

# The Announcer

## St Augustine's Catholic Church

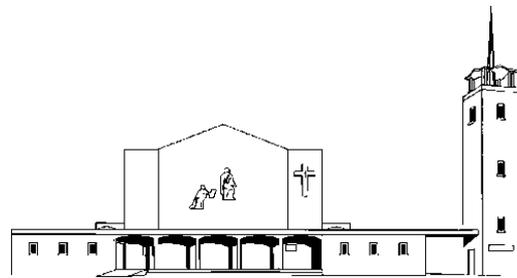
The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon EN11 8DS

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(<http://yofhomilies.wordpress.com>)



**Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.**

Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9am–3pm)

Also in residence: Fr Joseph Thayil Mathew (chaplain to Syro-Malabar-rite Catholics)

**Year A**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

GOSPEL: Matthew 11: 2–11

*Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?*

**My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,**

**'GAUDETE\* SUNDAY' — WITH ROSE-COLOURED VESTMENTS — MARKS OUR MID-POINT OF ADVENT**, as we come closer towards the joyful celebration of the Birth of Our Lord. (\* 'Gaudete' means 'rejoice'!)

As Catholics, we should set a good example in speaking of the season's true meaning to those around us. We should make sure that the secular elements of Christmas — our preparations of food, drink, journeys and presents — do not obscure the fact that this is a Christian feast, with a world-changing meaning, namely the human birth of the eternal Son of God. Let's be sure to place the spiritual elements of Christmas above all else. An obvious example would be to make sure that *we only send Christmas cards that have a religious theme*, i.e. the Nativity of Our Lord. Please, as Catholics, we must be seen to do this. I urge you strongly to spread the Gospel in this simple, but powerful way. Christmas is about Christ, and we must proclaim this!

**IN THE GOSPEL TODAY, FOR A SECOND WEEK RUNNING**, we hear of St John the Baptist, who 'prepared the way for the Lord.' He called the people to repentance, and made sure his own followers knew that Jesus was definitely "the One who was to come." As I said in the homily last weekend, we should heed John's call to seek forgiveness for our sins. So, please note the times for the parish **Penitential Services with Confession on Monday**, so that you can come and receive the Sacrament of Forgiveness, and prepare the way, in your hearts, for Christ to come to you at Christmas in a heart cleansed of sin. Here are some key ways to prepare for Christmas:

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 5pm. Holy Hour.** Adoration, Evening Prayer & Benediction.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 11.30am & 7.30pm. Penitential Services** with Confession.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 5pm. Parish Carol Service** with readings and carols.

As we keep our joyful 'Gaudete' Sunday today, I do hope and pray that you can all enter peacefully into the remaining 10 days before Christmas, and despite all your preparations, be truly of a Christian heart and mind, placing the divine Lord Jesus at the centre.

**May God bless us with the joy and hope of our Advent season of expectation!**

**Fr Philip**

**From *Gaudium et Spes*, Vatican II on 'The Church in the Modern World,' n. 4:**



Never has the human race enjoyed such an abundance of wealth, resources and economic power, and yet a huge proportion of the world's citizens are still tormented by hunger and poverty, while countless numbers suffer from total illiteracy. Never before has man had so keen an understanding of freedom, yet at the same time new forms of social and psychological slavery make their appearance. Although the world of today has a very vivid awareness of its unity and of how one man depends on another in needful solidarity, it is most grievously torn into opposing camps by conflicting forces.

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH** Vienna and Taye Cadman and Santino Eastwood who will be baptised this weekend.

**SUNDAY HOLY HOUR: 5pm–6pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.** Adoration, Reading, Reflection, Evening Prayer and Benediction. This **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

**SCHOOL MASSES:** There will be Mass at 9.30am on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** at St Augustine's School and 9.30am on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** at St Cross School. There will still be Mass at the usual times in church also.

**FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday evening of each month, 7.30–8.30pm, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.** A semi-formal quiet hour in the Lady Chapel once a month to reflect on the Sunday Scriptures and bring our needs and prayers to the Lord.

**ANNUAL CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE** will be held on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2014** at Hoddesdon Baptist Church at 6pm. This service is held on behalf of the Churches Together in Hoddesdon and all parishioners are welcome.

### ADVENT

**CAROL SERVICE:** Our parish carol service will be held on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 5.00pm.** Adult and young readers are needed, so if you are able to assist, please sign the list at the back of the church.

