

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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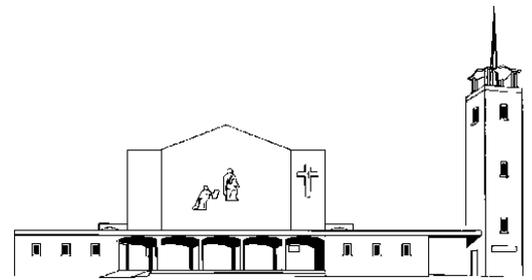
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon

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

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

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



Year B

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

14TH DEC 2014

GOSPEL: John 1: 6–8, 19–28

There stands among you — unknown to you — the one who is coming after me.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

I THANK YOU FOR RESPONDING IN SUCH NUMBERS to the Parish Mission over the past week. It has truly been a joy to host St Patrick's Community — Niall, Catherine, and John — here in the parish, and to be inspired by their testimonies, their prayer, their commitment and their joy! As well as here at the Masses and Mission Services of the past week, they also got to visit both our Primary Schools, and St Mary's Secondary School, to speak of the love and mercy — the awesome reality! — of God. They have led us very movingly into a deep reflection on our spiritual lives, at the heart of this Advent. One of the great graces for me, in a Parish Mission, is that I too can 'take a back seat,' so to speak, and quietly receive myself new spiritual strength. I know from the comments of many of you, that you have felt encouraged by their Mission amongst us. It has really made our Advent something special for God.



We took a collection in the week — Wednesday and Friday — to cover the costs of the Mission for the St Patrick's Community and to support their evangelizing work (they rely on donations from the parishes they visit). If anyone else wishes to make a contribution to our gift to them, then just use one of the special envelopes from the Church porch (by the Newsletters).

OUR ADVENT GOSPELS CONTINUE WITH THE RENEWED CALL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST to "prepare the way for the Lord!" Let's perpetuate the joy and prayer of our Mission Week into the remaining days before Christmas, so that we can approach the festivity with peaceful hearts. Let's not get run ragged by preparations for Christmas — all the shopping! — but allow the Lord's grace to carry us along gently to Christmas Day and to the wonder of God's choosing to become man.

May our last Advent week and a half be blessed with a true joy of longing for Jesus! Fr Philip

From *Gaudium et Spes*, Vatican II on 'The Church in the Modern World,' n. 37:



If anyone wants to know how this unhappy situation [of the sinful world] can be overcome, Christians will tell him that all human activity, constantly imperiled by man's pride and deranged self-love, must be purified and perfected by the power of Christ's cross and resurrection. For redeemed by Christ and made a new creature in the Holy Spirit, man is able to love the things themselves created by God, and ought to do so.

He can receive them from God and respect and reverence them as flowing constantly from the hand of God. Grateful to his Benefactor for these creatures, using and enjoying them in detachment and liberty of spirit, man is led forward into a true possession of them, as having nothing, yet possessing all things. "All things are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's" (1 Cor. 3:22–23).

PRAYER & LITURGY

MARINA SCRIVENER RIP formerly of Great Meadow, Broxbourne, died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. **The funeral will be Wed 17th Dec 10am. There will be no 9.15am Mass that day.**

PAOLO DI MARIA RIP of Nursery Hoe Lane, Nazeing died recently. Our sympathies go out to his family. **The funeral will be on Mon 22nd Dec 10.30am.** 9.15am Mass as usual as well.

DOMENICO RUBINO RIP died recently. Our sympathies go out to his family. The funeral will be on Friday 19th December 1pm at St Joseph's Waltham Cross. *May they rest in peace.*

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Patryk Orłowski who will be baptised this weekend.

SCHOOL MASS: There will be Mass at 9.30am on **Friday 19th December** at St Cross School and all are welcome. There will still be noon Mass.

ADVENT

PARISH CAROL SERVICE: NEXT Sunday, 21st December, at 5.00pm, followed by mince pies and refreshments in the crypt. 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: Fr Philip will hear confessions as much as possible after Sunday Masses in Advent.

Penitential Services in other local parishes are:

WARE: Adults: Thursday 18th December 7.30pm

WALTHAM CROSS: Monday 22nd 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 **Wednesday 17th Dec at 7pm.** All are welcome.

MIDNIGHT MASS/CHRISTMAS DAY: If you are a Minister of Holy Communion, Reader or Altar Server and can assist at Christmas Masses, please sign your name on the lists in the porch.

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR (3rd Sunday of each month) takes place at 5pm **Sunday 18th Jan.** Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction, with a Scriptural reflection.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **not meeting in Dec; next meeting January 16th.** A semi-formal quiet hour in the Lady Chapel to reflect on Sunday Scriptures and bring our needs and prayers to the Lord. All welcome!

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

We pray for our sick parishioners and friends: 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, Jenny Miller, Joseph Penheiro, Peter Tanner, John Lumley and Sylvia Mullick.

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. 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, Jacqueline Humphreys 01438-285518 or 07884-187463; Princess Alexandra, Fr Leszek Gamracy 01279-426017



Fr Philip thanks all who have been continuing your Direct Debits and regular giving to *Growing in Faith!* There are still some parishioners who proposed to give at the 'Commitment Weekend' whom he has still to write to, to see if they are still in a position to honour those pledges. Apologies that this is rather delayed!

