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 Web-site: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon

FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon" Administrator: Dawn Bates (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 9am–4pm)

Also in residence: Fr Mathews Valiyaputhenpura Joy (Chaplain to Knanaya community)

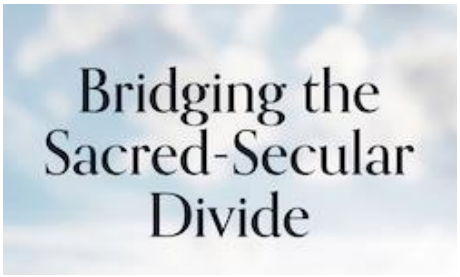
Safeguarding parish rep: Joy Ighade—hoddesdonSG3@rcdow.org.uk

Italian safeguarding rep: Rossetta Tona — italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

YEAR A TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18TH OCT 2026

Gospel: *Matthew 22: 15-21*

Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's



We often hear about the separation of Church and State, as if they deal with different spheres of influence. Yet such a separation is more theoretical than real and probably intellectually indefensible when spheres of influence cross borders. Some politicians are swayed by their religious beliefs, while some religious leaders act more by political instinct than deep religious conviction. Politicians often accuse religious people of encroaching upon the world of politics, while religious institutions accuse politicians of seeking to restrict the free exercise of religion and silence debate and belief. Religion raises questions about morality and society, which impinge upon matters of political concern, bringing under scrutiny how we live and how we structure society and community. Such matters of political concern cannot be seen as simply political and are too important to be left to politicians. Aristotle said that man is a political animal, yet surely man is more a religious animal. Each civilization has had its religion and sought to explain itself through religious language and belief. We are wired to worship beyond ourselves. God, the Book of Ecclesiastes says, has set eternity in our midst. From a Judeo-Christian perspective the whole of the creation is the temple of God's presence. God is not absent from it, though to be distinguished from it. We look forward to the renewal of the whole of the created order. Our Christian baptism designates us as priests, prophets and kings within God's world to bring about the sanctification of the whole of life. Nothing can be left out of this ambit. Consequently, nothing can remain solely secular as if it is separated and untouched by the sacred. In the beginning everything was sacred. The fall of Adam brought sin into the world and led to the secularisation of creation away from its origins. The coming of Christ has reversed the curse and sacralises what has been lost to secularisation. The Church seeks to sacralise the whole of life, so that the kingdom of God comes on earth as it is in heaven and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of God. The heavenly rule of God is always breaking through into earth, wherever and whenever we Christians respond faithfully to the gospel as prompted by the Holy Spirit. Creation, good at its inception, but marred because of the fall, is open to the redeeming work of Jesus Christ. Ephesians and Colossians remind us that everything will be brought into unity with Christ. Today's gospel throws some light upon the competing interests of the political and religious sphere. Such was their lack of integrity that the religious and political the leaders of Jesus' day, the religious interest-the Pharisees- and the political interest-the Herodians-join forces in an unholy alliance to entangle Jesus in his words and to discredit him. He recognises their malice. They ask him whether or not it is lawful to pay taxes to Caesar. Jesus asks for a coin, and invites them to say whose inscription and image it is. Characteristically they answer Caesar, which on the surface was correct. Jesus in response says, '*Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God'*. Most commentators take the coin and Jesus' words at face value, but they are wrong to do so. The Pharisees and Herodians had been trapped in their own words, for as observant Jews they should have known the Torah. All human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. The image wasn't Caesar's, it was God's. Moreover, the inscription claimed divine credentials for the emperor which belonged only to God. Jesus' words were ironic. Caesar didn't have much of leg to stand upon. He had things, which should be rendered to him, because they belonged not to him but ultimately to God. Jesus had turned the tables on his opponents, so that they, not he, appeared as the true rebels. They had defamed God. While the state exists and makes demands conceded by God, such as taxation, such demands are not absolute, and must always be considered and scrutinised from a divine perspective. The political can never wholly autonomous from the religious, and whatever claims to be secular (as if divorced from the sacred), can only be ultimately blasphemous or illusory. Fittingly, our prayer after the communion reminds us that human and material concerns have to be seen from a heavenly perspective, regardless of how we might like to categorise them. God is the source of the whole of life and to him all life tends. '*Grant O Lord, we pray that, benefitting from participation in heavenly things, we may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal, through Christ our Lord'*.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Freya Flanagan who will be baptised this weekend.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY is celebrated by parishes worldwide today. By supporting Missio, we stand united as God's global family, in prayer, solidarity and action. The Holy Father has chosen the theme 'One in Christ, united in mission' to celebrate 100 years of World Mission Sunday and encourages us to unite with missionaries as they strive to reach out with God's love to communities in need. **The envelopes are beside the newsletters and will be collected after Mass. You can also donate online at mission.org.uk or scan the QR code.**

