The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

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FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon" Administrator: Dawn Bates (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 9am–4pm)
Also in residence: Fr Mathews Valiyaputhenpura Joy (Chaplain to Knanaya community)
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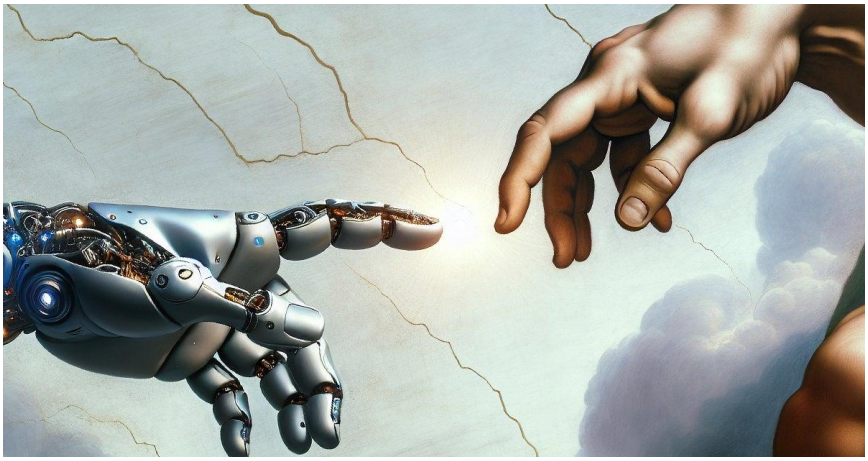
YEAR A **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** **20TH SEPT 2026**

Gospel: *Matthew 20: 1-16*

Do you begrudge my generosity?



'My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord'. These words from the prophecy of Isaiah raise fundamental questions for AI. AI is developing at such a pace, that even those at the heart of the industry have drawn attention to its very real dangers. They have voiced concerns that AI is an existential threat to humanity, as it brings into question our very agency as human beings. There are of course many things that dehumanise us, not least greed and short term interest. The Christian faith is true humanism, because it goes to the heart of what being human truly is. We are made in God's image and likeness to reflect his glory in this world. That image and likeness, marred by our human sin, is restored to us only in Jesus Christ. He alone enables us to have the mind of God and to do what God wants. His thoughts become our thoughts and his ways become our ways. Through our baptism, we are called to recognise the absolute claims of God over our lives. Through the covenant of grace, we enter into the freedom of God's children. Unlike AI, God is not a tyrant who imposes things upon us, but our loving heavenly father who alone can fulfil our deepest human needs and aspirations. Yet God is not a constitutional monarch who answers to our wills. He wants not just to reign over us but to establish his rule over us. This is the true enlightenment, not one built on shallow human principles of creating a world in our own image. His kingdom wouldn't be a kingdom at all if no absolute claims were made upon us, AI presents us with an alternative monarchy of ever-increasing centralisation, the withdrawal of our liberties and the subtle manipulation of our minds. We know that every technological advance is a mixed blessing. AI has certainly produced benefits and its potential for good exists. In the wrong hands every machine can be used for ill not for good. A machine is only as good as its programmer. The problem is that with the advent of AI the machines themselves are becoming the programmers. The threshold of abuse is consequently all the greater. Human beings are open to redemption. Machines are not. Our collect today reminds us that the sacred law is founded upon love of God and of our neighbour. The love of God holds all things together. When we discover that love is the blueprint of creation, we open ourselves to the infinite possibilities of grace and become agents of creation itself. God's greatness as the psalmist acclaims cannot be measured. Nor can his generosity as our gospel today underlines. Jesus promises us life in all its fulness. In contrast, seemingly expansive, and offering endless opportunities, AI leads to a diminution of life. Unless curbed and regulated, AI will enslave the self. We are designed to be social beings, to attain our deepest purposes in relationship with our Creator, with one another, the rest of the created order. Through the Church, we attain our true potential in his design and purpose, participating already in communion with God's perfect society in heaven. AI has no place for this transcendent vision of social reality, against which all our social arrangements are scrutinised. It offers instead the false utopia of insular individualism. This might be a metaphor for hell. In his *Great Divorce*, C S Lewis depicts hell as a colourless metropolis, where its self-absorbed citizens cut themselves off from others, creating an eternal landscape of isolation and misery. It seems very like the closed world offered by AI. Recently some tech bosses have warned that unless regulated, AI could destroy life on an industrial scale. The threat is even greater than the nuclear bomb, because of AI's universal scope. Non-proliferation holds no ground where it is concerned. The potential of AI to indiscriminately destroy the fabric of civilised society and human life itself shows that left to its own devices AI is profoundly anti-Christian and not ordered to God. There is a game of thrones being played out. The King of kings reminds us that *'as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts'*. Let us be real.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

MASS on Saturday 19th September will be at **8.30pm** instead of 6.30pm, due to the Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Gia Bates and Lucia & Lilah Hall who will be baptised this weekend.

