

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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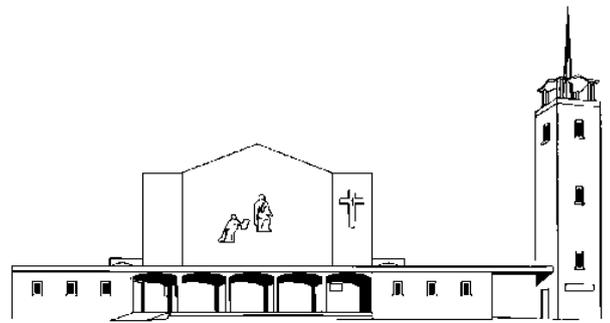
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon

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

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

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



Year C

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10TH JANUARY 2016

GOSPEL: Luke 3: 15–16, 21–22

While Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

THE FINAL FEAST OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, which we celebrate today. We jump ahead from the events of Jesus's birth to the moment when He brought to a close those hidden years in the family home. He comes to St John the Baptist who is baptizing "with water" in the River Jordan; and His coming, and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Him, brings about a new Baptism, "in the Holy Spirit" — what we would call the *Sacrament of Baptism*. Jesus begins His public ministry for us, embarking on those years of preaching, and establishing the Church on the foundation of His 12 Apostles. His Baptism reminds us strongly of our own Baptism, and all the graces He has given us in our life of faith. Let us rejoice that we are baptized into Jesus Christ!



THIS YEAR I AM ESTABLISHING A NEW AND MORE ROBUST PROCEDURE for requesting a 'Certificate of Catholic Practice' to accompany applications to enter Catholic Primary and Secondary schools — one that will be fairer and more thorough. So, if your child is presently in Year 5 and would wish to go to St Mary's or another Catholic secondary school in 2017, or if your child is looking to go into Reception year in a Catholic Primary school in autumn 2017, then you will need to apply *immediately* to me to be on the list for requesting a 'Certificate of Catholic Practice' towards the end of 2016. The information pack will be available from the Presbytery *from Monday afternoon this week*. Throughout the coming year you will then be able to record your Catholic practice — weekly Sunday Mass, and HolyDays — and on this basis I will be in a better position to judge whether I can issue the Certificate that you ask for.

May Christ's Baptism today fill our hearts with the joy of being His baptized people! Fr Philip

From *Misericordiae Vultus*, Pope Francis on the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' n. 4:



We recall the poignant words of Saint John XXIII when, opening the [Second Vatican] Council, he indicated the path to follow: "Now the Bride of Christ wishes to use the medicine of mercy rather than taking up arms of severity ... The Catholic Church, as she holds high the torch of Catholic truth at this Ecumenical Council, wants to show herself a loving mother to all; patient, kind, moved by compassion and goodness toward her separated children". Blessed Paul VI spoke in a similar vein at the closing of the Council: "We prefer to point out

how charity has been the principal religious feature of this Council ... the old story of the Good Samaritan has been the model of the spirituality of the Council ... a wave of affection and admiration flowed from the Council over the modern world of humanity. Errors were condemned, indeed, because charity demanded this no less than did truth, but for individuals themselves there was only admonition, respect and love. Instead of depressing diagnoses, encouraging remedies; instead of direful predictions, messages of trust issued from the Council to the present-day world. The modern world's values were not only respected but honoured, its efforts approved, its aspirations purified and blessed... Another point we must stress is this: all this rich teaching is channelled in one direction, the service of mankind, of every condition, in every weakness and need".

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Lena Rolek and Charlie & Francis John who will be baptised this weekend.

KAY GAFFNEY RIP of Cherry Tree Road, Hoddesdon, died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. Her funeral will be on **Wednesday 13th January** at 10.45am.

May she rest in peace.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting January 15th**. 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 (3rd Sunday of each month) takes place at 5pm **next Sunday 17th January** with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction.

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 it today 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 available: <http://rcdow.org.uk/year-of-mercy/>.