Prior to the summer we had received committed pledges of **£173,000** (leading to £42,000 for the parish project), but Fr Philip hopes that this can be edged up a bit.

Once we are clear on our actual 5-yr total, then we can move forward to advertising a post for a catechetical co-ordinator. **This local parish project is a very important one.** There are so many other opportunities for catechesis and work amongst the youth & young adults of our parish which we could begin through a new employee.

www.rcdow.org.uk/growing-in-faith

CATECHETICS

CONFIRMATION: The Enrolment Masses will be on **10th/11th January** and will involve a simple statement of commitment to ongoing preparation. The next session will be held on **Monday 12th Jan at 7.00pm for candidates**

and parents. Chapter 9 of St Mark's Gospel needs to have been read in preparation for this session. **If you haven't yet paid the £10 to cover materials, please drop it off to the presbytery as soon as possible. Thank you.**

FIRST-HOLY-COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The fourth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 10th Jan 8–9pm** in the crypt and the children's meeting is on **Saturday 7th Jan 10–12 noon.**

"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 16th Dec at 7pm.**

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Friday 9th and Wednesday 21st January 2015 from 7.30pm–9pm** in the presbytery. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.

SCHOOLS

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS to our Catholic Primary 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.** 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 2014/15.**

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 15th Dec 1.30–3.30pm** and **Mon 5th 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.

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S has a vacancy for a temporary playgroup assistant with a NVQ level 3 or equivalent. The position will be from Jan 2015 and reviewed in July 2015. The successful candidate will have previous experience of the EYFS and Learning Journals. Contact Lynn or Lorraine on 460614.

MISCELLANEOUS

EPIPHANY PARTY will be held on **Saturday 3rd**

January after the 6.30pm Mass in the crypt. We will 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. Drinks provided by parish.

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip intends to visit parish homes in Esdaile Lane, Riversmead, and Rawdon Drive on Wednesday afternoon this week.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES APRIL 2015: Fr John Gray and Ware parish are going on Pilgrimage to Lourdes for 5 days next April. They invite our parishioners too. Full details and booking forms available from back of church.

200 CLUB winners for December: Miss H Elliott, Mrs J Tackley & Mr B Kendle — congratulations!

POPPY APPEAL: The amount raised was £48.46 – thank you from the Royal British Legion.

SUNDAY LUNCH: Fr Philip would 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: 21st Dec, 4th, 11th and 18th Jan.

CHURCH CLEANING: Judy Livingstone, Eddie & Eileen Linford & Cheryl Holbourn. Thank you!

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Advent Prayer

COME, LONG-EXPECTED JESUS. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of your Father and ours. Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

COME, LONG-EXPECTED JESUS. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

COME, LONG-EXPECTED JESUS. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

COME, LONG-EXPECTED JESUS. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord. Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.

I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail. AMEN.

Masses this week		Today's Liturgy	
Sat 13th December ST LUCY, VIRGIN & MARTYR 10am Mass <i>Teresa Maria Lucia Martorana</i>		PAGE 87 in the Mass books	
4.00pm Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Pietro Dileto RIP</i>		1st Reading: Isaiah 61: 1–2, 10–11 <i>I exult for joy in the Lord.</i>	
Sun 14th Dec THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>Mary & Christopher Byrne RIP Anniv</i> 11.15am <i>For the Parish</i> ‡		Psalm Luke 1: 46-50 — My soul rejoices in my God.	
Mon 15th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Monica Hunter RIP</i>		2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16–24 <i>May you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the Lord.</i>	
Tues 16th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Frances Pugh</i>		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!	
Wed 17th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer NO 9.15 MASS TODAY. 10am Funeral <i>Marina Scrivener RIP</i>		Gospel: John 1: 6–8, 19–28 <i>There stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me.</i>	
Thurs 18th December 9.15am Mass <i>Mrs Francis & Mr McNicholas's Intentions</i>		PREFACE TODAY: Advent I (p. 51) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)	
Fri 19th December <i>(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</i> 9.30am Mass at St Cross School 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Thomas, Lena & Vincent Byrne RIP</i>		NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
Sat 20th December 10am Mass <i>Peter, Margaret & Bartley Gallighan RIP</i>		1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7: 1–5, 8–12, 14–16 2nd Reading: Romans 16: 25–27 Gospel: Luke 1: 26–38	
4.00pm Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i>		SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at <i>any other time.</i>	
Sun 21st Dec FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>Baby Owen Ingram</i> 11.15am <i>Deceased members of Woolsgrove & McDonagh Families & Eileen Sweeney</i> ‡ 5.00pm Parish Carol Service		ROSARY Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.	
*Vigil Mass of Sunday ** With Children's Liturgy (nursery-age to year 2 only) ‡ There are also Sunday evening Masses in English in Hertford (6pm) and Waltham Cross (6.30pm)		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		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	
Tues 16th Tues 16th	1.30pm Ascent, crypt 7pm RCIA, presbytery	Fri 19th	7.30pm Prayer group, church

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 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.*