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 **CHRIST THE UNIVERSAL KING** **22ND NOV 2026**

Gospel: *Matthew 25: 31-46*

He will sit on his glorious throne and he will separate people one from another.



Advent approaches and we turn towards last things today, not least the judgment which we will all face at the end of time. Jesus will return not as an unrecognised babe, or as a prophet, but as Universal King '*in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne*'. It is fitting then that today, the last Sunday last of the church year, is the feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the universe, reminding us that Jesus will come again in what is known as his Parousia. All nations will be gathered before him. His judgment holds no fear for those whose trust is in him, and who have sought to model and practice his love. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Through his cross, the Christian has already experienced judgment. We stand convicted of our sins. Jesus has taken upon himself the judgment which should have fallen on us, and through this recognition of undeserved mercy, we can do nothing other than feel woefully condemned but yet gloriously redeemed at the same time. Judgment is brought forward into the present, as we recall our daily need to confess and repent and to make amends for what we have done, by allowing God's grace to change us inside out. Faith and works are not in opposition. Faith naturally produces good works. Each day we are challenged to be become more faithful disciples by exercising what the Church calls the corporeal acts of mercy. For acts such as these, our gospel reminds us, the world will be scrutinised. Jesus identifies himself totally with his brothers and sisters who have no food or water, those who lack clothing and shelter, those who are sick or imprisoned. While his words in the first place judge the nations for their attitude to the Christian family, they judge us also if we ignore the cries of our persecuted and ostracised brothers and sisters. Further, if we take to heart Jesus' imperative that we love our neighbour as ourselves we cannot see Jesus' words as meaning actions, done or not done, just to Christians. It might be anyone, since whenever we show love we are honouring in them God's very image and likeness. Sometimes we are too concerned about what others are doing, and easily judge them. Only God judges and we are all accountable for our own actions. Prompts for us to act righteously come from repentance and its fruits, as grace works behind the scenes to sponsor faithful action. So loving judgement comes to us in many ways because the Holy Spirit brings it about. He convicts us, Jesus tells us, of judgment. Another's words and actions, situations of life, unforeseen events, the fine tuning of our conscience, are all ways in which we are scrutinised and bought to account, always with our best interest at heart, however unpalatable it may be to come face to face with home truths. Judgment comes also through the times in which we live. We are all unwitting accomplices in the de-humanising of life. Our over-reliance on digitalisation counteracts human wellbeing. Over-centralisation and over-dependence make us into machines, lacking social grace and disabled of basic human skills. Judgment comes through meltdown of this artificial economy, inviting us to consider alternative ways of living, and not to place our trust in things which cannot deliver the most basic quality of life. Rapid ecological change, fostered by our greed and our exploitation, threatens our common home and brings before us apocalyptic visions of fires and floods. All these developments are a kind of reckoning, where judgment falls before the Judgment Day. They are intimations, even warnings, that there are consequences for our actions, for rejecting divine principles of life which are our blue-print for our mutual wellbeing and enhancement. Then there is the first of the so-called last things. Sister death, as St Francis calls her, brings judgment forward for all of us. Why leave repentance to the death-bed? It may be too late. We are all going places. Let's be sure that we are heading in the right direction, already investing in the life of eternal light and glory. The alternative is too awful to contemplate. As St Francis says in his great Canticle of the Sun, '*Woe to those who die in mortal sin*', but, '*blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will, for the second death shall do them no harm*'.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will not take place on **Tuesday evening this week.**

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.**

ROSARIA CUFFARO of Hertford Road died recently. Her Requiem will be on **Monday 7th December at 11am** with Don Antonio.

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

ELIZABETH NSONWAH of The Grange died recently. Details of her Requiem will follow in due course.

May they rest in peace.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Rosaria Cuffaro, Elizabeth Nsonwah, Mark Devonald-Smith, Rosalia Acquisto, and Susan Forshaw and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Bert Zwager, Owen Parsons, Pietro Di Leto, Maisie & Maddy Morrissey, Richard Dundon, Vincenzo Lombardi, Catherine Mancey Mett Curtis, Giuseppe Maniscalco, Vincenza Cusumano, Eileen smith, Desmond Castle, Calogero Tagliarini, John Donovan, Antonio Fiondella and Rosemary Guest. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

ADVENT

PARISH CAROL SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 13th December at 7pm** with adult and children choirs. Refreshments will be served in the crypt afterwards.