GIUSEPP0E BORZILLIERI of Rodney Crescent died recently. His Requiem will be on **Friday 25th September at 1.30pm** with Fr John Cunningham.

IRENE BARAN-YATES of Mandeville Close died recently. Her Requiem will be on **Wednesday 7th October at 12.30pm.**

EILEEN IVES of West Close died recently. Details of her Requiem will follow in due course.

May they rest in peace.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Irene Baran-Yates, Eileen Ives, Maria Beaton and Giuseppe Borzillieri and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Providenza Cicchirillo, Isabel Abrahams, Calogero Castiglione, Pat Cookson, Genoveffa Milazzo, Serena Barone, Ryan Walsh, Eileen Linford, John Lumley, Giuseppina Martorana, Nev Yarwood, Rose Alles, Giovanni Cicchirillo, Ann Jenkins, Bill Anthony and Edward Rooney. M*ay their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

POPE'S INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER: Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.





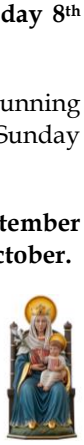
The next **BIBLE STUDY** for those in their 20s and 30s is the **25th September** from 7.15-8.15pm in the crypt. Bibles are available if you don't have your own. To join the group, use the link https://chat.whatsapp.com/FI0EZKp2YxY5BWfuOoFne0?mode=gi_t.or scan the QR code.

PRAYER GROUP will resume again on **Thursday 8th October at 7.30pm** in the crypt.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Gabby Hanley will be running the Children's Choir at the 9.15am Mass on Sunday mornings. Next dates: **4th & 18th October.**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY will be on the **20th September** at the 9.15am Mass. **Next dates are 11th & 25th October.**

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM CANDLES: We now have special candles from Walsingham which can be lit to be placed on the plinth around the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham. These can be purchased from the presbytery for £10. You can book the candle for any intentions or for someone who has passed, and their name or intention will be placed in the Lady Chapel and published in the newsletter.



THE WALSINGHAM CANDLES are offered for the following intentions:
Ferro Family intentions

MISSION APPEAL will be made **by** Fr Geoffrey Mbindyo of The Spiritans, Holy Ghost Fathers on the **26th/27th September.** Founded in 1703, The Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers) are a Roman Catholic Religious Congregation dedicated to sharing hope and love worldwide. For over 300 years, their mission has been clear: to evangelize the poor and the needy, pursue justice, foster peace, care for creation. If you would like to donate online, please scan the QR code, or cheques can be made payable to The Spiritans.



PARISH RETREAT AT WALSINGHAM will be from **Tuesday 10th to Thursday 12th November** and we will stay at the Catholic Retreat House. If you are interested, please complete the tear off slip and drop it off to the presbytery. The accommodation price is £154 (B&B & evening meal) and cost of transport will be arranged when we know the final number.

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 resume on **Tuesday 22nd September at 7.30pm in the crypt** and is for all **adults** who want to learn more about becoming a Catholic, or if you missed one of the Sacraments (such as Baptism or Confirmation) or if you simply want to renew your faith.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2027: Application forms for the Confirmation programme for **young** people in Year 9 or above are now available to collect from the presbytery either by email or in person. Entry to the Confirmation programme depends on regular attendance at Mass. The first meeting will be on the **5th October at 7pm in the crypt**. An email has now been sent to parents regarding the programme. If you have not received the email, please contact the presbytery.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: A letter has now been emailed to parents regarding the 2026/2027 course. If you have not received the email, please contact the presbytery. The first meeting will be on the **11th October.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2028: If your child is in year 2 and is interested in making their First Holy Communion in 2028, please do contact the presbytery to register your interest.

SCHOOLS

ST MARY'S Open Evening will take place on **Thursday 24th September, from 6.00pm to 8.30pm**. The. Tours of the school will be available, with Headteacher talks at 6.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets can be booked via our website: www.stmarys.net.

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S have spaces in the playgroup and toddler sessions. Toddlers is held on Tuesday & Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons. For more info, please contact the Under 5's on 460614.

