

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

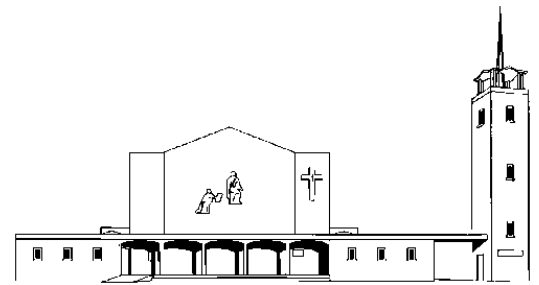
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Year A

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

25TH DECEMBER 2016

John 1: 1-18 — *The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

A VERY HAPPY & HOLY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

I pray that this sacred season of Christmas — lasting from today's feast right up to the 9th January — may be a blessed time for all our parishioners as we reflect on the wonder of God-made-man. As Pope Francis put it the other day, "I wish you a *Christian* Christmas."

It is our responsibility as believing Christians to 'keep Christ in Christmas'! Make sure that others — your friends and relations — know

that you are keeping a *Christian* Christmas, with your celebrations focussed on Jesus: the historical event of God's saving action in entering His own creation. This is the beginning of the Gospel's 'good news,' that God Himself entered this world of His in order to speak to us in a new and profound way: the Word of God expressed in the words of man. We rejoice in the wonder of God's awesome humility, that He has done this for us, "for God so loved the world that He gave His only Son." I pray that a renewed sense of the beauty of our holy faith may fill your hearts and homes this Christmas, and that your celebrations may give glory to God, and invite everyone into praise of the Lord Jesus, God made man.

ON BEHALF OF YOU ALL, I THANK THOSE PARISHIONERS — Christmas and Carol-Service musicians, flower-arranging team, those who erected the Crib, servers, sacristan, parish secretary — who have worked extra-hard in these latter weeks of Advent to make Christmas such a beautiful celebration.

I THANK YOU IN A HEARTFELT WAY FOR THE MANY CARDS AND GIFTS I have received over the past few days in the lead-up to Christmas. I thank you, too, for your generosity in the Christmas offertory collection, which is a significant part of the stipend that the parish pays me for being your parish priest. On this my 10th Christmas at St Augustine's, I wish you a truly blessed feast day, and my prayers are for peace and faith in your families at this holy time.

Please note *minor* changes to the schedule of Masses etc. in the coming week. (See back page.)

May the Lord bless us with a deep gratitude for His coming amongst us as man! Fr Philip



Pope Francis, broadcast on 'RAI' television, 22nd December:

"I wish you a *Christian* Christmas, like the first one, when God willed to overturn the values of the world, and to become little in a manger, with the little ones, with the poor, with the marginalised ... Littleness! In this world where the god of money is so adored, may Christmas help us to gaze upon the littleness of this God who has overturned worldly values."

PRAYER & LITURGY

ADORATION/MORNING PRAYER will not take place next week and there will be no Adoration or Benediction on Friday, but there will still be 12 noon Mass.

MASS on Monday and Tuesday will be at 10am due to the Bank Holidays. The church will also be closed after Mass.

BRIDGET GORRY RIP of Granville Gardens, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. **The funeral will be on Friday 6th January at 9.30am. Please note there will therefore be no 11am Adoration or 12 noon Mass that day.** *May she rest in peace.*

EPIPHANY PARTY will be held on **Sat 7th Jan** 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 sign your name on the list at the back of the church. Drinks will be provided by parish.

"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 Jan 2017** in the crypt at 7.30pm. **See the noticeboard in porch.**

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!

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR will take place on at **5pm on Sunday 22nd January** with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction. A truly peaceful hour!

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**

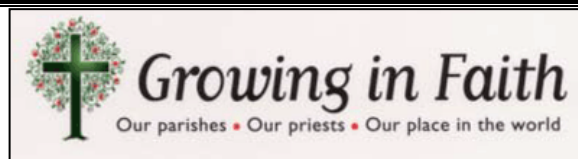
CATECHETICS

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 SCHOOL: Miss Kousoulou will be conducting a final tour of the school on **Thursday 12th January at 11.45 am.** If there are any prospective families that would like to view Reception Class, please ring the school office. Telephone number 01992-463549.

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.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal on the **7th/8th January.** In 2017 SPUC is commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act. Over 8.7 million unborn children have lost their lives due to abortion in the last 50 years. Since 1967, SPUC has been working tirelessly to uphold the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. Please help make 2017 a landmark year in SPUC's historic campaign to win legal protection for unborn children. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC and help save mothers and babies from abortion.

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.

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.

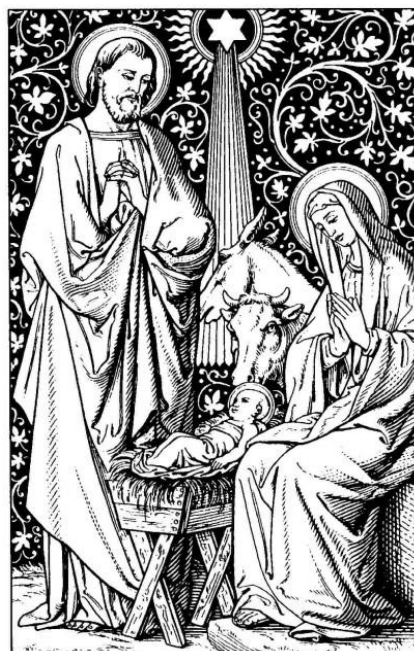
WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS 2017 are now available by the newspapers for £4.50. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

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 as there are only 3 people on each team.** If you can help, please contact presbytery as soon as possible.

CHURCH CLEANING: Maria Manzo, Charmaine Collins & Sara Iparragurre. 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.



Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
<p>Sat 24th December 10am Mass <i>Vera Brown RIP</i></p> <hr/> <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>PAGE 103 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 52: 7–10 <i>All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.</i></p> <p>Psalm 97 — <i>All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.</i></p> <p>2nd Reading: Hebrews 1: 1–6 <i>God has spoken to us through his Son.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth. Alleluia.</i></p> <p>Gospel: John 1: 1–18 <i>The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Nativity I (p. 66) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)</p> <p>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 1st Reading: Numbers 6: 22–27 2nd Reading: Galatians 4: 4–7 Gospel: Luke 2: 16–21</p>
<p>Mon 26th December ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr 10am Mass <i>Eileen Beary's Intentions</i> PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</p> <p>Tues 27th December ST JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist 10.00am Mass <i>Maurice Crotty RIP</i> PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</p> <p>Wed 28th December THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs 9.15am Mass <i>Thomas, Lena, Vincent & Michael Byrne RIP</i> — followed by coffee in crypt</p> <p>Thurs 29th December ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop NO Mass</p> <p>Fri 30th December HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 12 noon Mass <i>Tommy Ward's Intentions</i></p> <p>Sat 31st Dec 7TH DAY IN OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS 10am Mass <i>Christine Davies RIP Anniv</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.</p> <p>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
<p>4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i></p> <p>Sun 1st JAN SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 9.15am <i>Juanita Pineda RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Deceased members of Woolsgrove & McDonagh Families and Eileen Sweeney RIP</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.*