

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

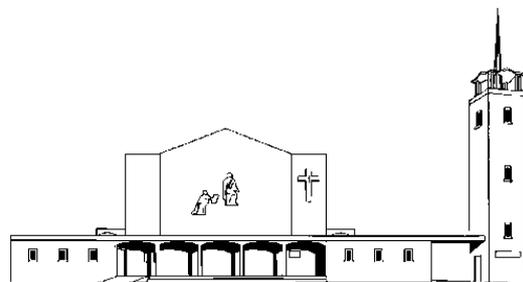
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Year A **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** **18TH DECEMBER 2016**

Matthew 1:18-24 — *Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

AS WE COME TO THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, we are now making our final preparations for the great feast of Christmas next weekend. The liturgy moves into a different gear in this final week, and we hear in the Scriptures of this week's Masses all the events — in the lives of Elizabeth & Zechariah, Mary & Joseph — that led up to the birth of our Saviour at Bethlehem.



In particular, we hear today from St Matthew's Gospel the events from the point of view of St Joseph. Joseph is that "just man" who takes on the great task of being husband to the Mother of the Son of God, and being His protector and foster-father in the Holy Family. St Joseph's role is crucial, blessed, and a saintly example of what it means to be a husband and father. It is lovely at this time of year to reflect on Joseph's role, and to encourage our Catholic husbands and fathers to be strong in their faith and to lead their families with immense commitment to Jesus and Mary.



PLEASE COME TO OUR GREAT TWO CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK!

(i) The **Parish Carol Service TONIGHT Sunday 18th December at 5pm**. This is a very lovely hour of prayers, readings and carols as we enter the last week of Advent. Please do come along — young and old — for this beautiful & prayerful occasion, with festive refreshments to follow.

(ii) The **Parish Penitential Services for Advent TOMORROW Monday 19th December at 11.30am or 7.30pm**. To make your spiritual preparation carefully for Christmas by a good Confession, come to this great opportunity for receiving God's mercy.

May the Lord bless us with the faith, courage and commitment of St Joseph!

Fr Philip

Pope Francis, from *Misericordia et Misera*, closing the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' n.1:



[In *John 8* 'The Woman taken in Adultery'] the misery of sin was clothed with the mercy of love. Jesus's only judgement is one filled with mercy and compassion for the condition of this sinner. To those who wished to judge and condemn her to death, Jesus replies with a lengthy silence. His purpose was to let God's voice be heard in the conscience not only of the woman, but also in those of her accusers, who drop their stones and one by one leave the scene. Jesus then says: "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?... Neither do I condemn you. Go your way and from now on do not sin again." Jesus helps the woman to look to the future with hope and to make a new start in life. Henceforth, if she so desires, she can "walk in charity." Once clothed in mercy, even if the inclination to sin remains, it is overcome by the love that makes it possible for her to look ahead and to live her life differently.

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Kevin and Keisey Kulla who will be baptised this weekend.

ANNIE KEOGH RIP died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. **The funeral will be on Wednesday 21st December at 12.30pm.** *May she rest in peace.*

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR (3rd Sunday of each month) will be replaced this month by the **Parish Carol Service, 5pm this Sun 18th Dec.**

RECONCILIATION FOR CHRISTMAS: Our **Parish Penitential Service will be on Monday 19th 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: Tuesday 20th Dec 8pm.
HERTFORD parish (tel. 582019) has extra confessions in the week before Christmas.

SCHOOL MASSES: On Tuesday 20th December there will be Mass at St Augustine's school at 9.30am and at St Cross School at 11.00am. 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. **Please note there will be no 6.30pm Mass on Christmas Eve.**

EPIPHANY PARTY will be held on **Saturday 7th January 2017** after the 6.30pm Mass in the crypt. We will have a shared meal of **finger food only** so, 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 will be provided by parish.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION at Westminster Cathedral. An evening of Christmas music, readings, and words from Cardinal Vincent Nichols will take place on **Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st December at 7.30pm** at Westminster Cathedral. Tickets available from www.ticketmaster.co.uk or 0844 844 0444

"THE BIG PICTURE": An inspiring step-by-step, easy-to-use guide through the Bible, 6

sessions on Old Testament, 6 sessions on New Testament, starts on the **10th January 2017** in the crypt at 7.30pm. Flyers available this weekend!

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30-8.30pm: **next meeting Jan 20th.** 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!

ALTAR SERVERS: Children (any age) who have at least made their First Holy Communion and wish to become altar servers, please contact the presbytery.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for our sick parishioners & friends: John Askew, Rosa Augello, Helen & Michael Sherman, Annette Pinto, Anne Smith, Siobhan Fiorentini, Marina Morris, Giovanna Scozzaro.

PLEASE TELL US IF ANYONE IS HOUSEBOUND, EVEN TEMPORARILY, SO THEY CAN BE VISITED & HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION.

