

# The Announcer

## St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

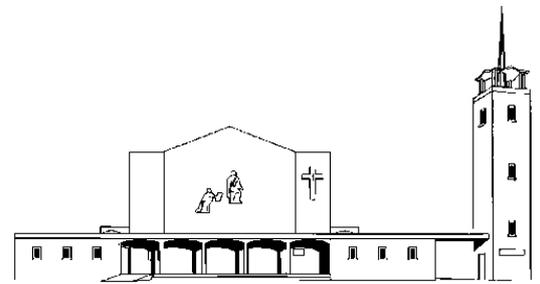
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Year A

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016

Matthew 3: 1-12 — *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

THIS WEEKEND WE CONTINUE OUR ADVENT SEASON with the first of two weekends on which we hear the witness of St John the Baptist calling to us. Along with Isaiah, John the Baptist is one of the great figures of Advent. Isaiah speaks to us of our longing for the Messiah, for Jesus, to come; and John the Baptist speaks to us of preparing the way more specifically for Him to arrive. John is the great forerunner of Christ; he is the last of the prophets, the one who was able, finally, to point out the Messiah Himself to humanity. John is a character whose asceticism and fire of faith captures our imagination, and whose message is clear: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand." We need very much to listen to him, so as to make this Advent season what it should be — to be truly prepared in our hearts, spiritually, for the great coming of Christ into our hearts and homes at the Christmas festival.



I WANT TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO TWO VITAL ADVENT CELEBRATIONS COMING UP:

(i) The **Parish Carol Service** on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm**. This is a very beautiful hour of prayers and readings and carols as we enter the last week before Christmas. Please do come along — young and old — for this prayerful occasion. Readers needed! — please sign up.

(ii) The **Parish Penitential Services for Advent** on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30am or 7.30pm**. One of the most obvious ways to make our preparation carefully for Christmas is by a good Confession, so keep this date noted for a great opportunity for receiving God's mercy. When we have received the Lord's mercy then we are more likely to be merciful to others! Let's not forget the lessons of the Year of Mercy just concluded.

May the Lord bless us with hope and holy longing as we await Christ's birth!

Fr Philip

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



This page of the Gospel [The Woman taken in Adultery, *John* 8:1-11] could easily serve as an icon of what we have celebrated during the Holy Year, a time rich in mercy, which must continue to be *celebrated* and *lived out* in our communities. Mercy cannot become a mere parenthesis in the life of the Church; it constitutes her very existence, through which the profound truths of the Gospel are made manifest and tangible. Everything is revealed in mercy; everything is resolved in the merciful love of the Father. A woman and Jesus meet. She is an adulteress and, in the eyes of the Law, liable to be stoned. Jesus, through his preaching and the total gift of himself that would lead him to the Cross, returned the Mosaic Law to its true and original intent. Here what is central is not the law or legal justice, but the love of God, which is capable of looking into the heart of each person and seeing the deepest desire hidden there; God's love must take primacy over all else.

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**ADORATION/MORNING PRAYER** will not take place on **Monday**, but there will be 9.15am Mass as usual.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY TRAINING** will be held in the crypt on **Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 10-12noon**. New volunteers are very welcome!

**FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, 7.30-8.30pm: **next meeting Dec 16<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!

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

**SUNDAY HOLY HOUR** (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month) will be replaced next month by the **Parish Carol Service, 5pm on Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Dec**. **Adult and young readers are needed, so if you are able to assist, please sign the lists at the back of the church.** Volunteers are needed to help make refreshments afterwards. If you can help, please contact the presbytery.

**RECONCILIATION FOR CHRISTMAS: Our Parish Penitential Service will be on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> 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:  
WARE: Adults: Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm  
WALTHAM CROSS: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 8pm.  
HERTFORD parish (tel. 582019) has extra confessions in the week before Christmas.

**SCHOOL CAROLS:** St Cross School is holding its Carol Service in church on **Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7pm** and St Augustine's School is holding its Carol Service in church on **Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Dec at 6.30pm**. All are welcome to attend.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 7.30pm at Westminster Cathedral. Tickets available from [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://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 **10<sup>th</sup> January 2017** in the crypt at 7.30pm. More details to follow!

