

# The Announcer

## St Augustine's Catholic Church

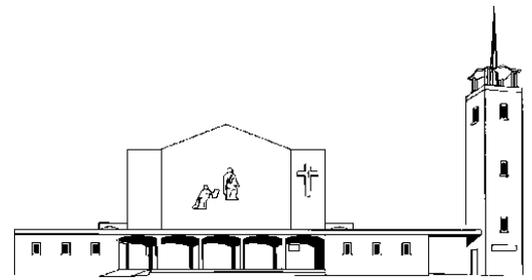
The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon EN11 8DS

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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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

GOSPEL: Matthew 1: 18–24

*Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.*

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

**OUR FINAL SUNDAY OF ADVENT** brings us to the brink, now, of Christmas, as we hear of Joseph and Mary making their way to Bethlehem, where Christ Jesus is to be born, in the poverty of the stable. This awesome mystery never fails to inspire us: that Almighty God chose to come and dwell amongst us, not in glory or in majesty, but in the simple love of the Holy Family. May it remind us that we are best to keep Christmas not with lavish expenditure, but with warmth of love

for those around us. Please, as I said last week in the homily, ask yourself conscientiously: is there anyone you know of who would otherwise be alone this Christmas Day, whom you could invite to spend Christmas Day with you? — what else better could you do to keep Christmas worthily?

This evening we will have our parish carol service, to hear again the wonderful account of man's salvation in Jesus. Please come — and bring your children for this lovely service:

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

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all that you have done in the past year, and especially to those who put in extra effort at this time of year. THANKS to those who planned and put on the Charity Fair at the start of Advent. THANKS to the children and teachers at St Augustine's and St Cross for their lovely school carol services! THANKS to the sterling team who erected the Christmas crib last weekend! THANKS to those who will play and sing at the Masses of Christmas this coming week, and to those who will beautify the church with Christmas flowers!

**THE NEW-STYLE PARISH WEBSITE** ([www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon) — same address as before) is much more flexible, with greater ease of adding information. Please think of *signing up for e-alerts* on the parish website, then you will get notified whenever there is some new info. / event added to it.

**May God bless us with deep joy and peace as we come to celebrate Christmas!**

**Fr Philip**



**From *Gaudium et Spes*, Vatican II on 'The Church in the Modern World,' n. 5:**



Today's spiritual agitation and the changing conditions of life are part of a broader and deeper revolution. As a result of the latter, intellectual formation is ever increasingly based on the mathematical and natural sciences and on those dealing with man himself, while in the practical order the technology which stems from these sciences takes on mounting importance. This scientific spirit has a new kind of impact on the cultural sphere and on modes of thought. Technology is now transforming the face of the earth, and is already trying to master outer space. To a certain extent, the human intellect is also broadening its dominion over time: over the past by means of historical knowledge; over the future, by the art of projecting and by planning.

## PRAYER & LITURGY

### ADVENT

**CAROL SERVICE:** Our parish carol service will be held **THIS Sunday 22nd December at 5.00pm.**

**RECONCILIATION FOR CHRISTMAS:** Fr Philip will hear confessions as much as possible after Sunday Masses this weekend. Also, after the Carol Service and after Mass on Monday morning.

**CHRISTMAS DAY:** Mass will be at midnight on the 24<sup>th</sup>, with carols from 11.30pm. On Christmas morning Mass will be at 9.15am and 11.15am.

**BOXING DAY:** Mass will be at **10am** (St Stephen's Day.) And the church will be closed after Mass.

**FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP:** **3<sup>rd</sup> Friday evening of each month, 7.30–8.30pm, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January).** 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.

### 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: QEll, 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.

### 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. Also, please get the consent forms and £17 cost back to us for the day retreat in January.

**"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 another session for those looking to gain admission to reception, for the signing of

priest's reference forms. This will be on **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 this time, please ring to make an appointment.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**CRIB APPEAL:** Every day the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) works with families who are struggling on low incomes and facing domestic crises. Through their work, and the generosity of donations, they are able to bring light into their darkness, ease their burden and so give them real hope and faith in the future. For many people in the Diocese of Westminster, the Catholic Children's Society is an essential lifeline and safety net. The donations they receive are used to provide everything from essentials like food and toiletries through to immediate practical support and financial assistance to families in crisis over Christmas. **None of this would be possible without the generosity of people. Thanks to all your support, the Society is able to reach out to some 3,000 children and families throughout the whole year.**

**HESTER COUNSELL,** one of our elderly parishioners who has lived in the parish all her life, has now moved into a nursing home in Nottingham to be near her family. **We will be sending Hester a Christmas card from the parish which will be available at the back of the church if you would like to sign it.**

**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.

**ISABEL HOSPICE CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** My sincere thanks to Mary K, Teresa McN, Michelle L, Kathy Ryan, Pauline C, and Diane from St Cross who collected £670 at Sainsbury's Hoddesdon. The total collected at Sainsbury's and Tesco amounted to £1330.00. Wishing all our supporters a very Blessed Christmas. Ellen Bartlett.

**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.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** Please do not leave Christmas cards for parishioners at the back of the church as we have found from past years that they are not collected. Thank you.

**CENSUS CARDS:** If you have still not completed a census card, please do fill one in and hand it in to the presbytery. The cards are at the back of the church alongside the newsletters. Thank you.

**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: 22nd December, 5<sup>th</sup> January.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Michele De Luca, Pele De Luca and Bianca Aguillon. Thank you!

### **PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

#### **A Christmas Prayer**

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, ...

[State your intention(s) here ...]

through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.



## Masses this week

**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 ‡

5pm Parish Carol Service

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Josephine & Thomas Murphy*

**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> December**

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Peter, Margaret & Bartley Gallighan*

11.30pm Carols

**Christmas Midnight Mass Priest's Intentions**

**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> December NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

9.15am *Priest's Intentions*

11.15am *Priest's Intentions*

**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> December ST STEPHEN , The First Martyr**

10am Mass *Giuseppa Busciglio RIP*

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS**

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> December ST JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist**

(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)

11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction

12 noon Mass *Melanie Pinto RIP*

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup> December THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs**

10am Mass *Michael Dolan RIP*

**6.30pm\* For the Parish**

**Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Dec THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

9.15am *Mary & Michael Lawlor*

11.15am *John & Frances Woolsgrove RIP*

3.30pm Italian Mass ‡

**\*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 90 in the Mass books**

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

*The maiden is with child.*

**Psalm 23 — Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.**

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

*Jesus Christ, descendant of David, Son of God.*

Gospel Accl: **Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us." Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Matthew 1: 18–24

Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.

**PREFACE TODAY:** Advent II (p. 66)

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:** no. 3 (p. 28)

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Ecclesiasticus 3: 2–6, 12–14

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Colossians 3: 12–21

**Gospel:** Matthew 2: 13–15, 19–23

### 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.*