**RECONCILIATION FOR CHRISTMAS: Our parish Penitential Service will be on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30am and 7.30pm.** Fr Philip will also hear confessions as much as possible after Sunday Masses in Advent.

Penitential Services in other local parishes are:

WARE: Adults: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm

WALTHAM CROSS: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 8pm.

HERTFORD parish (tel 582019) has extra confessions in the week before Christmas.

**SCHOOL CAROLS:** St Cross School are holding their Carol Service in church on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7pm.** All are welcome.

**CHRISTMAS DAY:** If you are a Minister of Holy Communion, Reader or Altar Server and can assist at the Christmas Masses, please do sign your name on the lists at the back of church.

### HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

We pray for our parishioners and friends who are sick: Sue Porto, Christopher Browne, John Askew, Alan Dolan, Rosa Augello, Roberto Piacentini, Mark Reason, Hilda Andrews, Joanne Sheridan, Helen Sherman, Annette Pinto, Bohita Fanor, Jill Logsdail, Joe Barr, Jenny Miller, and Joseph Penheiro.

**PLEASE TELL US IF ANYONE IS HOUSEBOUND, EVEN TEMPORARILY, SO THEY CAN BE VISITED & HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION.**

**IF YOU GO IN TO HOSPITAL:** Catholics in hospital are unlikely to receive an automatic visit from the Catholic Chaplain, as this information is now systematically withheld from Chaplains. If someone is sick in hospital, **please let us know here at the presbytery, 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.

**The Chaplains are: QEII, Jacqueline Humphreys and John Paul Lyttle 01438-285518 or 07884-187463; Princess Alexandra, Fr Slawek Jedrych 01279-426017**

### 'YEAR OF FAITH'

[www.annusfidei.va](http://www.annusfidei.va) (click on 'EN' for English)

**CYCLE OF HOMILIES:** if you have missed any of Fr Philip's homilies on the *Catechism*, you can catch up with them at <http://yofhomilies.wordpress.com>.

**FR PHILIP'S TALKS:** If anyone missed any of the talks, handouts are available from the presbytery.

**YEAR OF FAITH:** collated copies of the 8 'year of faith' diocesan handouts are now available at the back of the church. Please feel free to take a copy.

### CATECHETICS

**FIRST-HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** The fourth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Jan** from 8–9pm in the crypt. The third meeting for the children will be on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Jan at 10am.**

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME:** The next meeting for **candidates and parents** will be held on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January** from 7-9pm in the crypt. **If you haven't already paid the £10 for the "YouCat" youth catechism, could you please drop it off to the presbytery as soon as possible. Thank you.**

**"RCIA"** – The 'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults' is the programme for preparation for adults wishing to become Catholics, or be prepared for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion). **The course continues on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm.**

**BAPTISM COURSE:** The next course will be held on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January from 7.30-9pm** in the presbytery. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.

### JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

**CAFOD 'WORLD GIFTS' CATALOGUES:** These alternative Christmas gifts make unique presents for

family or friends while making a real difference for many in the developing world. CAFOD World Gift Catalogues are available at back of the church and the full selection is also available online at [cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](http://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts).

## SCHOOLS

**SCHOOL ADMISSIONS:** applications to our Catholic schools requires the Parish Priest to provide a priest's reference as testimony of **Catholic practice, i.e. attendance, every week, at Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass.** This accords with Priests' guidance <http://www.rcdow.org.uk/fileupload/upload/prf4117200691341.pdf>. In order to help him be just and fair to the practising Catholics of our parish, Fr Philip will continue to adopt the pattern of occasionally in the next few months asking those who will require a priest's form to be signed to come and see him briefly (each and every time he asks) after Sunday Mass. **This concerns those whose children are now in nursery-year in 2013/14.**

**PRIMARY SCHOOL: PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORM:** Fr Philip will hold two sessions for those looking to gain admission to reception, for the signing of priest's reference forms. These will be on **Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 1.30–3.30pm** and **Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 10.30am–12.30pm.** There is no need to make an appointment, please just attend at the allocated times. If you cannot make either of these times, please ring to make an appointment.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**THE NADIA MIRAGLIOTTA 'BRIGHTER FUTURE' FUND:** Following the sudden and tragic death of Nadia in July, Stephanie and Mike have decided to set up a fund to raise money in Nadia's memory. The money donated will be used by Great Ormond Street Hospital to help children with bowel conditions. This will be used directly for them and to purchase equipment needed to aid their treatment. If you would like to make a donation, please visit [www.justgiving.com/stephanie-miragliotta](http://www.justgiving.com/stephanie-miragliotta).

**WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS 2014** are now available for £4.50 from the back of the church. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

**EPIPHANY PARTY** will be held on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January** after the 6.30pm Mass in the crypt. We hope to have a shared meal and if you can bring either a sweet or savoury dish, please do sign your name on the list at the back of the church.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS** will be on sale after all Masses this weekend to raise funds for the Brownies.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS:** There are still a few packs available to buy for £3.50 from the presbytery.

**APF RED BOXES:** Some members have returned their boxes but there is no name attached to them. If you would like to continue with your box, please do contact me and let me know so that I can return it to you at a later date. Everyone at the APF would like to wish our members a very blessed Christmas. Ellen Bartlett. APF Secretary

**200 CLUB:** The winners for December are: first prize Mrs D Wright no 183, second prize Mrs S Turpin no 105 and third prize Mrs M O'Dwyer no 187. Congratulations to you all!

**POPPY APPEAL:** The amount raised was £59.00. Thank you from the Royal British Legion.

**CATHOLIC SINGLES** is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website [www.catholicingles.org.uk](http://www.catholicingles.org.uk) or email [info@catholicingles.org.uk](mailto:info@catholicingles.org.uk)

**SUNDAY LUNCH:** Fr Philip thanks all the parish households to which he has been invited, and would continue to like to meet further parishioners/families in their homes, as much as possible. Sunday lunch 1.30pm is a good (but by no means only) time. Free dates: 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Judy Livingstone, Jennifer Ibanez, Elena Sachaj and Eddie and Eileen Linford. Thank you!

## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

### Prayer to Prepare for Confession

Come Holy Spirit into my soul. Enlighten my mind that I may know the sins I ought to confess, and grant me Your grace to confess them fully, humbly and with contrite heart. Help me to firmly resolve not to commit them again. O Blessed Virgin, Mother of my Redeemer, mirror of innocence and sanctity, and refuge of penitent sinners, intercede for me through the Passion of Your Son, that I may obtain the grace to make a good confession.



## Masses this week

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> December ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, Priest**  
10am Mass *Craig Roulland RIP*

**6.30pm\* *Maria Teresa Lucia Martorana RIP***

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Dec THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9.15am\*\* *John Doyle*

11.15am \*\* *For the Parish*

3.30pm Italian Mass ‡

5pm Holy Hour

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> December**

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Brendan McMahon RIP*

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> December**

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Joseph Willing RIP*

**Wed 18<sup>th</sup> December**

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Giuseppe & Maria-Teresa Di Stefano RIP*—

followed by coffee in crypt

9.30am Mass at St Augustine's School

**Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> December**

9.15am Mass *Vera Brown RIP*

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> December**

(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)

9.30am Mass at St Cross School

11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction

12 noon Mass *Stefan & Emilia Piacentini RIP & Donald*

*Gifford RIP*

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup> December**

10am Mass *Ida D'Onofrio RIP*

**6.30pm\* *For the Parish***

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9.15am\*\* *Baby Owen Ingram*

11.15am\*\* *Nadia Miragliotta RIP*

3.30pm Italian Mass ‡

5.00pm **Parish Carol Service**

**\*Vigil Mass of Sunday**

**\*\* With Children's Liturgy (nursery-age to year 2 only)**

‡ There are also Sunday evening Masses in Hertford (6pm) and Waltham Cross (6.30pm)

## Today's Liturgy

**PAGE 88 in the Mass books**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 35: 1–6, 10

*God himself is coming to save you.*

**Psalms 145 — Come, Lord, and save us.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** James 5: 7–10

*Do not lose heart for the Lord's coming will be soon.*

Gospel Accl: *Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!*

**Gospel:** Matthew 11: 2–11

Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?

**PREFACE TODAY:** Advent I (p. 65)

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:** no. 2 (p. 25)

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 7: 10–14

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Romans 1: 1–7

**Gospel:** Matthew 1: 18–24

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm

Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am

or ask Fr Philip at any other time.

### ROSARY

Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.

### SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Any parishioner frail through illness or old age, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Philip for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.

## REGULAR EVENTS

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS TO PRESBYTERY IN WRITING, BY FAX, OR E-MAIL BY 9AM THURS WITH YOUR NAME & PHONE NO. — THANK YOU.** **NEW PARISHIONERS** Please take a parish membership form & information leaflet from the box attached to the notice board. The completed forms should be posted through the presbytery letterbox. **MOVING HOME?** Please post your 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.*