ANNUAL CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 24th January** at St Catherine's and St Pauls at 6pm. This service is held on behalf of the Churches Together in Hoddesdon and all parishioners are welcome.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS/READERS ROTA: The next rota for the period Feb-May is due to be drawn up shortly. Please advise Pat Kavanagh by **Wednesday 27th January at the latest** of any weekends that you are NOT available and also of any changes in your personal details (telephone number, address). You can contact Pat Kavanagh by telephone 449282 or by email patandcarolkav@btinternet.com.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES: This year's Mass will take place at **2pm on Saturday 6th February**. Cardinal Vincent Nichols will preside, and as in previous years, the Mass will include the Sacrament of the Sick. All are welcome and there are no seat reservations or tickets. If you are bringing a wheelchair, please advise Fr Philip by 24th January so that he can arrange a reserve space for those in wheelchairs and their carers.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

We pray for our sick parishioners and friends: Moyra O'Neill, Kitty O'Rourke, Peter Tanner, John Askew, Rosa Augello, Roberto Piacentini, Helen Sherman, Annette Pinto, 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/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, 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

CATECHETICS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The fifth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 3rd Feb 8–9pm** in the crypt. The fifth session for the children will be **Sat 6th Feb 10am–12noon**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: MASS BOOKS for children will be available from the end of the week 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 18th January at 7.15pm** for candidates only. Candidates will need to have read **chapter 10** of the Gospel of Mark. The Enrolment Masses will be **this weekend** 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 12th January at 7pm.**

BAPTISM COURSE: The second part of the course will be held on **Friday 29th Jan 7.30pm-9pm** in the church.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal **next 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.

REFUGEE VOLUNTEER EVENING will be held on **Tuesday 26th January** in the Westminster Centre for Youth Ministry, 20 Phoenix Road, Euston, London NW1 1TA from 6pm-8.30pm. The evening will give you a chance to find out how you can help refugees in London and Hertfordshire. Speakers will include: Louise Zanre from *JRS UK*, Sister Christine Frost from *Neighbours in Poplar*, Cathy Corcoran CEO of the *Cardinal Hume Centre* and Michaela Costello from Guardian Angels parish. If you would like to attend, please RSVP as places are limited! Email caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk to book your place.

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 what you can at the Crib or visit www.cathchild.org.uk. **At the weekend of the 23rd/24th 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. A donation of £50 has been made to the crib appeal from the Wednesday/Sunday coffee fund.

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip intends to visit parish homes this Wednesday afternoon in: College Road, Westhill Road, Roselands Avenue.

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!

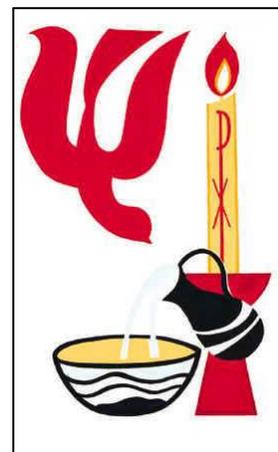
SUNDAY LUNCH: Fr Philip would like to continue meeting parishioners/families in their homes, as much as possible. Sunday lunch 1.30pm is a good (but by no means only) time. Free dates: 10th, 17th & 24th January 2016.

CHURCH CLEANING: Cheryl Holbourn, Mima Salvo, Mirella DiChiara and Barbara Wright. 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 9th January 10am Mass <i>Mary & Joseph Murphy RIP</i>	<p align="center">PAGE 118 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1–5, 9–11 <i>The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it.</i></p> <p>Psalm 103 — Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are!</p> <p>2nd Reading: Titus 2: 11–14, 3: 4–7 <i>He saved us by the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel: Luke 3: 15–16, 21–22 <i>While Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened.</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Baptism of the Lord (p. 68) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28)</p> <p align="center">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 62: 1–5 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 4–11 Gospel: John 2: 1–11</p>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i> Sun 10th Jan THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9.15am** <i>Baby William O'Bryan</i> 11.15am <i>Bridie & Maurice Cooper RIP Anniv</i> ‡	
Mon 11th January 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Edward McGrath RIP</i>	
Tues 12th January 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Domenico & Antonio Ermini RIP</i>	
Wed 13th January 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Joseph Delaney</i> — followed by coffee in the crypt. 10.45am Funeral <i>Kay Gaffney RIP</i>	
Thurs 14th January NO 9.15am Mass	
Fri 15th January (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>John & Elsie Kelly RIP</i>	
Sat 16th January 10am Mass <i>Pietro DiLeto RIP</i>	<p align="center">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 align="center">ROSARY Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p align="center">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 align="center">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>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i> Sun 17th January 2ND SUN IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am** <i>Rita McGrath</i> 11.15am <i>Giuseppe Tambuzzo RIP & Giuseppa & Antonino Cannatella RIP</i> 5pm Holy Hour ‡	
<p align="center">* 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>	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 12th 7pm RCIA, presbytery Wed 13th 6pm Brownies, crypt	Wed 13th 7.30pm All Saints, crypt Fri 15th 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.*