Housebound parishioners may like to know that Mass is regularly broadcast on 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, Rev Anthony Curran 01438-285138 or 07884-187463; Princess Alexandra, Fr Leszek Gamracy 01279-426017

CATECHETICS

ADULT CONFIRMATION COURSE: Tuesday evenings, continues **3rd Jan 8-9.30pm.**

BAPTISM COURSE: the next course will be held **Wed 4th and Fri 27th Jan 2017 7.30-9.00pm** in the presbytery. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on course, please contact presbytery.

CONFIRMATION 2017: The next session will be on **23rd Jan at 7.15-8.45pm** in the crypt for **candidates and parents.** Candidates will need to have read chapters 9 & 10 of the Gospel of Mark. The Enrolment Masses will be on the **7th/8th January** and will involve a simple

statement of commitment to ongoing preparation. **We have slightly adjusted the times of the Confirmation Masses on the 7th May 2017 to 1.15pm and 4pm. However, the numbers for each Mass are very unbalanced. About 10 candidates need to swap from 1.15pm to 4pm.** If no one does this voluntarily, then we may have to use a ballot to decide on the allocation.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The fourth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 18th Jan 8-9pm** in the crypt. The fourth session for children will be on **Mon 16th Jan 6-7.30pm**.



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

SCHOOLS/UNDER-5s

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2017: Applications are now open for both St Augustine's and St Cross Schools. **Deadline: 15th January.** Please ensure that you apply to both schools as in total 60 Reception places are available. Application packs are available from the school offices. Please do not forget to also apply online to Herts CC. **The primary-school 'Catholic practice' register has now finished.**

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5's needs a cleaner to start in January 2017. The hours are flexible and would be 2hrs per week. For more information, please contact under 5's on 460614.

MISCELLANEOUS

CRIB APPEAL: The Catholic Children's Society have been helping children who have been sleeping on floors, who go hungry to bed and

whose health has suffered because there is no heating at home during winter months. Please give to help families in need this Christmas by the Crib or visit www.cathchild.org.uk.

ISABEL HOSPICE CHRISTMAS APPEAL: My sincere thanks to Mary, Michele, Pat and Richard who were collectors. The total raised in one hour was £202.00. Ellen Bartlett.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Please do not leave Christmas cards for parishioners at the back of the church. We have found from past years that they are not collected. Thank you.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS 2017 are now available by the newspapers for £4.50. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip has now finished his visiting of the parish in this 3rd round of visits. He thanks all those who have invited him in to chat in their homes, and hopes to initiate a 4th cycle of visits in the new year.

CHURCH CLEANERS are **urgently needed** to help clean the church for just one hour per month. **Help is still needed on Wednesday mornings and afternoons.** If you can help, please contact presbytery **as soon as possible.**

CHURCH CLEANING: Michele & Pelle De Luca and Kathleen Connors. Thank you for your help!

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: 8th, and 22nd January 2017.

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
<p>Sat 17th December 10am Mass <i>Stella Corroppoli RIP</i></p> <hr/> <p>4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Luciano Dilena RIP</i></p> <p>Sun 18th Dec FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>Edward Mates RIP Anniv</i> 11.15am <i>For the Parish</i> ‡ 5.00pm Parish Carol Service</p>	<p>PAGE 90 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 7: 10–14 <i>The maiden is with child.</i></p> <p>Psalm 23 — Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.</p> <p>2nd Reading: Romans 1: 1–7 <i>Jesus Christ, descendant of David, Son of God.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia.</i></p> <p>Gospel: Matthew 1: 18–24 <i>Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Advent II (p. 66) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 28)</p> <p>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS NATIVITY OF THE LORD</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 52: 7–10 2nd Reading: Hebrews 1: 1–6 Gospel: John 1: 1–18</p>
<p>Mon 19th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Michael Byrne RIP</i></p> <p>Tues 20th December 9.30am Mass at St Augustine's School <i>Pat Walsh RIP</i> 11.00am Mass at St Cross School <i>Holy Souls</i></p> <p>Wed 21st December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Doreen Day's Intentions</i> — followed by <i>coffee in crypt</i> 12.30pm Funeral <i>Annie Keogh RIP</i></p> <p>Thurs 22nd December NO Mass</p> <p>Fri 23rd December (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Pius & Justina Ogbodu RIP and Joy Ighade's intentions</i></p> <p>Sat 24th December 10am Mass <i>Vera Brown RIP</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>ROSARY Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
<p>4.00pm* Italian Mass 11.30pm Carols Christmas Midnight Mass <i>Priest's Intentions</i></p> <p>Sun 25th Dec NATIVITY OF THE LORD 9.15am** <i>Priest's Intentions</i> 11.15am <i>Priest's Intentions</i> ‡</p>	<p>REGULAR EVENTS</p>
<p>* 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>	

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.