The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

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YEAR A **ALL SAINTS** **1ST NOVEMBER 2026**

Gospel: *Matthew 5: 1-12a*

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.



Our pilgrimage towards the heavenly Jerusalem is a journey in sanctification. We can only embark upon this passage because we have the passport given us in baptism, set apart through Christ's redeeming work upon the cross, to be his saints. As Pope Leo reminds us All Saints, which falls this weekend, is our celebration, not because we are good but because God's grace has touched our lives. We have a real communion with the saints. First, a communion, not bound by space or time, as we join with them the *sancti*, in worship of the triune God. Second, a sharing with the saints across the universal church, which is a communion in the *sancta* of spiritual goods and benefits. It is God who makes saints. When the Church canonises, she is retrospectively confirming what heaven has already declared through the effects of holiness. Not all the saints have been officially canonised. In the case of Our Lady, the disciples, the early martyrs and many of the earliest saints of the Church, such as Patrick, no canonisation was necessary as their invincible life had already canonised them. Canonised or uncanonised we revere these holy ones, as our trail blazers, drawing us upwards and ever onwards. One of my earliest recollection of the saints, was seeing a film called the Song of Bernadette. One scene stuck in my mind, in fact the only one I can remember, it was when Mary appears to Bernadette as she lay dying. Growing up in Wales saints were everywhere. Their names have moulded so much of the landscape, often in places prefixed with the word *Llan*, meaning a religious enclosure. On the hill overlooking our farm, Cynog was martyred for the faith. He gave our local parish its name. Other local dedications were to Michael, Maelog, John the Evangelist and of course, David, Dewi Sant, who was so popular that he gave me and many others our surname. My Christian name, given at baptism, was that of Wales' first Romano-British martyr, killed during same persecution as Alban in England. Baptism and confirmation are wonderful opportunities to call down the favour of the saints in heaven. Our ceiling is open when the saints intercede for us. I give thanks for their protection in the parishes where I have served, namely Our Lady, Mary Magdalene, Peter, Ilan, Cyprian, Giles, Alban, Stephen and now our own Augustine of Hippo. We mustn't forget also the other saints who have a particular connection to our parish here, namely Katherine of Alexandria, Paul, Augustine of Canterbury, Lawrence, Margaret of Antioch, John the Baptist, after whom the local medieval catholic churches were dedicated. Paul and Cuthbert were later arrivals to our area like our own Augustine. Adopting the saints for our names and our dedications, and seeking their intercession, is incarnational, giving back to God what belongs to him and inviting heaven to take root and bring its presence into the maelstrom of everyday and everyplace. The saints consecrate the ordinary, just as God consecrated the ordinariness of their lives in extraordinary ways. I used to think that the saints were like the moon to the sun, that they had no light of their own. I now see them as undergoing a spiritual photosynthesis, as they are inwardly transformed by the light of Christ, allowing them to partake of his very illumination. The beauty of God's new creation is seen most clearly in them. Sanctification is the upward call of God for all who are called by Christ into life through baptism. We are truly blessed, the Beatitudes remind us, if we harbour their beautiful attitudes. Yet the blessing intended is not exhausted by them. St John reminds us today that our inner and outward transformation is beyond our comprehension. '*Beloved we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared*'. Our present state of blessedness hides the promise of infinite glory. This is what Jesus tells us in the Beatitudes…. *Blessed are now… yet you shall be…* We are already saints by definition, blessed if we do those things that Jesus wants. What, we the unworthy? There is a tension here. We hear the call but know how much we fall short. The Beatitudes help us to resolve our dilemma of at once being blessed but at the same time needing sanctification. St John's words surely help also. '*Everyone who thus hopes in Christ, purifies himself as he is pure*'. Christ works his works in us, as we will. Binding all the saints together in communion is this, our hopes are placed not in ourselves or in the fleeting circumstances of this life, but in Christ alone.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY



WE PRAY for our departed relatives and friends of the past year: Harry Alvey, Maria Aversano, Irene Baran-Yates, June Bass, Maria Beaton, Christine Bolton, Maria Bondi, Giuseppe Borzillieri, Margaret Brien, Maria Carvalho, Leonardo Castronovo, Maria Ciccone, Tina Clayton, Sheila Cooper, Jean Curtis, Fr Peter Dwyer, Padamadan Edwin, Susan Forshaw, Baby Billy Guymer, Eileen Ives, Susan Kiely, Concetta Lanza, Mary Lee-Lozone, Vittorio Licata, Mary Lockie, Giuseppe Martorana, Neil McDonnell, Maddalena Migliozzi, Angela Miragliotta Onofrio Misuraca, Caroline O'Brien, Marie O'Brien, Assunta Piazza, Gaetano Piazza, Anthony Phelan, Domenico Randazzo, Susan Reid, Giuseppe Russo, Filippo Schembri, Maria Scott, Antonino Silenti, Michelle Sim, Nicola Troiano and Valerie Wood. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS will be held on **Friday 6th November at 7pm** for the sick of the parish and there will be an emphasis on healing.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Caroline O'Brien, June Bass, Susan Read and Susan Forshaw and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Luigi Calvino, Kevin Murphy, John McNaughton, James Higgins, George Buhagiar, Quintino Mazziotta, Costanza Teoli, Gaetano Alfieri and Michael Callanan. M*ay their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*



POPE'S INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER: Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less



The next **BIBLE STUDY** for those in their 20s and 30s are the **13th & 20th November 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 be on **5th November at 7.30pm** in the crypt. All are welcome!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Gabby Hanley will be running the Children's Choir at the 9.15am Mass on Sunday mornings. Next dates: **15th & 29th November.**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY will be on the **8th & 22nd November** at the 9.15am Mass.



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:
Jimmy & Rosalind Needham RIP

NOVEMBER LIST OF THE DECEASED: Lists for you to write the names of your departed relatives and friends **are available beside the newsletters**. Please return the lists to the presbytery, along with any Mass offering. During November, the lists will be kept on the altar and at least one Mass a day will be offered for the Holy Souls. Therefore, few other Mass intentions can be taken for November.

MASS FOR THE DECEASED OF THE PAST YEAR Monday 2nd November 7.00pm will be a special Mass at which we remember and pray for the deceased of the past 12 months. Written invitations have been sent to the bereaved families of those whose funerals have been celebrated here in the parish, but all are welcome to attend.



NOVEMBER PRAYERS AT CEMETERY: Fr Julian will lead the annual visit to the Ware Road cemetery to pray the Rosary for the deceased members of the parish on **Saturday 7th November at 11.30am. Please meet inside the main gate.** Fr Julian will attend Woollensbrook Cemetery on **Saturday 14th November at 11.30am. Please meet at the top car park.**

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 3rd November 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: The next meeting will be on the **9th November at 7pm in the crypt**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The next meeting will be on the **8th November.** An email with the readings will be sent out on Friday 6th November in the afternoon. If you have not received it, 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. **Please note the register begins this weekend.**



BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Wednesday 4th November 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.

JUSTICE & PEACE

CAFOD *Family Fast Day* Appeal: Please donate on the **15th November,** the World Day of the Poor. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. **The envelopes will be available next weekend and then collected on the 15th**. You can also donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS are a fun and meaningful way to give gifts and make a difference to some of the poorest communities around the world. Catalogues are now available at the back of church.

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S have an Open morning on **Saturday 7th November between 10am -12pm**. If you are looking for an Early Years setting, this is a great opportunity to see Playgroup in action and meet the team. Our playgroup sessions are open for children from 2 years old. We accept all government funding.



