

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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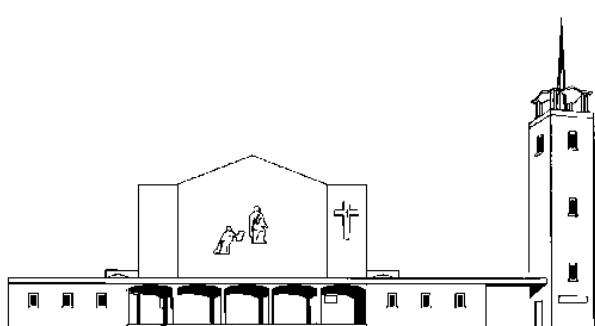
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon

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

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

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



Year C

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13TH DECEMBER 2015

GOSPEL: Luke 3: 10-18

What must we do?

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

As we celebrate today 'Gaudete' Sunday — THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, we also have begun the Holy Year, the 'Year of Mercy.' Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica on Tuesday, and around the world other 'holy doors' will open today (Sunday). Our closest Holy Door is at Waltham Cross (Immaculate Conception and St Joseph) and on **Sunday 13th at 3.30pm** there will be a ceremony for the opening of that Holy Door, and Mass, with Bishop Sherrington: please come and join me at that ceremony with other parishioners from the Deanery. Those making a brief pilgrimage during the Year to the Cathedral Holy Door or the other Holy Doors in the Diocese may gain the Jubilee Indulgence for themselves or the Holy Souls.



THE CARDINAL HAS WRITTEN A PILGRIMAGE COMPANION FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY, so if you didn't get your copy last week, please take a copy today from the table in the porch by the choir-loft stairs (£1 or donation). More information about the year, Holy Doors and the Indulgence is available on <http://rcdow.org.uk/year-of-mercy/>. The Holy-Year prayer comes with your Newsletter today.

Please also have in your minds — and diaries! — the following two important occasions for our immediate preparation for Christmas:

— **Sunday 20th Dec at 5pm:** PARISH CAROL SERVICE, a sequence of Scripture and music to explore the wonderful prophecies and events of Christ's birth;

— **Monday 21st Dec at 11.30am OR 7.30pm:** PENITENTIAL SERVICES with CONFESSION, a chance to avail yourself of God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A number of priests will be available for these services, and it is important to prepare well for Christmas through our being forgiven our sins. The Pilgrimage Companion mentioned above also has a section dedicated to preparing for Confession, so please make use of that.

FINALLY, CONGRATULATIONS TO RICHARD PYPER who received from Pope Francis — by the hand of Bishop Sherrington last Sunday — the Bene Merenti medal for his long-standing service to the parish including almost 40yrs on the Finance Committee. Thank you, Richard for your example!

We pray for the hope and peace that Advent should bring to us as we await the Lord. Fr Philip

From Misericordiae Vultus, Pope Francis on the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' n. 1:



Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. The Father, "rich in mercy", after having revealed his name to Moses as "a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness", has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature.

PRAYER & LITURGY

PAMELA TAYLOR RIP of The Hollies, Broxbourne died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. **Her funeral will be on Wed 23rd Dec at 11am.** May they rest in peace.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

YEAR OF MERCY "A Pilgrimage Companion" books are available to buy for £1, or a donation, from the table at the back of church.

CAROL SERVICE: Our parish carol service will be held on **Sunday 20th December at 5.00pm** which will be 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. **Volunteers are needed to help with the refreshments, so if you can help, please contact the presbytery.**

RECONCILIATION FOR CHRISTMAS: Our Parish Penitential Services will be on **Monday 21st 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 17th December 7.30pm
WALTHAM CROSS: Monday 21ST Dec 8pm.
HERTFORD parish (tel. 582019) has extra confessions in the week before Christmas.

SCHOOL CAROLS: St Cross is holding its Carol Service on **Tues 15th Dec at 7pm**. All welcome.

SCHOOL MASSES: There will be Mass at St Augustine's School at 1.45pm on **Wednesday 16th December**. There will be Mass at St Cross School on **Friday 18th December at 9.30am**. All are welcome.

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

EPIPHANY PARTY will be held on **Saturday 2nd January 2016** 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.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting January 15th.** A semi-formal hour in the Lady Chapel to reflect together 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: John Askew, Rosa Augello, Roberto Piacentini, Helen Sherman, Annette Pinto, Peter Tanner, Anne Smith, Siobhan Fiorentini and Michael Foley.

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



The Christmas Newsletter from **Growing in Faith** and the year-end report are now available to read and are inserted in this newsletter.

