The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS Tel: 01992-440986
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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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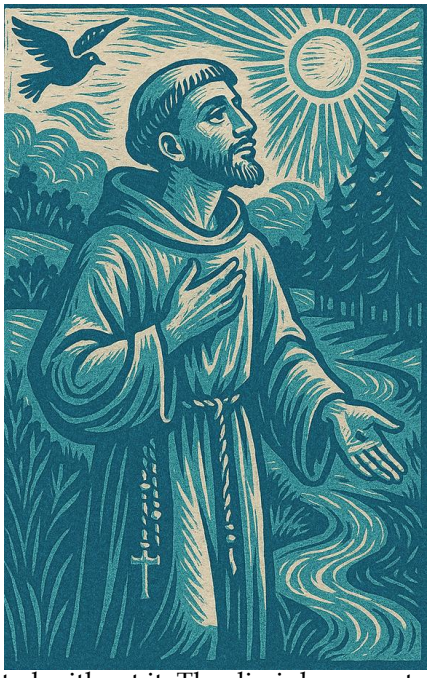
YEAR A TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 11TH OCT 2026

Gospel: *Matthew 22:1-14*

Invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.



Clothes can send out significant messages. When the father of St Francis of Assisi tried to prevent him from following Christ, Francis stripped off his clothes and handed them back to his father. His old clothes were too contaminated with the wayward life he was leaving behind and the values he was now rejecting. Later, in order to identify with Christ in his humility Francis famously exchanged his clothes with a peasant. Thereafter, an ordinary peasant smock, darned and made of coarse material became synonymous with the saint, his companions, and the later Franciscans. Baptism is always associated with a change of clothing. In the early church before entering the waters, the catechumen took off their old clothes. After coming out of the baptismal font they were vested in a white garment to show that they had entered into a life and were designated as a new person, now clothed supernaturally with the righteousness and purity of Christ. This is the origin of the white garment which we still use in the baptism of both adults and infants. St Paul told the Galatian Christians that in their baptism they had clothed themselves with Christ. Paul also uses the metaphor of re-clothing to signify entering more deeply into the life of Christ, and continuous renewal and growth in the gospel. The Romans were to clothe themselves with the Lord Jesus, and the Colossians with the compassion of Christ. Similarly, Peter tells the churches to clothe themselves with humility. Job puts on righteousness as his clothing, justice as his robe and turban. The psalms often depict God as clothed with splendour and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment. Such shekinah glory overshadowed the Virgin Mary, and covers all her children called to be full of grace. One is exposed and unprotected without it. The disciples were to stay in Jerusalem until they had been *clothed with power from on high* with the Holy Spirit, which the Father had promised and which he would send to them. To be clothed in such glory is more important than any earthly accessories. Our spiritual apparel identifies us as God's children, working within us the spiritual fruits of repentance and righteousness. The need to be spiritually presentable when Jesus returns is a common feature of his parables of the messianic age, such as the wise and foolish virgins, or as today's gospel, Jesus' parable of the wedding banquet. Many guests received gracious invitations yet presented lame excuses as to why they couldn't come and celebrate the wedding of the king's son. At the time the custom was to send out invitations for a wedding meal a considerable time before further invitations were sent out to tell those invited that the banquet was going to take place at a designated date. In between the sending out of these two notices, the servants who bore the king's message are rejected and treated badly. It is a picture of the way in which the prophets who had summoned the people of Israel to enjoy God's presence and welcome the Messiah had been rejected. Just as the king decides to open the feast and fill the banqueting hall with anyone that his servants could find, regardless of whether they were bad and good, so Jesus wants us to realise that God in his kindness and liberality has opened the celebration to others who were not previously invited. It is a picture of Jesus extending the grace of God and offering salvation to the gentiles. The whole of humanity now has the opportunity to celebrate in the messianic age not just those who were the first recipients of the good news. Whether one had had a good or bad past carries no weight. The invitation is a universal call to repentance, not to presume on our merit. When Jesus talked of the wedding banquet it would have resonated with the Jews. It was a common picture of the messianic age. They would also recognise what he meant by the guest who had no wedding garment. In rabbinical writings, the wedding garment was a symbol of mitzvot, works of repentance and righteousness. The gracious invitation should lead us not only to eagerly accept it but to graciously respond by pleasing God with the respect and honour that he deserves. The invitation to the celebration is God's gracious invitation to us. Our wedding garment is a sign of our gratitude and thanksgiving. Accepting God's invitation to new life is not enough. What have we to show for it? Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

Next Sunday is **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY** and the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio – his charity for world mission. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. **The envelopes are beside the newsletters and will be collected next weekend. You can also donate online at mission.org.uk or scan the QR code.**

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

LEONARDO CASTRONOVO of Kenning Road died recently. His Requiem will be on **Monday 19th October at 11.30am.**

