The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

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YEAR A THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 8TH NOV 2026

Gospel: *Matthew 25: 1-13*

Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.



Jesus spoke in parables to the crowds. Yet what is interesting about today's parable is that it is addressed to his disciples. In other words, he intended it primarily for those who knew the gospel, rather than those who didn't. While it is a parable addressed to Jesus' disciples, it is addressed also to the future generations of the Church, like ourselves. Jesus often likened the kingdom of God to a wedding feast just as the prophets before him had done. The disciples would recognise Jesus as the bridegroom, since earlier in Matthew's gospel he had already done so in the debate about fasting. In today's parable the bridegroom arrives at an unexpected time. While the disciples would be acquainted with the Jewish custom of the bridegroom coming and going, they could not understand at this stage the implications of Jesus' leaving them, even less his return. Today's parable is essentially a wake-up call, and it invites us to ask some searching questions of ourselves. In that respect it provokes a similar response to Jesus' teaching elsewhere in Matthew's gospel, inviting his followers to consider how much they love him and whether our affiliation to him is more than just in name. We know that disaffection was quite high among Jesus' disciples. How affected are we? Jesus wants to impress upon the Church the inevitability of his return at the end of time as we know it, and that his return would be unexpected, just as the bridegroom unexpectedly turns up. In the creed we affirm our belief that *'he will come again to judge the living and the dead'*, yet do we really realise the implications of what it means? The great bible translator Tyndale wrote of the 'quick and the dead'. There is something electric about the word quick which shakes us out of our complacency. How awake are we? Today's parable is all about vigilance. Jesus presents us with a story of ten bridesmaids awaiting the appearance of the bridegroom, five are wise as they carry a plentiful supply of oil for their lamps, and five foolish, who do not. As with so many of Jesus' parables, knowledge of the Jewish background helps. Jewish marriages invariably took place in the night. It was customary for the bridegroom to take his bride from the house of her father in procession to the place where the banquet would take place. Lining the route and lighting the way would be the bridesmaids carrying torches or lamps. It was essential therefore that they carried sufficient oil for any delay which might take place in the proceedings. In the parable the bridesmaids who had insufficient oil wandered off to seek additional supplies, and missed the crucial event of the coming of the bridegroom. Today we are all too aware of the importance of crude oil as a commodity. Olive oil in the first century economy and society was even more important. Its uses were so many that it was synonymous with life. As elsewhere in the bible, in this parable it becomes a metaphor for wisdom, fruitfulness and salvation. Jesus is inviting us to consider whether or not we have enough oil in the tank, enough staying power to be his followers. Falling asleep is not a problem (that happens to all ten bridesmaids) but the need to respond unequivocally to Jesus is, as is the depth of our inner resources founded not in ourselves but in him. In this interlude between the now and not yet of the coming of God's kingdom, as we await his return, he invites us to reflect on the trajectory of our lives. Are we focused on the one who alone gives meaning and sustenance to ourselves and the life of the world? How obligated to Christ are we, and how vigilant are we in the threatening quicksand and fast-moving scenarios of today's world? How precious is truth? When vigilance is lacking fateful consequence ensue, such as the events leading to war and the taking away of so many precious lives, such as those we remember this weekend. The greater war and the greater sacrifice though come from within. St Maximilian Kolbe who was killed by the Nazis wrote that '*the real conflict is the inner conflict…there are two irreconcilable enemies in the depth of every soul: good and evil, sin and love. And what use are the victories on the battlefield if we ourselves are defeated in our innermost personal selves?*' The fight for supremacy will intensify as Jesus' return approaches, and may we know the plentiful supply of the oil that consumes itself in the cause of his victorious truth.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will be from **5-6pm on Monday 9th November** due to the Confirmation meeting.

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

SUE FORSHAW of The Rowans died recently. Details of her funeral will follow in due course.

ROSALIA ACQUISTO of Walton Road died recently. Details of her funeral will follow in due course.

May they rest in peace.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Rosalia Acquisto, Caroline O'Brien, June Bass, Susan Forshaw, Eamon Murphy and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Vincent Byrne, Antonino Cuffaro, Luigia Ereddia, Peter Dredge, Benedetto Provenzano, Anne Perkins, Vera Brown, Maria Bondi, Vincenzo Imbrogino, Peter Fitch, Maud Divers, Giuseppe Rubino and Cono Miragliotta. 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 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.



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. December date will follow in due course. 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 **8th & 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.



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.**



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:
Matthew Wotton RIP
Sue Forshaw RIP
Rosalia Acquisto RIP
Giuseppe Cannatella 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 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 **9th November at 7pm in the crypt**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The next meeting will be on the **8th November.** An email with the readings will be sent out on Friday 6th November in the afternoon. If you have not received it, 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. **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 on the **15th November,** 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 on the 15th**. You can also donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS are a fun and meaningful way to give gifts and make a difference to some of the poorest communities around the world. Catalogues are now available at the back of church.

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 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. 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

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S 200 club winner for November was Ellen Bates. Congratulations!

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.** Meet outside The White Horse, Hertingfordbury SG14 2LB.

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. To book go to https://harv.yapsody.com/ Note : places are limited and likely to go rapidly.

BROXBOURNE FOODBANK is looking for volunteers at the Foodbank, especially for the management team. For more info please see Appeal for volunteers https://broxbourne.foodbank.org.uk/2026/10/23/come-work-with-us/
Video describing the work and various volunteering opportunities: https://youtu.be/XAKoKpTlrO4?si=hEbNz8XdmcWlbRj4 . Job description for management members: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IJUCmxPAUKJ4OYeq8rxD26Ro4B8BbPQjzbXvoOyBl48/edit?usp=sharing People can register an interest or find out more through the details on our Contact Us page: https://broxbourne.foodbank.org.uk/contact-us/. **The 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.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY collection came to £501.07. Thank you to everyone who donated.

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.

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**

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 7th November St Willibrord
9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10am Mass ***Holy Souls***

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

Sun 8th November THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN O.T.
9.15am Mass ***Vincent Byrne RIP***
11.15am Requiem Mass Remembrance Sunday

Mon 9th November DEDICATION OF LATERAN BASILICA
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Holy Souls***
5-6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tues 10th November St Leo the Great
8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.15am Mass ***Holy Souls***
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wed 11th November St Martin of Tours
9.15am Mass ***Holy Souls*** followed by coffee in the crypt
6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thurs 12th November St Josaphat
7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
8am Mass ***Holy Souls***
No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 13th November
(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 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***

* Vigil Mass of Sunday

Today's Liturgy

Page 152 Parish Mass Books
Page 804 in Sunday Missals

1st Reading: Wisdom 6: 12-16
Wisdom is found by those who seek her.

Ps 63 — *For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.*

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
Through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia. Stay awake and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13
Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN O.T.
(YEAR A)

1st Reading: Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30,31
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6
Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30

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 9th	7pm Confirmation, crypt	**Fri 11th**	7.15pm Bible Study, crypt
Tues 10th	1pm lunch club, crypt		
Tues 10th	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