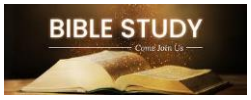
RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS: Our Parish Penitential Services will be on **Tuesday 15th December at 11.00am and Wednesday 16th December at 7.00pm**

SILENT NIGHT: On Wednesday 16th December, after morning coffee at 10.30am, we will show a beautiful film **in the church** about Silent Night (2012)

CHRISTMAS MASSES: There will be a children's Nativity Mass at **5.30pm** on **Christmas Eve** and children can dress as a shepherd, angel, king or stable animal. There will also be Mass at Midnight on **Christmas Eve**. On **Christmas Day**, Mass will be at 9.15am and 11.15am.

REPOSITORY now has Advent calendars, Christmas cards and Christmas decorations for sale. Please do pop in to take a look.

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 **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!

FAMILY CHOIR: Gabby Hanley will be running the Family Choir at the 9.15am Mass on Sunday mornings. Next dates: **29th November & 13th December.**

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.

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 **Caleb Vandepeer RIP**

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 1st December 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 for young people 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.**

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 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 **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

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ACADEMY TRUST are looking for a Trust Estate Manager for St Mary's School, Bishop's Stortford. For more information, please see https://mynewterm.com/jobs/17524/EDV-2026-SFACAT-25546

CONGRATULATIONS to Martin Maloney who has been appointed Executive Head of St Augustine's & St Cross Schools.

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**. Raffle tickets are available to buy for £1 a ticket or £5 a strip, from the presbytery during the week or on the night.

EMMAUS WALK will be held on **Saturday 21st November at 2pm**. Meet outside The White Horse, Hertingfordbury SG14 2LB.

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.

CHRISTMAS TREE: Thank you to all the parishioners who have offered to donate a Christmas tree. A parishioner has now very kindly purchased one.

THE BROXBOURNE CATENIANS will be holding their Christmas Gala on **Monday 7th December** at Brickendon Grange Golf Club at 6pm, 2 course carvery meal with wine and coffee. £45 per head. All proceeds to St Elizabeth's, Much Hadham. To book, please contact Alfie Gattuso on 0779 1011972.

WARE CHORAL SOCIETY will be performing Snowy Scenes on **Saturday 5th December** at the Drill Hall, Ware. Tickets £20 from Theresa Casbard 07742022223 or Anne byrne 467097.

SUPERVISOR OF RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLORS: Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation specialising in relationship support. We are looking for volunteer Supervisors to provide supervision and mentoring to our relationship counsellors. You would need to be professionally qualified and experienced in counselling supervision, and also be a qualified relationship counsellor. For full information please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email: volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk

CHURCH CLEANING: Pat Kavanagh, Val, Sue Alvey, Mima Salvo and 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, with how much on God's mission and work.

Liturgy this week

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 THE UNIVERSE
9.15am Mass ***For the Parish***
11.15am Mass ***Holy Souls***

Mon 23rd November St Clement
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Holy Souls***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tues 24th November St Andrew Dûng-Lac & companions
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Holy Souls***
NO 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wed 25th Nov St Catherine of Alexandria
9.15am Mass ***Holy Souls*** followed by coffee in the crypt
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thurs 26th November St John Berchmans
7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
8am Mass ***Holy Souls***
No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 27th November St Catherine Laboure
(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 28th November B Virgin Mary on Saturday
9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10am Mass ***Holy Souls***

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

Sun 29th November FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9.15am Mass ***Florence & Albert Smith RIP***
11.15am Mass ***Holy Souls*** **7pm Adoration with Taize**

* Vigil Mass of Sunday

Today's Liturgy

Page 158 Parish Mass Books
Page 813 in Sunday Missals

1st Reading: Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17
As for you, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep.

Ps 23 — *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28
Christ delivers the kingdom to God the Father, that God may be all in all.

Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46
He will sit on his glorious throne and he will separate people from one another.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(YEAR A)

1st Reading: Isaiah 63: 16b-17, 64:1, 3b-8
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
Gospel: Mark 13: 33-37

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 24th	1pm lunch club, crypt	**Tues 24th**	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