

# The Announcer

## St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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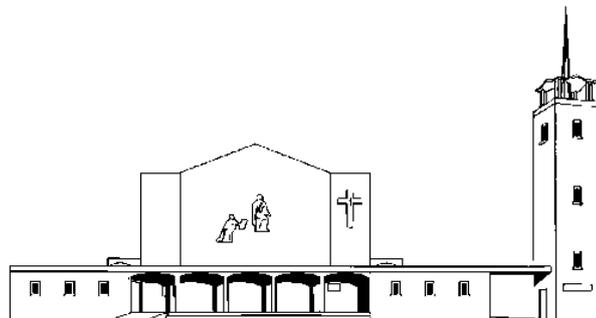
Email: [hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk)

[www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon)

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

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

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



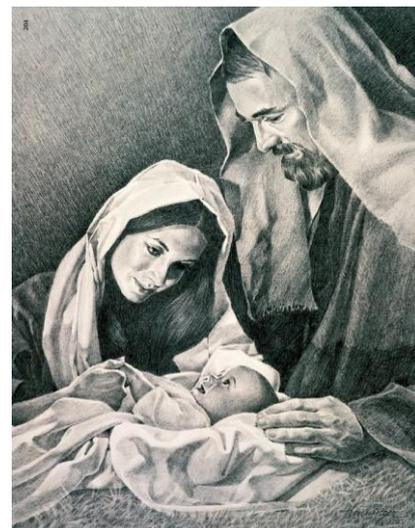
**Year C HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 27<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2015**

GOSPEL: Luke 2: 41–52

*Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the doctors*

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

**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!** I hope that your celebration of Christmas Day was a blessed and happy one — hopefully shared with some friends and family. Appropriately enough, this first Sunday after Christmas we keep as the feast of the Holy Family. As we gaze devoutly at the Bethlehem scene, we see that God Himself has chosen to sanctify the human bonds of marriage. Jesus's infancy under the protection of Mary and Joseph, and His years in the family home at Nazareth, demonstrate that this is truly how God willed us to live, building up society through the love learnt and shown in family life.



**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION SO SPECIAL**, including those who sang & played music at the Carol Service and Christmas Masses; those who served & read on those occasions too; those who have beautified the church with the glorious flower displays; those who erected the Crib; the parish sacristan; and the parish secretary ... it's a lot of extra effort at this time of year, but this great festival deserves our devotion. Thank you!

**PLEASE COME NEXT SATURDAY EVENING AND CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON** as a parish with our **Epiphany party** in the crypt after the evening Mass (c. 7.30pm). Sign up this weekend to bring some food to the occasion to share, and we will provide drinks. It's a lovely opportunity to come together and celebrate these sacred days, and our Christian love for one another.

**NOTE THE MASS TIMES ETC. THIS WEEK**, as the programme is slightly reduced: Mass only, and no Morning Prayer and Adoration; and on the two Bank Holidays (Monday / Friday) 10am Mass, after which the church will be closed. I will be away briefly in the week, and Mgr Peter Wilson will kindly come and supply for morning Mass on Tuesday and Wednesday.

**May the new-born Christ-child bring joy and peace to our families at this time!**

**Fr Philip**

**From *Misericordiae Vultus*, Pope Francis on the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' n. 3:**



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

At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy* as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.

The Holy Year will open on 8 December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This liturgical feast day recalls God's action from the very beginning of the history of mankind. After the sin of Adam and Eve, God did not wish to leave humanity alone in the throes of evil. And so he turned his gaze to Mary, holy and immaculate in love, choosing her to be the Mother of man's Redeemer. When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive. I will have the joy of opening the Holy Door on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. On that day, the Holy Door will become a *Door of Mercy* through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instils hope.

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH** Francesco and Alisea Lucido who will be baptised this weekend.

**EPIPHANY PARTY** will be held on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**LATIN MASS:** The monthly Latin Mass, with sung chants, will be held next **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** at 5.00pm.

**FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting January 15<sup>th</sup>**. 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 yet, please take one 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 see: <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/bishopstortford>

**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**



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](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/growing-in-faith)

## CATECHETICS

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** The fourth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 8–9pm** in the crypt. The fourth session for the children will be **Sat 9<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 **9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm.**

**BAPTISM COURSE:** The next course will be held on **Fridays 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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/prf\\_4117200691341.pdf](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.

### **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](http://www.cathchild.org.uk) or text CCSW12 plus the amount £2, £5, £10 to 70070. On the weekend of the 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> January a representative from the Catholic Children's Society will be coming to talk to us about their work and where our crib money goes to.

