIP</i> followed by coffee in the crypt <b>2pm Requiem Mass Thomas Hearne RIP</b> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b>  <b>FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT</b>  <b>(YEAR C)</b></p> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Joshua 5: 9a-12 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32
<b>Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> March</b> 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Shirley Houghton RIP</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b></p> 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 28<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>(abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</b> 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Private intention</i> 12.30pm Stations of the Cross <b>2pm Requiem Mass Paula Melillo RIP</b> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROSARY</b></p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b> 9.00am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 9.30am Stations of Cross 10am Mass <i>Giuseppina Gibilaro RIP anniv</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b></p> 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>For the Parish</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b></p> Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.
<b>Sun 30<sup>th</sup> March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Private intention</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Christy Hannon RIP</i>	<b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</b>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	
<b>Mon 24<sup>th</sup></b> 7pm Confirmation, crypt	<b>Tues 25<sup>th</sup></b> 7.30pm Come and See, crypt
<b>Tues 25<sup>th</sup></b> 1pm Lunch club	<b>Wed 26<sup>th</sup></b> 6pm Brownies, crypt
<b>Tues 25<sup>th</sup></b> 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	<b>Sat 29<sup>th</sup></b> 8.30am Men's Breakfast, 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