ST CROSS SCHOOL: Reception 2027 Intake: We are inviting new and prospective parents to visit and see our wonderful school in action, please contact the office on (01992) 467309 to book one of the following tours: **Monday 9th Nov** - 9.30am, Monday 16th Nov - 1.30pm, Monday 23rd Nov - 9.30am and Monday 30h Nov - 1.30pm.

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL will be holding tours for our Reception and Nursery intake for 2027/28. Tours will be scheduled on the following dates: **Monday 16th November** @2:00pm, Thursday 19th November @9:45am, Monday 23rd November @2:00pm, Monday 30th November @9:45am and Thursday 3rd December @2:00pm. If you would like to book on to a tour please contact the school office on 01992 463549 or email admin@staugustines.herts.sch.uk

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

CHRISTMAS NIGHT OF MUSIC with a variety of music from Declan Gaynor from different decades will be held on **Friday 4th December in the crypt from 7.45-10.15pm**. **This is a charity night to raise funds for our church, so please do join us**! Tickets are £10 and include a light buffet. Tickets are available to buy after all Masses or from the presbytery during the week. **There are now only 8 tickets left, so please do get your ticket soon if you want to attend.**



BROXBOURNE FOODBANK is looking for volunteers at the Foodbank, especially for the management team. For more info please see Appeal for volunteers https://broxbourne.foodbank.org.uk/2026/10/23/come-work-with-us/
Video describing the work and various volunteering opportunities: https://youtu.be/XAKoKpTlrO4?si=hEbNz8XdmcWlbRj4 . Job description for management members: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IJUCmxPAUKJ4OYeq8rxD26Ro4B8BbPQjzbXvoOyBl48/edit?usp=sharing People can register an interest or find out more through the details on our Contact Us page: https://broxbourne.foodbank.org.uk/contact-us/. **The foodbank needs tins of meat, fruit, vegetables and fish. Tins of rice pudding and custard. Squash, UHT juice and UHT milk, baked beans and dried pasta. Please leave your donations in the box in the church porch.**

MEN'S BREAKFAST will be held on **Saturday 21st November** at 8.30am in the crypt, with a short talk at 9am with Mass at 10am. This is an opportunity for men to share and get together.

CHURCH CLEANING: Michele & Pelle De Luca, Sophie Lenguito & Margaret Williams. 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.

Liturgy this week

Saturday 31st October Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday
9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10am Mass ***Maria Scott RIP***

4.00pm Italian Mass*
6.30pm Mass ***Michael Callanan RIP***

Sun 1st November ALL SAINTS
9.15am Mass ***For the Parish***
11.15am Mass ***Holy Souls***

Mon 2nd November ALL SOULS' DAY
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Holy Souls***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
7pm Mass ***Deceased of past year***

Tues 3rd November St Martin de Porres
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Holy Souls***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wed 4th November St Charles Borromeo
9.15am Mass ***Holy Souls*** followed by coffee in the crypt
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thurs 5th November
7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
8am Mass ***Holy Souls***
No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 6th November
(abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)
11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction
12 noon Mass ***Holy Souls***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
7pm Mass ***Sick of the Parish***

Saturday 7th November St Willibrord
9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10am Mass ***Holy Souls***

4.00pm Italian Mass*
6.30pm Mass ***For the Parish***

Sun 8th November THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN O.T.
9.15am Mass ***Vincent Byrne RIP anniv***
11.15am Mass ***Holy Souls***

* Vigil Mass of Sunday

Today's Liturgy

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Page 1180 in Sunday Missals

1st Reading: Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14
Behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.

Ps 24 — *Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord.*

2nd Reading: 1 John 3: 1-3
We shall see God as he is.

Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia. Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, says the Lord, and I will give you rest. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12a
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN O.T.
(YEAR A)

1st Reading: Wisdom 6: 12-16
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13

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 3rd	1pm lunch club, crypt	**Tues 3rd**	7.30pm Come & See, crypt
Tues 3rd	2.30pm Warm spaces, crypt	**Thurs 5th**	7.30pm Prayer group, 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