The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS Tel: 01992-440986

Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies

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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 **THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** **25TH OCT 2026**

Gospel: *Matthew 22: 34-40*

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.



Nothing can ever be totally secular, and beyond redemption, if we recognise the presence of God in all things. Yet the secular lobby grows ever stronger trying to push back on any attempt to sacralise life or recognise the public expression of religion. The secularist lobby says that it is self-evidently true that religion should be kept to the private sphere, that that all beliefs are relative, and that absolute truth does not exist. At the heart of this secularist world view is a glaring contradiction. If there is no such thing as truth, why should we believe their truth claims? Nothing in their platform can ever be self-evidently true. We saw last week that no state can be secular for the state ultimately belongs to God. Caesar's right to rule, his likeness and his inscription belong not to him but to God. Many governments today, including those founded upon Judeo-Christian principles are becoming more secularist, seeking to push religion out of the public sphere, and to restrict the free exercise of the Christian faith. Although we don't buy into this secularist world view, we can unconsciously replicate it by keeping our beliefs to ourselves. We can so domestic our faith that we forget about the great commission to evangelize. We can make our faith socially irrelevant, disabling ourselves of our true purpose to bring life to others. If our beliefs are true, then they are true not just in private but publicly as well. Private truth doesn't exist. This over domestication of our faith makes us into ineffective disciples. We can buy into the lie that we have nothing worthwhile to say to the world. Our world becomes confined to a narrowly defined religious sub-culture. We may say that we love God but does that love have anything to say to our neighbour? This the question which our gospel poses to us today. A lawyer seeking to test Jesus asked him, *'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?'* Jesus replied, '*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment*'. But Jesus didn't leave it there. He continued, '*And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets*'. If we profess to love God then our beliefs cannot simply be held inwardly but have to be expressed outwardly in love of our neighbour. Neighbour means absolutely anyone, not just those most like us. Authentic Christian love never reinforces tribal identity. It challenges and contracts it, by reaching out in love to those most unlike ourselves or those we might consider unlovely, regardless of whether our love is reciprocated. Authentic Christian love is an act of will more than an emotion, and fundamentally brings into question the superficiality of what passes for love in our world. Concern for neighbour however can lead to secularisation of this love, as if to say love of neighbour is more important than love of Christ, as if it doesn't matter what you believe or for whom one loves. Christ is love. True love of neighbour itself becomes credal, and Jesus commands it. But how should we love our neighbour? Genuine love will not just be humanitarian concern. It would not be loving to confirm our neighbour in prejudices which could lead them down a path to destruction or the destruction of others. We should wish for them the love that God intends for each of us as made in his image and likeness. That love does not just feed our physical natures but has to feed the soul which is the greatest identity of the body. When Jesus had compassion upon the crowds the first thing he did, was not to feed them materially but to teach them. Of course, faced with an emergent need, love tries to meet its immediacy. However, the quality of love is revealed in the long-term, through the costly process of sacrificial love. Too many humanitarian ventures have swept into areas, offered neo-colonial gestures and then left those in need to fend for themselves. Throwing money at problems never resolved them. Love of neighbour is costly and can never be met by melodramatic gestures. Primarily, the greatest love we can show our neighbours is to show them the dignity that they are made in God's image and likeness, and that only in Christ will they discover how much they are greatly loved.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Susan Read and Susan Forshaw and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Guerino Santaniello, Carlo Di Maria, Desmond O'Sullivan, Ignazia Taglialavore, Wanda Marino, Vincenzo Graffato, Francesca Di Maria, Frances Conway, Giuseppe Cannatella, Onofrio Dileto and Stuart 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 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 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 **25th October, 8th & 22nd November** 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:
Private intention
Giuseppe & Pierina Tambuzzo, Francesco & Francesca Pizzo, Antonino & Giuseppa Cannatella

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 27th 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 **9th November 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



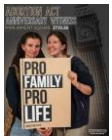
ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5S are looking for a Deputy Team Leader. Applicants need to be qualified to level 3/4 or equivalent in Early Year's Childcare and Education. Please apply with covering letter and CV to St Augustine's Under 5s Charlton Close EN11 8DR or email staugustinesunder5s@hotmail.co.uk Closing date Mon 26th October. Job description available on request.

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 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.

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

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE



Join **MARCH FOR LIFE** UK on **Tuesday 27th Oct 12-2pm** in Parliament Square as we remember the anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act which happened on that date 59 years ago.. Stand with us as we remind our nation that abortion hurts the family. For further information contact info@marchforlife.co.uk or call 447773501721

CAFOD: Could you inspire the next generation and gain valuable experience of presenting to young people at the same time? CAFOD is looking for volunteers to visit local schools to present assemblies and workshops. Visit cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or contact Chris Driscoll at cdriscoll@cafod.org,uk or call 07776 493162

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 25 tickets left, so please do get your ticket soon if you want to attend.**





EMMAUS WALK Our next walk will be on **31st October at 2pm.** Meet at The Star pub, High Street, Standon SG11 1LB.

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: 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.

Liturgy this week

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 25h October THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN O.T.
9.15am Mass ***Onofrio Dileto RIP***
11.15am Mass ***Stuart Rooney RIP*** **7pm Taizé with Rosary**

Mon 26th October Sts Chad & Cedd
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Terence Coyne RIP***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tues 27th October
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***David's intention***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wed 28th October SAINTS SIMON & JUDE
9.15am Mass ***Pietro Perzia RIP anniv*** followed by coffee in the crypt
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thurs 29th October Martyrs of Douai
7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
8am Mass ***Pat & Steve Sands ints***
No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 30th October
(abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)
11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction
12 noon Mass ***Bill Pollard RIP***
NO 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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***

* Vigil Mass of Sunday

Today's Liturgy

Page 146 Parish Mass Books
Page 798 in Sunday Missals

1st Reading: Exodus 22: 21-27
If you mistreat any widow or fatherless child, my wrath will burn against you.

Ps 18 — *I love you, Lord, my strength.*

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1: 5c-10
You turned away from idols to serve God and to wait for his Son.

Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 22: 34-40
You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
ALL SAINTS
(YEAR A)

1st Reading: Revelation 2: 2-4, 9-14
2nd Reading: 1 John 3: 1-3
Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12a

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 27th	1pm lunch club, crypt	**Tues 27th**	7.30pm Come & See, crypt
Tues 27th	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