The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

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YEAR A TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 27TH SEPT 2026

Gospel: *Matthew 21: 28-32*

He changed his mind and went. The tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.



Isaiah reminded us last week that the ways of God are not our ways. Today's psalm reiterates this. *'O Lord make me know your ways. Teach me your paths….. he shows the way to sinners…to the humble he teaches his way'*. Knowing God's way does not come naturally to us. We need to learn it. It has to be taught to us and we need to receive it, with humility and not insisting on our own way. Following our own way leads to dead ends. Wisdom literature reminds us there is a way which seems right to us but which leads to destruction. The ways of the Lord have to be revealed to us. This is what the prophets did, as did John the Baptist who in pointing to Christ, prepared the ground ahead of him. In the coming of Christ the way comes to us. The early Christians were known as the people of the Way. Jesus is The Way who leads us along the right path, back to the Father, away from our wanderings into sin, darkness and oblivion. Left to our own devices we cannot see the way ahead so we need the light of Christ to illuminate us. Just as cats' eyes keep us on the straight and narrow on the road, so the Word of God lights up our path. *'Thy word is lamp to my feet and a light to my path'*. Trusting in God's word encourages us to become pilgrims in this world, leaving comforts behind and divesting ourselves of the baggage which weighs us down. Becoming a pilgrim, can mean undertaking a literal pilgrimage, along paths sanctified by the prayers of many before us. In the Middle Ages, pilgrims to Walsingham, one of Europe's major shrines, used the stars to help them travel, so that the way to Walsingham was known as the Milky Way. Recently some of us joined the diocesan annual pilgrimage to England's Nazareth, walking the last mile between the Slipper Chapel and the ruins of the Priory containing the site of the Holy House. Richeldis, an Anglo-Saxon lady received a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary instructing her to build a copy of the house at Nazareth where the Annunciation had taken place. If she did this, there would be untold blessings for those who flocked there. The importance of Walsingham fed into the belief that England was especially blessed as the Dowry of Mary, a feast we celebrated last week. This shrine like all shrines and pilgrimage sites were destroyed at the Reformation. Along the Walsingham Way slipper chapels were constructed as stations at which pilgrims could stop and pray. Hoddesdon had one, (called St Katherine's) on the site of clock tower. Wormley had another, denoted in Slipe Lane. Given its connection with the pilgrimage route, in 1996 St Augustine's designated our south chapel as its Walsingham Chapel and commissioned a modern statue of Our Lady of Walsingham for it. Thirty years later, we have recently painted it in Walsingham colours, completing the original vision. When the people return to Walsingham, as several prophecies go, the nation will return to the Lord. It stands to reason and faith. Wherever Mary is honoured, the name of Jesus is exalted. Jesus tells us that no one can come to him unless the Father draws him. Surely the most important way the Father draws us, is through Mary, since the Father chose her to bring His Son into the world. She becomes the pattern of our motherhood and thus the Church. In her humility, she willingly submits herself to God's loving purposes for our redemption. In her, God had exalted the humble and the meek. Today St Paul asks us to see the greater humility of Christ who '*emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross'*. Pursuing the path of humility should characterise how we relate one to another. *'Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each..look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others'*. How can we do this? St Paul reminds us only through having the mind of Christ. Christ himself is the means. This is what St Therese of Lisieux, (whose feast we celebrate this week) discovered as she sought to draw more closely to God. It is by recognising our weaknesses and sins, and humbly and obediently serving Christ in one another and not by feigning perfectionism, that we progress on the journey of sanctification. He elevates us. Our little way enters his Way, just as a slip road joins a major road. We have to give way. Repentance is all about a change of mind. *'What do you think'*, Jesus asks his audience today, as he challenges them and us to respond to his gospel. Who or what is steering our life? Is it time to give way or change our direction? Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

MISSION APPEAL will be made by Fr Geoffrey Mbindyo of The Spiritans, Holy Ghost Fathers **this weekend.** 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. Today, more than 3,000 Spiritans from all continents bring this mission to life in over 60 countries, serving where the need is greatest—hospitals, parishes, prisons, schools, and refugee communities. We also support integral development for young people and work for justice globally. Your support and prayers keep our mission alive. Together, we carry the Spiritan light to the world's darkest corners. If you would like to donate online, please scan the QR code. If you would like to pay by cheque, please make your cheque payable to 'The Spiritans'. You can also donate online with sort code 01-03-46, a/c 83279806

FIRST FRIDAY MASS will be held on **Friday 2nd October at 7pm** for the sick of the parish and there will be an emphasis on healing.