**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.

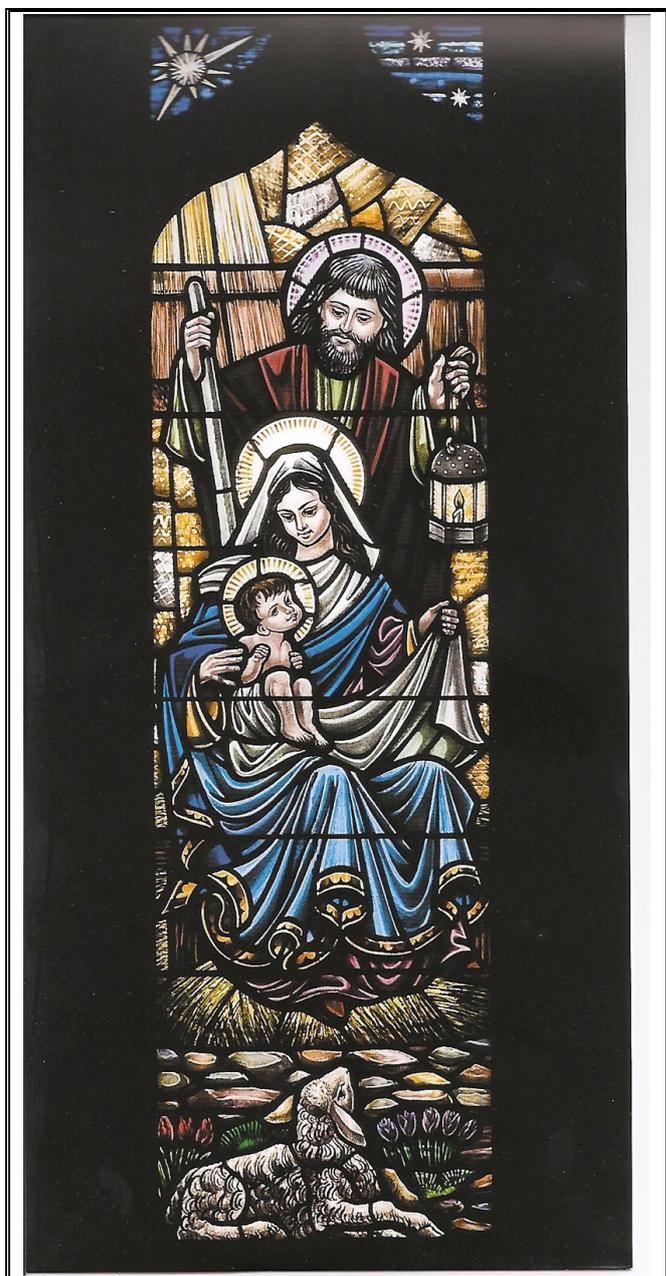
**HOUSE VISITS:** Fr Philip will resume house visits (Manor Road, Southfield Road, etc.) after the

Christmas break.

**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: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Joanne Dawes, Lena & Carmela Tona and Giuseppina Tuzzeo. Thank you!



Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Sat 26<sup>th</sup> December ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr</b> 10am Mass <i>Maureen Keyes' Intentions</i>	<b>PAGE 105 in the Mass books</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Samuel 1: 20–22, 24–28 <i>Samuel is made over to the Lord for the whole of his life.</i>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Giuseppa Busciglio RIP</i>	<b>Psalm 83</b> — They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.
<b>Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Dec THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH</b> 9.15am <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am <i>Woolsgrove family intentions</i> ‡	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 1 John 3: 1–2, 21–24 <i>We are called God's children, and that is what we are.</i>
<b>Mon 28<sup>th</sup> December THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs</b> 10am Mass <i>Edward Mates RIP Anniv</i> <b>PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</b>	Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!</i>
<b>Tues 29<sup>th</sup> December ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop &amp; Martyr</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Roberto Cocchi RIP</i>	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 2: 41–52 <i>Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the doctors.</i>
<b>Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Dec 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY IN OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Kenneth Parker RIP</i> — followed by coffee in the crypt.	<b>PREFACE TODAY:</b> Christmas I (p. 66) <b>EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:</b> no. 3 (p. 28)
<b>Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY IN OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</b> 9.15am NO Mass	<b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b> EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
<b>Fri 1<sup>st</sup> January SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b> 10am Mass <i>Mary &amp; Tommy Thomas's intentions</i> <b>PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 60: 1–6 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Ephesians 3: 2–3, 5–6 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 2: 1–12
<b>Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> January SS BASIL THE GREAT &amp; GREGORY NAZIANZEN</b> 10am Mass <i>Baby Riaine RIP</i>	<b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b> Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at any other time.
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Joseph Penheiro RIP</i>	<b>ROSARY</b> Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.
<b>Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> January EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b> 9.15am** <i>Neville Yarwood RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Vincenzo Graffato &amp; deceased members of the Graffato &amp; Giammalva families</i> 5.00pm Latin Mass <i>For the Parish</i> ‡	<b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b> 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 style="text-align: right;">* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p> ** 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)	<b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b> Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.  <b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust</b> <b>Registered Charity No. 233699</b>

### 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.*