

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

Tel: 01992 440986 Fax: 01992 440244

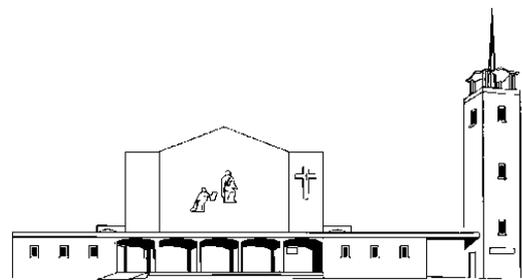
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon

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

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

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



Year B

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

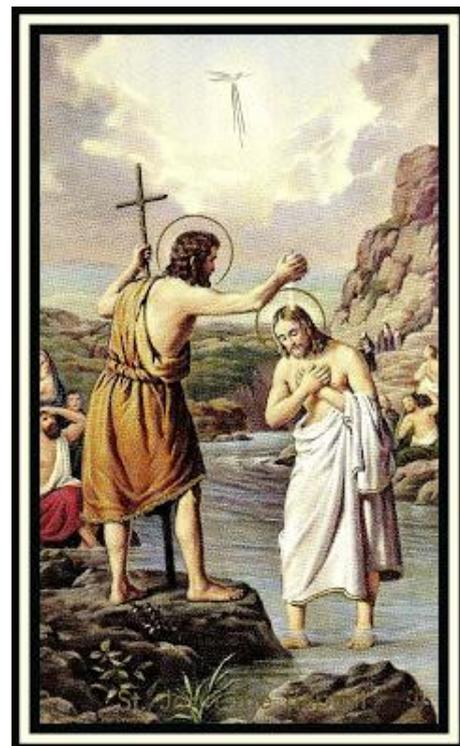
11TH JANUARY 2015

GOSPEL: Mark 1:7–11

You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD IS THE FINAL FEAST OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON and we jump forward to the very brink of Christ's public ministry. It's only two and a half weeks since we celebrated Christmas Day, but the Church doesn't hang around at the 'niceties' of the Crib — we press forward to hear the full message of salvation! That begins with Our Lord's baptism at the hands of John. Jesus comes to be with the ordinary people, and as He is baptized with water by John, so the Holy Spirit comes down upon those waters of Baptism. After this, no longer is baptism simply John's "baptism of water," but is the Christian sacrament, the "Baptism of the Holy Spirit." Let's think today of our own Baptism. Let's thank God for those who brought us to faith and to Baptism, whether our parents or spouse, or some friend or acquaintance. Look up the date of your Baptism, if you don't already know it, and keep it as a special occasion: the day when you entered into life with Christ. The rite of sprinkling of water today, at the start of Mass, will bring us to recall our Baptism and the cleansing power of the Spirit in our lives.



TODAY WE TAKE UP THE 'WHITE FLOWER' COLLECTION, our annual donation to the 'Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.' In order for you to learn more about their work, I have included their appeal letter in with the newsletter today. I also ask you to read with care the powerful message from Bishop John Keenan, bishop of Paisley in Scotland, issued last month when the two Scottish midwives were denied their right to conscientious objection to abortion. He speaks with clarity and Christian truth, reminding us of the grave wrong of abortion in our society, and holding up these two midwives as examples to us all of witnessing to the sanctity of all human life.

I hope Christmastide has been a sacred time for you. May 2015 be greatly blessed! Fr Philip

From *Gaudium et Spes*, Vatican II on 'The Church in the Modern World,' n. 39:



While earthly progress must be carefully distinguished from the growth of Christ's kingdom, to the extent that the former can contribute to the better ordering of human society, it is of vital concern to the Kingdom of God. For after we have obeyed the Lord, and in His Spirit nurtured on earth the values of human dignity, brotherhood and freedom, and indeed all the good fruits of our nature and enterprise, we will find them again,

but freed of stain, burnished and transfigured, when Christ hands over to the Father: "a kingdom eternal and universal, a kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace." On this earth that Kingdom is already present in mystery. When the Lord returns it will be brought into full flower.

PRAYER & LITURGY

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting Jan 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!

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR (3rd Sunday of each month) takes place at 5pm **Sunday 18th Jan**. Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction, with a Scriptural reflection. Holy Hour (just this month) will end at 5.45 to allow Fr Philip to get to the Christian Unity Service.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS/READER ROTA: The next rota for Readers and Ministers of Communion for the period February - May is due to be drawn up shortly. Please advise Pat Kavanagh by **Wed 28th Jan** at the latest of any weekends that you are NOT available and also of any changes in personal details (telephone number etc.). You can contact Pat Kavanagh by email patandcarolkav@btinternet.com or on 449282. The last date for notification is Wednesday 28th January.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK 7TH-14TH FEB: A time to celebrate, focus and give thanks for couple relationships. The 6.30pm Mass on **Saturday 7th February** will be dedicated to all married couples. Please come along whether you are married, widowed or single to celebrate together. Afterwards we'll have a bring-and-share table in the Crypt. For more info please contact Michel and Jacky Jordan 303794.

