

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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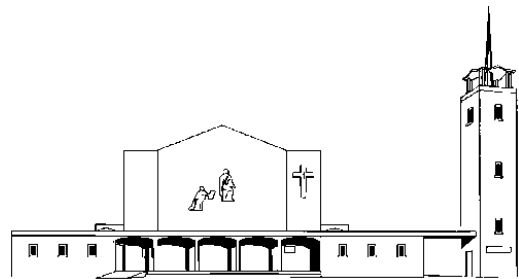
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

21st DEC 2014

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26–38

Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

COMING NOW TO THE FINAL SUNDAY OF ADVENT, we begin to hear more directly recounted the events that led to Jesus's birth. The Gospel of this Sunday relates the wonderful moment of the 'Annunciation' — the announcing to Mary of God's glorious plan to take flesh, to come into the world through her co-operation as Mother. This tremendous encounter, between the teenaged Mary and the heavenly messenger, Archangel Gabriel, is an episode full of beauty and power; a scene portrayed in countless ways in art and music down the centuries. It is the moment at which the centuries of sin since Adam and Eve was turned around ... Mary instead said a definitive 'yes' to God, 'yes' to His humble and astonishing plan. We honour and laud Mary's response, for it led to the Incarnation, and our Salvation! We think particularly of her and St Joseph today, and all that they did, despite the hardships and no doubt some incomprehension, to bring Jesus to His holy birth and then to manhood. Let us be determined, then, to keep these final days of Advent as a time of prayer and holiness, so that our hearts may truly be ready to celebrate the Saviour's birth. Our Parish Carol Service (time below) is a beautiful moment in which reflect on the mystery of God's saving love, so please come to that too, setting aside this hour of prayer and song for Jesus our beloved baby Saviour.



PARISH CAROL SERVICE — SUNDAY 21ST, 5PM

CHRISTMAS MASSES — MIDNIGHT (CAROLS FROM 11.30PM ON 24TH); AND 9.15 & 11.15AM CHRISTMAS MORNING

OUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME IS AS ABOVE. Please honour your sacred duty to be with the Lord Jesus at Mass on Christmas Day, whether you are at home or away. (If you need assistance locating a church for Mass when away with family or friends in this country, please ring the Presbytery.)

I look forward to celebrating this glorious feast, the Nativity of our Saviour, with you! Fr Philip

From *Gaudium et Spes*, Vatican II on 'The Church in the Modern World,' n. 38:



For God's Word, through Whom all things were made, was Himself made flesh and dwelt on the earth of men. Thus He entered the world's history as a perfect man, taking that history up into Himself and summarizing it. He Himself revealed to us that "God is love" (1 John 4:8) and at the same time taught us that the new command of love was the basic law of human perfection and hence of the world's transformation.

To those, therefore, who believe in divine love, He gives assurance that the way of love lies open to men and that the effort to establish a universal brotherhood is not a hopeless one. He cautions them at the same time that this charity is not something to be reserved for important matters, but must be pursued chiefly in the ordinary circumstances of life.

PRAYER & LITURGY

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.
May he rest in peace.

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Panashe Njanji and Libby Mputa who will be baptised this weekend.

ADVENT

PARISH CAROL SERVICE: THIS Sunday, 21st December, at 5.00pm, followed by mince pies and refreshments in the crypt.

RECONCILIATION FOR CHRISTMAS: Fr Philip will hear confessions as much as possible after Sunday Masses in Advent.

Penitential Services in other local parishes are:

WALTHAM CROSS: Monday 22nd Dec 8pm.

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

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

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!

ANNUAL CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 18th January 2015** at Riverside Church, Rye Road 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 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



Growing in Faith

Our parishes • Our priests • Our place in the world

The Cardinal writes: *After three years' effort across the parishes of the diocese, our Growing in Faith campaign is coming to a close. I want very much indeed to express my thanks to you for the attention and support you have given to its three key themes: strengthening parish life; supporting priests, in formation and old age; and Caritas, our work with the poor. I thank you for your prayers, the work done by the volunteers and I thank all who have made financial contributions. In total, with gifts and pledges, a sum of £37 million has been given. This great achievement will do so much to enable us to meet our needs and look forward confidently. This is a marvellous measure of your great generosity and love for the Lord and His Church. Thank you so much. I also want to take this opportunity to wish you a graceful and peaceful Christmas, full of the Lord's blessings for you all and your family.*

Fr Philip also thanks all who have been continuing 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.

Fr Philip has been having some exploratory discussions with an advisor from the diocese about the post of 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 & 10 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 7th Jan 8–9pm** in the crypt and the children's meeting is on **Saturday 10th 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 6th January 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

PRIMARY SCHOOL PRIEST'S REFERENCE. Fr Philip will hold a further session for those looking to gain admission to reception, for the signing of priest's reference forms. This will be on **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 this time, please ring to make an appointment.

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5s 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

CRIB APPEAL: Each year the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) works to support over 9,000 disadvantaged children and families across the entire diocese. Studies suggest child poverty will rise from 2.3m (2014) to 3.2m by 2020. This figure reveals just how deeply child poverty reaches into our communities, even those areas generally regarded as well off. The Catholic Children's Society listens to people's needs and responds to the "cry of the poor" with imaginative and efficiently delivered programs. With the difficult economic situation continuing

the Society relies entirely on the generosity of individuals to continue their work and need to raise a minimum of £100,000 this Christmas.

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 will resume his house visits to parishioners in the new year.

ISABEL HOSPICE CHRISTMAS APPEAL: My sincere thanks to Cheryl, Mary, Judith and Michele who collected £513 at Sainsbury's. Wishing all our supporters a very Blessed Christmas. Ellen Bartlett.

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.

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: Michele & Pele De Luca. 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 20th December

10am Mass *Peter, Margaret & Bartley Gallighan RIP*

4.00pm Italian Mass

6.30pm* *For the Parish*

Sun 21st Dec FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.15am** *Baby Owen Ingram*

11.15am *Deceased members of Woolsgrove & McDonagh Families & Eileen Sweeney*

5.00pm **Parish Carol Service** †

Mon 22nd December

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Josephine & Thomas Murphy RIP*

10.30am Funeral *Paolo Di Maria RIP*

Tues 23rd December

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15am Mass *Justina Ogbodu RIP*

Wed 24th December

8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer

9.15 Mass *Nadia Miragliotta RIP*

4pm Italian Mass

11.30pm Carols

Christmas Midnight Mass Priest's Intentions

Thurs 25th December NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9.15am Mass *Priest's Intentions*

11.15am Mass *Priest's Intentions*

Fri 26th December ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr

(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)

10am Mass *Giuseppa Busciglio RIP*

Sat 27th December ST JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist

10am Mass *Onofria Maniscalco RIP Anniv*

4.00pm Italian Mass

6.30pm* *For the Parish*

Sun 28th Dec HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

9.15am** *Edward & Richard Mates RIP Anniv*

11.15am *Woolsgrove Family Intentions* †

*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)

Today's Liturgy

PAGE 90 in the Mass books

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7: 1–5, 8–12, 14–16

The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord.

Psalms 88 — I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

2nd Reading: Romans 16: 25–27

The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.

Gospel Accl: *Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!*

Gospel: Luke 1: 26–38

Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.

PREFACE TODAY: Advent II (p. 52)

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 2 (p. 25)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

1st Reading: Genesis 15: 1–6, 21: 1–3

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11: 8, 11–12, 17–19

Gospel: Luke 2: 22–40

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.

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

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.*