

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

Tel: 01992 440986 Fax: 01992 440244

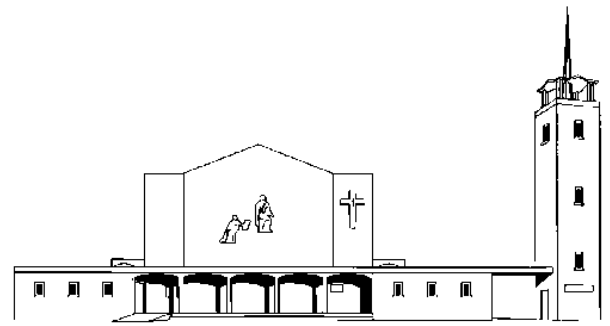
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

20TH DECEMBER 2015

GOSPEL: Luke 1: 39–45

Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

AS WE CELEBRATE TODAY THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, we start now to hear of the events immediately leading up to the earthly birth of Our Blessed Lord. The Gospel extract in 'Year C' gives us the moment of Our Lady's 'visitation' to her kinswoman Elizabeth. In a moment of profound beauty, not only do these holy mothers greet each other, but so do their baby boys. In an action that is deeply prophetic — given the fact that nowadays so many unborn children are killed through abortion — the unborn St John the Baptist responds with tangible joy to the presence of the Son of God, also unborn in the womb of Mary. Elizabeth pays due honour to "the Mother of my Lord," as she calls Mary. Indeed, in these final days of Advent I would like us to contemplate in particular the role of Mary, and her deep and trusting faith, as she approached the time of Jesus's birth. May we imitate her practical faith and charity out of love for Jesus.



Please come to two important occasions in these days prior to our celebration of Christmas:

— **Sunday 20th Dec at 5pm:** PARISH CAROL SERVICE, a beautiful 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.

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. 2:



EXTRAORDINARY
JUBILEE OF MERCY
DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016

We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.

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

CAROL SERVICE: Our parish carol service will be held **this Sunday 20th December at 5.00pm** which will be followed by mince pies and refreshments in the crypt.

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: **WALTHAM CROSS:** Monday 21ST Dec 8pm. **HERTFORD** parish (tel. 582019) has extra confessions in the week before Christmas.

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 on the lists in the porch.

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!

YEAR OF MERCY: 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). It's a beautiful introduction to this 'Holy Year of Mercy.' More information about the year, Holy Doors and the Indulgence is available on <http://rcdow.org.uk/year-of-mercy/>.

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.

Housebound parishioners may also like to know that Mass is regularly broadcast in the internet from the Catholic Church in Bishops Stortford: <http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford>

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

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. The Enrolment Masses will be on the **9th/10th January** and will involve a simple statement of

commitment to ongoing preparation.

“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, contact the presbytery.

SCHOOLS & YOUNG PEOPLE

CRYPT DISPLAYS: our Primary Schools have updated their displays in the crypt. St Cross has placed its powerful display regarding Blessed Oscar Romero; and St Augustine’s is showing 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 another session for those looking to gain admission to Reception for the signing of the priest’s form. This will be on **Mon 4th Jan 1.30–3.30pm**. There is no need to make an appointment, please just attend at the allocated time. If you cannot make this time, 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/prf4117200691341.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.

MISCELLANEOUS

CRIB APPEAL: This year the Catholic Children’s Society would like your help to deliver the seven

Corporal Works of Mercy: *Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, harbour the harbourless, help the sick, help the imprisoned and bury the dead.* As a small charity, it relies entirely on the generosity of parishioners. Please donate all you can to the Crib or visit www.cathchild.org.uk or text CCSW12 plus the amount £2, £5, £10 to 70070.

ISABEL HOSPICE CHRISTMAS APPEAL: My sincere thanks to Anne, Gemma and Pauline for their support over the two weekends. £397.80 was collected and we couldn’t have raised this without their help. I wish 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 know from past experience that they are not collected. Thank you.

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip intends to visit parish homes this Wednesday afternoon in: Middlefield Road, Manor Road, Southfield Road.

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

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: Michele & Pelle De Luca and Mary Dineen. 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	Today's Liturgy
Sat 19th December 10am Mass <i>Onofria Maniscalco RIP</i>	<p align="center">PAGE 90 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Micah 5: 1–4 <i>Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.</i></p> <p>Psalms 79 — God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine of us and we shall be saved.</p> <p>2nd Reading: Hebrews 10: 5–10 <i>Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!</i></p> <p>Gospel: Luke 1: 39–45 <i>Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Advent II (p. 66) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 2 (p. 25)</p> <p align="center">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH</p> <p>1st Reading: 1 Samuel 1: 20–22, 24–28 2nd Reading: 1 John 3: 1–2, 21–24 Gospel: Luke 2: 41–52</p>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i>	<p align="center">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> <p align="center">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></p> <p align="center">ROSARY</p> <p>Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p align="center">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> <p>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.</p> <p align="center">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</p> <p>Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p> <p align="center">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
Sun 20th Dec FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>Murphy & Gallagher Families</i> 11.15am <i>Deceased members of Woolsgrove, McDonagh Families & Eileen Sweeney RIP</i> †	
Mon 21st December 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass <i>Jordi Juanito RIP</i> 9am Morning Prayer	
Tues 22nd December 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass <i>Justina Ogbodu RIP</i> 9am Morning Prayer	
Wed 23rd December 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass <i>Baby Owen Ingram</i> — followed by coffee in the crypt. 11am Funeral <i>Pamela Taylor RIP</i> 9am Morning Prayer	
Thurs 24th December 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass <i>Nadia Miragliotta RIP</i> 4pm Italian Mass 11.30pm Carols Christmas Midnight Mass <i>Priest's Intentions</i>	
Fri 25th December NATIVITY OF THE LORD 9.15am Mass <i>Priest's Intentions</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Priest's Intentions</i>	
Sat 26th December ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr 10am Mass <i>Maureen Keyes' intentions</i>	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Giuseppa Busciglio RIP</i> Sun 27th Dec HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 9.15am** <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am <i>Woolsgrove Family Intentions</i> †	
<p align="center">* 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)</p>	
<p align="center">REGULAR EVENTS</p>	

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.*