EILEEN IVES of West Close died recently. Her Requiem will be on **Monday 5th October at 1pm.**

IRENE BARAN-YATES of Mandeville Close died recently. Her Requiem will be on **Wednesday 7th October at 1pm.**

MARY LOCKIE of St David's Drive died recently. Her Requiem will be on **Wednesday 14th October at 12 noon**.

May they rest in peace.

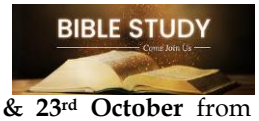
PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Mary Lockie, Irene Baran-Yates and Eileen Ives, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Felice Comparetto, Pasquala Orlandi, Nicholas Stevenson, Michael Kenny, Ignazio Morreale, Johanna Desilva, Nora Campkin, Lilian O'Sullivan, Desiree Ponambalum, Mark Wipperman, William Phelan and Anna Gianfrancesco. M*ay their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

POPE'S INTENTION FOR OCTOBER: Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.





ROSARY: As October is the month of the Holy Rosary, there will be a decade of the rosary recited before each Sunday Mass.



The next **BIBLE STUDY** for those in their 20s and 30s is the **9th & 23rd October** 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 **11th October & 25th October** at the 9.15am Mass.



TAIZE: On **Sunday 25th October at 7pm** we will have Adoration with Taizé chants and the Rosary.

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:
Sheila Cooper RIP



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: Please note that there is no Come & See this week**, but it** will continue on

Tuesday 6th October 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 next meeting will be on the **11th October. An email with the readings will be sent out on Friday 9th October. If you have not received the email, please do check your spam box.**

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 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!

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.



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT started this week (21st) and over the next 14 days The Fairtrade Foundation will be asking for support and backing a law for fairer business to protect people and planet. Millions of farmers/workers growing the products we rely on around the world, still struggle to earn a decent living!



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.



EMMAUS WALK Our next walk will be on **31st October at 2pm.** Details to follow in due course.

CHURCH CLEANING: Pat Kavanagh, Sue Alvey, Val, Mima Salvo & Ed Devine. 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



SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL, RAPHAEL, Archangels
29th September

The liturgy celebrates the feast of these three archangels who are venerated in the tradition of the Church. Michael ("Who is like God") was the archangel who fought against Satan and all his evil angels, defending all the friends of God. He is the protector of all humanity from the snares of the devil. Archangel Gabriel ("Strength of God") announced to Zachariah the forthcoming birth of John the Baptist, and to Mary, the birth of Jesus. His greeting to the Virgin, "Hail, full of grace," is one of the most familiar and frequent prayers of the Christian people. Archangel Raphael ("Medicine of God") is the archangel who took care of Tobias on his journey.

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

Name: ……

Contact no.: ……

Email address……..

Liturgy this week

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 September TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN O.T.
9.15am Mass ***Anna Gianfrancesco RIP***
11.15am Mass ***For the Parish***

Mon 28th September St Wenceslaus
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Vincenzo Guddemi RIP***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tues 29th September SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Lizzy, Paddy & Old Da Connors***
NO 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wed 30th September St Jerome
9.15am Mass ***Margaret Whelehan RIP*** followed by coffee in the crypt
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thurs 1st October St Thérèse of the Child Jesus
7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
8am Mass ***Hughie & Margaret Whittamore***
No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 2nd October Holy Guardian Angels
(abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)
11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction
12 noon Mass ***Marie O'Brien RIP***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
7pm Mass ***Sick of the Parish***

Saturday 3rd October
9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10am Mass ***Denis Whelehan RIP***

4.00pm Italian Mass*
6.30pm Mass ***Richard Pyper RIP anniv***

Sun 4th Oct TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9.15am Mass ***For the Parish***
11.15am Mass ***Francesco & Francesca Pizzo RIP anniv***

* Vigil Mass of Sunday

Today's Liturgy

Page 134 Parish Mass Books
Page 782 in Sunday Missals

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18: 25-28
When a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed, he shall save his life.

Ps 25 — *Remember your compassion, O Lord.*

2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 1-11
Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia. My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord, and I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 21: 28-32
He changed his mind and went. The tax collectors and the prostitues go into the kingdom of God before you.

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

1st Reading: Isaiah 5: 1-7
2nd Reading: Philippians 4: 6-9
Gospel: Matthew 21: 33-43

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 29th	1pm lunch club, crypt
Tues 29th	2.30pm Warm spaces, 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