CARDINAL'S MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE: The Cardinal invites all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2015 to a Mass on **Saturday 23rd May at 3pm** at Westminster Cathedral. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please communicate to the Presbytery the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and e-mail (or telephone number, if no e-mail) by the 8th March.

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 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 **this weekend** 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 fifth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 4th Feb 8–9pm** in the crypt and the children's meeting is on **Saturday 7th Feb 10–12 noon**.

MISCELLANEOUS

“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 13th January at 7pm.**

BAPTISM COURSE: The second part of the course will be held on **Wednesday 21st January** from **7.30pm–9pm** in the church.

FAMILY PLANNING – GOD’S WAY – NATURE’S WAY: The Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Family Planning is 99% effective in avoiding pregnancy with no side effects. This method is also very helpful for couples having difficulty conceiving and is a natural alternative to IVF. A clinic is held by arrangement at St Joseph’s Church Hall, Hertford. For appointments email info@billingsmethodhertford.org.uk or visit www.billingsmethodhertford.org.uk.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal **this weekend**. In common with the Catholic Church, SPUC defends and upholds the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. The Society’s work covers a wide spectrum of pro-life, pro-family issues. It seeks to protect unborn children from abortion and defends the disabled, elderly and incapacitated from euthanasia and assisted suicide. SPUC also provides trained speakers for schools and offers pro-life support for teachers, parents and medical professionals. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

HELP AT FOODBANK: the Foodbank distribution centre at the Baptist church foyer (Essex Road, Hoddesdon) runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays 4–5pm. More volunteers are needed to help and if you can assist please contact revjlavery@gmail.com.

CAFOD: There are dozens of ways to get involved with CAFOD, from using public speaking skills to deliver CAFOD’s Fast Day talks to your fellow parishioners, or to inspire young people in schools or Confirmation groups, to adding your voice to campaigns such as ‘One Climate, One World’. If you would like more info or to support in any way in the parish, please ask Anne Byrne (467097) for details.

CAFOD: The amount raised in December was £313.32. Thank you!

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION: Thank you to everyone who helped organise, and all who came and brought food to share at, the Epiphany party last Sat. It was a really lovely evening to celebrate the Christmas season.

200 CLUB: The winner for January was Mrs J Martin no. 35. Congratulations!

PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA & GOZO with Fr Dennis Touw: 25th–31st May for £799 (this special price is only available until Jan 15th) There are limited places available, so please contact Pax Travel on 020-7485-3003.

APF RED BOX MEMBERS: Thank you for all your support as £1,109.97 was raised in 2014. Many red boxes have been returned without names and address. Please ring Ellen on 464677 if you require a new box.

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip intends to make house visits to parishioners in these streets this Wednesday: Yewlands, Meadway, Admirals Walk.

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: 25th Jan, 1st, 15th & 22nd February.

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

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Catholic Baptism Prayer

Father in Heaven,
When the Spirit came down
upon Jesus at His Baptism in
the Jordan,
You revealed Him
as Your own Beloved Son.

Keep me, Your child,
born of water and the Spirit,
faithful to my calling.
May I, who share in Your Life
as Your child through Baptism,
follow in Christ’s path of service to people.
Let me become one in His Sacrifice
and hear His Word with faith.
May I live as Your child,
following the example of Jesus. Amen



Masses this week		Today's Liturgy	
Sat 10th January 10am Mass Giuseppe & Rosalia Cannatella — Golden Wedding Anniversary		PAGE 119 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Isaiah 42: 1–4, 6–7 <i>Here is my servant in whom my soul delights.</i>	
4.00pm Italian Mass 6.30pm* For the Parish		Psalm 28 — The Lord will bless his people with peace.	
Sun 11th January THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9.15am** John & Frances Woolsgrove RIP 11.15am Phyllis Lawlor RIP 1st Anniv ‡		2nd Reading: Acts 10: 34–38 <i>God anointed him with the Holy Spirit.</i>	
Mon 12th January 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass James Waldron RIP		Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him". Alleluia!	
Tues 13th January 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Michael Sheehan RIP		Gospel: Mark 1: 7–11 <i>You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.</i>	
Wed 14th January 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15 Mass David & Leo Lee-Lozone RIP — followed by coffee in the crypt		PREFACE TODAY: Baptism of the Lord (p. 54) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28)	
Thurs 15th January NO MASS		NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
Fri 16th January (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)		1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3: 3–10, 19 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 6: 13–15, 17–20 Gospel: John 1: 35–42	
11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Vincent Byrne RIP		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>	
Sat 17th January ST ANTHONY, Abbot 10am Mass Monica Hunter RIP		ROSARY Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.	
4.00pm Italian Mass 6.30pm* For the Parish		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 18th Jan 2ND SUN IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am** Baby William O'Bryan 11.15am Vincenzo Giardina Papa RIP 5.00pm Holy Hour ‡		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	
*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)		REGULAR EVENTS	
Mon 12th	7pm Confirmation, crypt	Wed 14th	6.00pm Brownies, crypt
Tues 13th	1.30pm Guild tea and chat,	Wed 14th	7.30pm All Saints, crypt
Tues 13th	7pm RCIA, presbytery	Fri 16th	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.*