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 THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 15TH NOV 2026

Gospel: *Matthew 25: 14-30*

You have been faithful over a little, enter into the joy of your master.



Creation belongs to God just as in our gospel today the master owns the property. As the master looks to increase his portfolio, so God continues to create. It is not as if the process of creation has stopped after seven days. We know that life continues. The created order regenerates itself. New biological life springs forth, new stars are born. As humankind is made in God's image and likeness, we are called to an especial role in cooperating with God in his purposes. Just as the master involves others in the task of increasing his stock, so God involves us in the creative processes. Graciously he allows us to further his designs, so that we are truly participants in his creativity to a far greater degree than we can say of the animal and plant kingdoms. Human nature is ennobled by this act of divine condescension. The whole of life becomes the arena where God gives us the responsibility to co-operate with his grace. Catholics believe that divine grace does not destroy our human nature but enhances it. In spite of humanity's fall, God entrusts to us a real freedom to respond to his will. Just as the master of the property gives his servants freedom to go away and increase his interest, so God gives us the freedom to advance his kingly designs for the world with a free and moral response. We are not automata or artificial generations, but morally culpable for the choices we make. We are in a sense authors of our own destiny. We can further God's kingdom, or frustrate his intentions. In frustrating them we frustrate ourselves, because working contrary to God's will, we work contrary to our true selves, made in his likeness. We choose the path leading to destruction rather than life. We are called to go forth and multiply. This is a summons to life, and it refers to more than just reproductivity. It speaks of our loving Creator's desire to bless us and creation at the same time. The contraceptive mentality, so prevalent today, counteracts the free gift of ourselves as God's co-creators. It is the mindset of the third servant who refused his master's free offer to respond and fulfil his wishes. Just as all the players in the parable reap the consequences of the actions, so we also reap the consequences of our actions. The first two servants who returned an interest are blessed, the third who did not, is not blessed. The first two are given even greater scope to be creatively responsive to their master's designs, with the reward of greater talents. The talent was a weight, and in the parable is seen as monetary, yet we might see it also as the weight of responsibility. It did not mean natural talents, though weight of responsibility does include our right use of God given natural gifts. These talents lie dormant, diminish, or even disappear, if not used. When rightly used, God sometimes invests them supernaturally for the greater promotion of his interest. All talents whether supernatural or natural, and all weights of responsibility should bring glory to God and not to ourselves. The servant who lost his talent did not seek to do this. He was contemptuous of his master and all that his master had entrusted him with. He harboured a false view of his master, just as many people today have a false view of God, grounded not in truth but in the reflection of the deceptive self. Many people do not recognise the Giver of all gifts, and in so doing reject what he graciously gives, not least the gift of his Son and the treasury of heaven that opens to us. Like the ungrateful servant, they turn on God who alone has their true interest at heart, and who alone can admit them into joy. Like the responsive servants in the parable we are called to be good and faithful, rather than successful in a worldly sense. Just as the master saw his first two servants as '*faithful in a little*', so God invites us to be faithful in the smallest acts of service. In the kingdom of God, the weight of responsibility is bottom up not top down. Such acts may be mundane, insignificant or worthless in the eyes of the world, yet from heaven, they are what invite the greatest reward, making us truly blessed and joyful. We are called to be faithful and to act faithfully. This week sees Red Wednesday when we remember the persecuted Church. Are we as faithful as our brothers and sisters facing the storm of being persecuted and ostracised by their families or communities? On this so-called World Day of the Poor might we identify more with the poor and their needs? If so we might hear the words, '*good and faithful servant….enter into the joy of your master*'.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Nico Cheshire who will be baptised this weekend.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will be from **5-6pm on Tuesday** evening and there will be no Exposition on Wednesday evening.

CAROLINE O'BRIEN of Mead gate died recently. Her Requiem will be on **Wednesday 18th November at 11am.**

SUE FORSHAW of The Rowans died recently. Her Requiem will be on **Monday 30th November at 1pm.**

ROSALIA ACQUISTO of Walton Road died recently. Her Requiem will be on **Wednesday 2nd December at 11.30am.**

MARK DEVONALD-SMITH of Hickman Close died recently. His Requiem will be on **Monday 14th December at 12 noon.**

May they rest in peace.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Mark Devonald-Smith, Rosalia Acquisto, Caroline O'Brien, June Bass, and Susan Forshaw, Eamon Murphy and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Carmela Santaniello, Mathilde Krajewski, Francesca Comparetto, Patricia Dunne, Carlo Gaudiano, Valerie Wood, Margaret Higgins, Assunta Porto, Onofrio Dileto, Marie Laydon, Benedetto Cicchirillo and Antonio Sidoli. 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 is the **20th November, 11th & 18th December 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.