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will take place from **5-6pm on Monday evening**, due to the Confirmation meeting.

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 and Maddalena Migliozzi and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Christopher Ayerst, Daniela Ruggiero, Filippo Adamo, Luisa Di Palma, Danuta Patterson, Francesco Hernandez, Baby Brooklyn Moore, Francesca Marino, Miss Zulu, Patrick Walsh, Angela Oranye, John Shanley, Robert Cullen, Geraldine Moore & Giovanni Abella. 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 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: **18th October, 15th & 29th November.**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY will be on the **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:
Rena Cuddihy 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 pray for our sick parishioners & friends: Alan Smith, John West, Maurice Brown, Marie Fry, Roman Keen, Domenico Mezzullo, John Devaney, Anna, Alice Hoey, Eamon & Shelagh Murphy, Martine Carr, Carol Grimley & Elizabeth Nsonwah.

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 20th 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 **25th October.** An email with the readings will be sent out on Friday 23rd October in the afternoon. 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.

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.

SCHOOLS

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



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.



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

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.

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: Estrella Clucas, Tina Pegna, Pat Callanan, Maria Goodwin, Catherine Lee-Lozone and 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**

Liturgy this week

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 October TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN O.T.
9.15am Mass ***For the Parish***
11.15am Mass ***Giovanni Abella RIP anniv***

Mon 19th October St John Brebeuf and companions
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Thanksgiving Nsonwah Family***
11.30am Requiem *Leonardo Castronovo RIP*
5-6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tues 20th October St Paul of the Cross
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Miss Zulu RIP 1st anniv***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wed 21st October
9.15am Mass ***Rosalia Dilena RIP*** followed by coffee in the crypt
11.30am Requiem *Maddalena Migliozzi RIP*
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thurs 22nd October St John Paul II
7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
8am Mass ***Pauline Siracusa's ints***
No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 23rd October St John Capistrano
(abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)
11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction
12 noon Mass ***Jackie Whelehan RIP***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 24th October St Anthony Mary Claret
9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10am Mass ***Frances Conway RIP 1st anniv***

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

Sun 25th Oct THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9.15am Mass ***Onofrio Dileto RIP***
11.15am Mass ***Stuart Rooney RIP*** **7pm Taizé with Rosary**

* Vigil Mass of Sunday

Today's Liturgy

Page 143 Parish Mass Books
Page 794 in Sunday Missals

1st Reading: Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6
I have grasped the right hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before him.

Ps 96 — *Ascribe to the Lord glory and power.*

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5b
Remembering your faith, love and hope.

Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia. Shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 22: 15-21
Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN O.T.
(YEAR A)

1st Reading: Exodus: 22: 21-27
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
Gospel: Matthew 22: 34-40

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

Mon 19th	7pm Confirmation, crypt	**Tues 20th**	7.30pm Come & See, crypt
Tues 20th	1pm lunch club, crypt	**Fri 23rd**	7.15pm Bible study, crypt
Tues 20th	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