MADDALENA MIGLIOZZI of Grange Lane died recently. Her Requiem will be on **Wednesday 21st October at 11.30am.** *May they rest in peace.*

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Leonardo Castronovo, Maddalena Migliozzi and Mary Lockie and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Monica Hunter, Bernadette Field, Margherita & Stefano Diesi, Maria Calvino, Francesco Pizzo, Maureen O'Neill, Patric Morrissey, Anna Curaba, Antonino Cusumano, Anna Amodeo, Catherine Stockwell, Helen Sherman. 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 **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 in November with the date to be advised, 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: **18th October, 15th & 29th November.**

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.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS ROTAS: The next rotas for the period November 2026 – February 2027 will be drawn up shortly. Please therefore advise of any dates that you are **NOT** available during this period by **23rd October AT THE LATEST** to Pat Kavanagh for 9.15 am Mass (telephone 07485 284007 or 01992 449282 or email patandcarolkav@btinternet.com) and Dawn Bates for 6.30pm and 11.15am Masses (tel 440986 or email hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk). Please also advise of any changes in personal contact details e.g. address, telephone number etc. Once drawn up, all rotas will be dispatched by email unless requested otherwise. Thank you.



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:
Stefano & Margherita Diesi RIP

NOVEMBER LIST OF THE DECEASED: Lists for you to write the names of your departed relatives and friends **will be available beside the newsletters next weekend**. 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 13th 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: The next meeting will be on the **19th October at 7pm in the crypt**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The next meeting will be on the **11th October.** An email with the readings was 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.

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S 200 CLUB winner for October is no. 116, Mrs Mariconda. Congratulations!

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5S are looking for a Deputy Team Leader. As a deputy you would be responsible for assisting the team leader with the supervision of staff, have a good understanding of EYFS and a friendly and flexible approach. Applicants to be qualified to level 3/4 or equivalent in Early Year's Childcare and Education. Please apply with covering letter and CV to St Augustine's Under 5s Charlton Close EN11 8DR or email staugustinesunder5s@hotmail.co.uk Closing date for applications Monday 26th October. Job description available on request.

ST CROSS SCHOOL: Reception 2027 Intake: We are inviting new and prospective parents to visit during November. Should you wish to attend a viewing 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.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

THE SPIRITANS MISSION APPEAL raised £832.11, so thank you to everyone who donated.



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. Drinks & nibbles will be provided.



CHRISTMAS NIGHT OF MUSIC with a variety of music 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 will be available to buy after all Masses next weekend.



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



FIRE WARDENS: If you would like to become a Fire Warden at Mass, please contact the presbytery. There will be a Fire Warden drill on **Wednesday 14th October at 7pm** for the current Fire Wardens.

BROXBOURNE CATENIANS are arranging a trip to the medieval city of Carcassonne in France from Tuesday 6th April - Saturday 10th April 2027. Room charge of £685.00 includes breakfast and evening dinner (for 2 people sharing). Flights are extra. Bishop Paul will also be going on the trip. For further information contact Steve Britto Tel. 07730 810131

CHURCH CLEANING: Toni Iamarino, Penny Benge, Doreen Satwick & Becky Collins. 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**

Liturgy this week

Saturday 10th October St Paulinus
9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10am Mass ***Maria Scott RIP***

4.00pm Italian Mass*
6.30pm Mass ***Margherita & Stefano Diesi RIP***

Sun 11th October TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN O.T.
9.15am Mass ***Maureen O'Neill RIP***
11.15am Mass ***For the Parish***

Mon 12th October St Carlo Acutis
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Gayle Series RIP***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tues 13th October ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Ben Pegram RIP***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wed 14th October St Callistus
9.15am Mass ***John Lumley RIP*** followed by coffee in the crypt
12 noon Requiem *Mary Lockie RIP*
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thurs 15th October St Teresa of Jesus
7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
8am Mass ***Daniela Ruggiero RIP anniv***
No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 16th October St Margaret Mary Alacoque
(abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)
11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction
12 noon Mass ***Justin Ighade***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 17th October St Ignatius of Antioch
9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10am Mass ***Mona Harris RIP***

4.00pm Italian Mass*
6.30pm Mass ***Robert Cullen RIP***

Sun 18th Oct TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9.15am Mass ***For the Parish***
11.15am Mass ***Giovanni Abella RIP anniv***

* Vigil Mass of Sunday

Today's Liturgy

Page 140 Parish Mass Books
Page 790 in Sunday Missals

1st Reading: Isaiah 25: 6-10a
The Lord will make a feast, and he will wipe away tears from faces.

Ps 23 — *In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending.*

2nd Reading: Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20
I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which he has called us. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 22: 1-14
Invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.

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

1st Reading: Isaiah 25: 1, 4-6
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5b
Gospel: Matthew 22: 15-21

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 13th	1pm lunch club, crypt	**Tues 13th**	7.30pm Come & See, crypt
Tues 13th	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