On the noticeboard is now posted the most recent summary of our parish's 'Growing in Faith' donations, which benefit both the diocese, and our own parish's project of employing a part-time catechetical co-ordinator. **We have raised pledges of c. £190k, to give our parish project, ultimately, a slice of c. £55k.**

As yet we have not sourced anyone to take up the post of a parish catechist, but Fr Philip is in discussion with friends in the diocese who have experience in this area, to try and find a recommended and suitably qualified person for the post. Do pray that this can come about soon.

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

CATECHETICS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The fourth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 6th Jan 8–9pm** in the crypt. The fourth session for the children will be **Sat 9th Jan 10am–12noon**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: MASS BOOKS for children are available from the Presbytery (price £1) — a colourful simple Missal, with all the Mass responses, very suitable for children of First-Holy-Communion age.

CONFIRMATION 2016: next session held on **Monday 4th January at 7.15pm** for parents and candidates. Candidates will need to have read **chapter 8 & 9** of the Gospel of Mark.

"RCIA" – '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 the 5th January at 7pm.**

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Fridays 8th and 29th Jan 2016, 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 & YOUNG PEOPLE

CRYPT DISPLAYS: our Primary Schools are updating their displays in the crypt. St Cross has already placed its powerful display regarding Blessed Oscar Romero; and St Augustine's is soon going to show some of the pieces from the term's RE 'Art Competition'. Thank you to both Schools for this beautiful decoration to our crypt!

PRIMARY SCHOOL 'CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE': Fr Philip will hold two sessions for those looking to gain admission to Reception for the signing of the priest's form. These will be on **Wed 16th Dec 10.30–12.30pm and Mon 4th Jan 1.30–3.30pm**. 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. **PLEASE NOTE:** an 'Information for Certificate of Catholic Practice' form is now available to collect from the presbytery. This form **MUST** be completed and handed back in to the presbytery prior to the dates of signing. Fr Philip will only be able to give Certificates to those who practise at Sunday Mass weekly and who have done so over a considerable period of time. (This accords with the diocesan guidance: http://www.rcdow.org.uk/fileupload/upload/prf_4117200691341.pdf.) Others should simply hand in the schools' 'Supplementary Information Form' to the schools without the Certificate and will be treated fairly according to their published admissions criteria.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

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 at the same time. Catalogues are available at the back of church.

TRAIDCRAFT: Many thanks to all those who placed special Christmas orders last month in support of Traidcraft and their work in 'fighting poverty through fair trade'. These orders came to a total of £167.10. Thank you for all your support, including all the parishioners who support the stall every month. Maria Hunt (on behalf of Traidcraft)

MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip intends to visit parish homes this **Tuesday** afternoon in: Middlefield Road, Thurgood Road, and Middlefield Avenue.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS 2016 are now available for £4.50 from the back of the church. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

POPPY APPEAL: The amount raised was £44.80 – thank you from the Royal British Legion.

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 continue meeting parishioners/families in their homes, as much as possible. Sunday lunch 1.30pm is a good (but by no means only) time. Free dates: 3rd and 10th January 2016.

CHURCH CLEANING: Cheryl Holbourn, Mima Salvo, Mirella DiChiara, Josie Warren and Barbara Wright. 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	Today's Liturgy
Sat 12th December 10am Mass <i>Pietro Di Leto RIP</i>	PAGE 87 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Zephaniah 3: 14–18 The Lord will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Luciano Dilena RIP</i>	Psalm 12 — Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
Sun 13th Dec THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>Mary & Christopher Byrne</i> 11.15am <i>For the Parish</i> ‡	2nd Reading: Philippians 4: 4–7 The Lord is very near. Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!</i>
Mon 14th December ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, Priest 8.15am NO Adoration NO 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Vincent Byrne RIP</i>	Gospel: Luke 3: 10–18 What must we do?
Tues 15th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Joy Igahade's Intentions</i>	PREFACE TODAY: Advent 1 (p. 65) EUCARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)
Wed 16th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Giuseppe & Maria-Teresa Distefano RIP</i> — followed by coffee in the crypt. 1.45pm Mass in St Augustine's School	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Thurs 17th December NO Mass	1st Reading: Micah 5: 1–4 2nd Reading: Hebrews 10: 5–10 Gospel: Luke 1: 39–45
Fri 18th December (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 9.30am Mass in St Cross School 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Barbara Wright's Intentions</i>	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSON) Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at any other time.
Sat 19th December 10am Mass <i>Onofria Maniscalco RIP</i>	ROSARY Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i>	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.
Sun 20th Dec FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>Murphy & Gallagher Families</i> 11.15am <i>Deceased members of Woolsgrove & McDonagh families and Eileen Sweeney RIP</i> 5.00pm Parish Carol Service ‡	SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.
* 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)	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.