ADORATION WITH TAIZE and devotion to the Holy Souls will be held on **Sunday 29th November at 7pm.**

PRAYER GROUP will be held on **Thursday 3rd December 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 **22nd November** at the 9.15am Mass.

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.



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

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 17th 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 **30th November at 7pm in the crypt**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The next meeting will be on the **22nd November.** An email with the readings will be sent out on Friday 20th November in the afternoon. If you have not received it, please do check your spam box. **An email has now been sent to parents with the dates for 2027**. **Please drop of the £8 for the First Holy Communion book to the presbytery as soon as possible.** If you have not received the email, please contact the presbytery.

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 has now begun.**



BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on Monday **16th**

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 this Sunday,** 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 are available beside the newsletters and will be collected this weekend after Mass.** You can also donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030.



RED WEDNESDAY is this Wednesday when churches remember the Persecuted church. Aid to the Church in Need is holding a special Mass at St George's Cathedral, Southwark at 6pm.

SCHOOLS

ST CROSS SCHOOL: Reception 2027 Intake: are inviting new and prospective parents to visit. Please contact the office on (01992) 467309 to book one of the following tours: **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. on **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

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**. There is now 1 ticket left. Raffle tickets are available to buy after Mass for £1 a ticket or £5 a strip.



EMMAUS WALK will be held on **Saturday 21st November at 2pm.** Details to follow in due course.

MEN'S WEEKEND 23rd - 25th July 2027 is an opportunity for men to relax, be inspired by great speakers and socialise (bar provided) at: The Hayes Conference Centre, Derbyshire. For more info and to book go to https://harv.yapsody.com/ Note : places are limited and likely to go rapidly.

BROXBOURNE 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.

CAR PARK: If you are parking in the church/Under 5's car park please be mindful when parking and try not to block others in. Please do consider other drivers when parking. Thank you for your co-operation.



CHRISTMAS TREE: For many years Van Hages donated a 6-foot Christmas tree to us. Unfortunately, Blue Diamond can now no longer donate a tree to us. If anyone might like to donate a Christmas to us, please contact the presbytery.

CHURCH REPOSITORY (GIFT SHOP) now has Christmas cards, children's gifts and a lot of new stock! Please do pop in and have a look around. The shop is open every weekend after all the Masses.

MISSION TODAY calendars are now available to take from the back of church. Inside you can read how your support brings hope to those who need it most.

CHURCH CLEANING: Estrella Clucas, Tina Pegna, Pat Callanan, Maria Goodwin, Catherine Lee-Lozone & 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**

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, with how much on God's mission and work.

Liturgy this week

Saturday 14th November Blessed Virgin Mary
9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10am Mass ***Holy Souls***

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

Sun 15th November THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN O.T.
9.15am Mass ***Holy Souls***
11.15am Mass ***Antonio Sidoli RIP***

Mon 16th November St Edmund of Abingdon
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Holy Souls***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tues 17th November St Elizabeth of Hungary
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Holy Souls***
5-6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wed 18th Nov Dedication of Basilicas of Sts Peter & Paul
9.15am Mass ***Holy Souls*** followed by coffee in the crypt
11am Requiem *Caroline O'Brien RIP*
NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thurs 19th November
7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
8am Mass ***Holy Souls***
No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 20th November St Edmund the Martyr
(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

Saturday 21st November Presentation of B Virgin Mary
9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10am Mass ***Holy Souls***

4.00pm Italian Mass*
6.30pm Mass ***Sr Leonard Azzopardi***

Sun 22nd November OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF UNVERSE
9.15am Mass ***For the Parish***
11.15am Mass ***Holy Souls***

* Vigil Mass of Sunday

Today's Liturgy

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Page 808 in Sunday Missals

1st Reading: Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31
She works with willing hands.

Ps 128 — *Blessed are all who fear the Lord.*

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6
Do not let the day of the Lord surprise you like a thief.

Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia. Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord. Whoever abides in me bears much fruit. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30
You have been faithful over a little, enter into the joy of your master.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNVERSE (YEAR A)

1st Reading: Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28
Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46

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 16th	7.15pm Baptism course, church	**Tues 17th**	7.30pm Come & See, crypt
Tues 17th	1pm lunch club, crypt	**Fri 20th**	7.15pm Bible Study, crypt
Tues 17th	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