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S will be holding their AGM on **Thursday 1st October at 7.30pm.** All welcome!

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

CAFOD - Global Debt Crisis: This week I informed local MP Lewis Cocking, MP of our Parish petition signing and sent off to CAFOD names of 91 parishioners, asking the UK government to take urgent action in reforming the system to stop the cycle of debt crises, now affecting 58 countries, happening and for a better way of supporting countries in debt crisis by establishing sustainable ways of borrowing for the future. Thank you to all those who signed up! CAFOD will hand in the petition to the government towards the end of the year, as the UK takes over the presidency of the G20. Anne Byrne.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

MARIA SCOTT MEMORIAL BENCH: Thank you to everyone who donated at the Memorial Mass. If you would like to donate to buy a bench for the presbytery garden, in memory of Maria, please drop off your money in an envelope marked 'Maria's bench' to the presbytery.





ST ELIZABETH'S will be holding their annual Apple **Fest** on **Saturday 26th September from 11-3.30pm.** There will be apple picking refreshments & BBQ with live music. All are welcome at SG10 6EW.

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO: Duncan Livingstone will give a photo presentation of the pilgrimage route (500 miles / 790 kms) will be held on **Friday 16th October at 7.15pm in the crypt.** The event is free but donations are welcome towards church funds.

CHURCH CLEANING: Estrella Clucas, Tina Pegna, Pat Callanan, Maria Goodwin, Catherine Lee-Lozone & Susana Alves. Thank you for your help.

DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES can be viewed online https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/

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**

As a guide to our giving, it may help to compare how much we spend for example on a coffee or meal, a football season ticket, car or holiday, and how much on God's mission and work.

SAINT OF THE WEEK
OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
24th SEPTEMBER



Our Lady of Walsingham is a title used for Mary, the mother of Jesus. The title derives from the belief that Mary appeared in a vision to Richeldis de Faverches, a devout English noblewoman in 1061 in the village of Walsingham, Norfolk. Lady Richeldis had a Holy House built in Walsingham which became a shrine and place of pilgrimage. In passing on his guardianship of the Holy House, Richeldis's son left instructions for the building of a priory in Walsingham. Like all religious houses, it was destroyed in the Reformation in the 1530s. The Catholic shrine today is at the Slipper Chapel.

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PARISH RETREAT TO WALSINGHAM
ON 10TH/11TH/12TH NOVEMBER

Name: ……

Contact no.: ……

Email address……..



Liturgy this week

Saturday 19th September St Januarius
9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10am Mass ***Tina Clayton RIP anniv***

4.00pm Italian Mass*
8.30pm Mass ***For the Parish***

Sun 20th September TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN O.T.
9.15am Mass ***Bill Anthony RIP***
11.15am Mass ***Edward Rooney RIP***

Mon 21st September ST MATTHEW
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Vocations to priesthood and all priests***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tues 22nd September Martyrs of the Spanish Civil War
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Nev Yarwood RIP***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wed 23rd September St Padre Pio
9.15am Mass ***Benefactors of our church*** followed by coffee in the crypt
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thurs 24th September OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
8am Mass ***Eddie Mansfield***
No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 25th September
(abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)
11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction
12 noon Mass ***Tina Clayton RIP***
1.30pm Requiem *Giuseppe Borzillieri RIP*
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 26th September Sts Cosmas & Damian
9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10am Mass ***Philomena O'Connor ints***

4.00pm Italian Mass*
6.30pm Mass ***Mark Wipperman & William Phelan RIP***

Sun 27th Sept TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9.15am Mass ***Anna Gianfrancesco RIP***
11.15am Mass ***For the Parish***

* Vigil Mass of Sunday

Today's Liturgy

Page 131 Parish Mass Books
Page 779 in Sunday Missals

1st Reading: Isaiah 55: 6-9
My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Ps 145 — *The Lord is close to all who call him.*

2nd Reading: Philippians 1: 20c-24, 27a
For to me to live is Christ.

Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia. Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 20: 1-16
Do you begrudge my generosity?

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN O.T.
(YEAR A)

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18: 25-28
2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 1-11
Gospel: Matthew 21: 28-32

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.

ROSARY

The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.

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.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699

REGULAR EVENTS

Tues 22nd	1pm lunch club, crypt	**Tues 22nd**	7.30pm Come & See, crypt
Tues 22nd	2.30pm Warm spaces, crypt	**Thurs 24th**	7.30pm Prayer group, crypt
		Fri 25th	7.15pm Bible study, 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