## 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 **6<sup>th</sup> Dec 8-9.30pm**.

**BAPTISM COURSE:** the next course will be held **Wed 4<sup>th</sup> and Fri 27<sup>th</sup> 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 **12<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7.15-8.45pm** in the crypt for **candidates and parents**. Candidates will need to have read chapter 8 of the Gospel of Mark. **We have slightly adjusted the times of the Confirmation Masses on the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 third session for children will be on **Mon 5th Dec 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](http://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. Please ensure that you apply to both schools as 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** would like to thank everyone who attended the quiz. The total raised was £256.30. Thank you also to those who bought raffle tickets as £89 was raised. The raffle will be drawn on the 8th Dec.

### 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. Catalogues are now available at the back of church.

### SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

**HOUSE VISITS:** Fr Philip will be visiting parish homes in the following roads this Wed & Fri afternoons: Rowan Drive, Robinia Road, Macers Lane, Vancouver Road & environs.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who attended Pat's funeral and to all who sent Mass cards. Your thoughts and prayers were very much appreciated. Jean Walsh.

**MILLY'S CHARITY WEEKEND:** A big thank you to everyone who helped make the weekend a success: Callum & Paul Scott, Catriona Briggs, Maria Cattini, Jo Clarke, Clare O'Connor and Joy Ighade. **A special thank you to Maria Scott and Mary Briggs for organising the event.** These amounts were raised: Save the Children £362.22 (including the raffle); Brownies £320; UK Aid Felsted £100; and Daniela Ruggiero Scholarship Fund £175. **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported the event.

**200 CLUB WINNERS** for December are £125 Mrs Deadman, £75 Mrs Lyons and £50 Mr Casbard. Congratulations to you all!

**ISABEL HOSPICE CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** There will be Carols in the High Street on **Sat 10th Dec** at 11am and collectors are urgently needed. Please contact Ellen on 464677.

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

**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.

**CHURCH CLEANERS** are **urgently needed** to help clean the church for just one hour per month. **We now only have 3 people on each team but we really need at least 5.** Help is needed on Wednesday mornings/afternoons and Thursday mornings. If you can help, please contact presbytery **as soon as possible**.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Filomena Mezzullo, Elizabeth Nsonwah and Laura Harwood. 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, 22nd and 29th January 2017.

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> December ST FRANCIS XAVIER, Priest</b> 10am Mass <i>Mary Keen RIP</i>	<b>PAGE 85 in the Mass books</b>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Melanie Pinto RIP</i>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 11: 1–10 <i>He judges the wretched with integrity.</i>
<b>Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Dec SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9.15am** <i>Pasquale Ricotta RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Nicola Barone RIP</i> 5.00pm Latin Mass <i>For the Parish</i> ‡	<b>Psalm 71 — In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.</b>  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Romans 15: 4–9 <i>Christ is the saviour of all men.</i>
<b>Mon 5<sup>th</sup> December</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Deceased members of McDonnell family</i>	<b>Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.</b>
<b>Tues 6<sup>th</sup> December</b> 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Terry McIntyre RIP</i>	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 3: 1–12 <i>Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.</i>
<b>Wed 7<sup>th</sup> December ST AMBROSE, Bishop &amp; Dr</b> 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Eileen Linford RIP</i> — followed by coffee in crypt	<b>PREFACE TODAY:</b> Advent I (p. 65) <b>EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:</b> no. 3 (p. 28)  <b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b> <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
<b>Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Margaret O'Connor RIP</i>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 35: 1–6, 10 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> James 5: 7–10 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 11: 2–11
<b>Fri 9<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Peter Lee-Lozone 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.
<b>Sat 10<sup>th</sup> December</b> 10am Mass <i>Dec'd members of Graffato/Giamalva families</i>	<b>ROSARY</b>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Onofria (Nora) Maniscalco RIP</i>	Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.
<b>Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Dec THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9.15am** <i>Mary &amp; Christopher Byrne</i> 11.15am <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> <p>** With Children's Liturgy (nursery-age to year 2 only)</p> <p>‡ There are also Sunday evening Masses in English in Hertford (6pm) and Waltham Cross (6.30pm)</p>	<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>
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	
<b>Mon 5<sup>th</sup></b> 6pm 1st HC, crypt	<b>Wed 30<sup>th</sup></b> 6pm Brownies, crypt

**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.*