

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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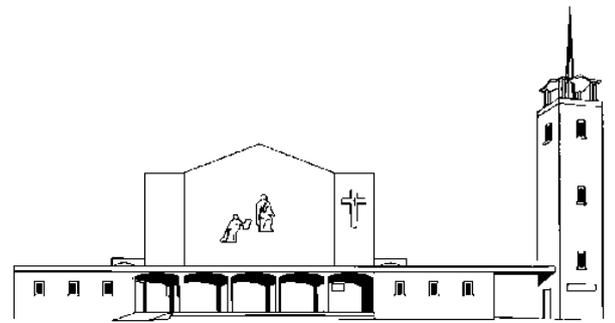
Email: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

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

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

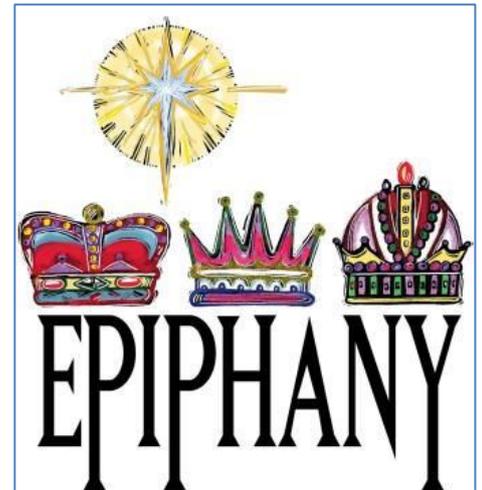
3rd JANUARY 2016

GOSPEL: Matthew 2: 1–12

We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

THE NEXT GREAT FEAST OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS TODAY'S FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY. The "epiphany of the Lord" means His manifestation, i.e. His showing Himself to the outside world, in the person of the eastern Magi. Thus the Gentile (non-Jewish) world comes to learn of the birth of the Jewish Messiah-king, and realise His significance for the entirety of humanity. That's why this is such an important feast, particularly in the eastern parts of the Church, for it marks the proclamation of the Birth of Jesus, until then only known to the local few: now, with the 'epiphany' the good news is being broadcast far and wide. It's the first great moment of Christian evangelization! Jesus is for the whole world!



PLEASE COME THIS SATURDAY EVENING (2ND) AND CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON as a parish with our **Epiphany party** in the crypt straight after the evening Mass (c. 7.30pm). Do bring some food to share. It's a lovely opportunity to come together and celebrate these sacred days, and our Christian love for one another. Thank you to all those who will be helping to make this evening possible with practical arrangements.

Thank you also to all who have sent me cards and given to me other greetings and gifts at Christmas — your kindness is truly appreciated. And for the Christmas-Day offerings, which — along with the Easter offerings, and the offerings given for parish Masses, Weddings and Funerals — go to provide for the priestly stipend which I receive. Thank you for the financial support for your parish priest!

MAY I WISH YOU A BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016, and I pray that as this 'Year of Mercy' unfolds, we may grow together in faith, charity, and a mutual expression of God's mercy.

May Christ's Epiphany today fill our hearts with the goodness of God's love for us! Fr Philip

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



I have chosen the date of 8 December [for the opening of the Holy Year] because of its rich meaning in the recent history of the Church. In fact, I will open the Holy Door on the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. The Church feels a great need to keep this event alive. With the Council, the Church entered a new phase of her history. The Council Fathers strongly perceived, as a true breath of the Holy Spirit, a need to talk about God to men and women of their time in a more accessible way. The walls which for too long had made the Church a kind of fortress were

torn down and the time had come to proclaim the Gospel in a new way. It was a new phase of the same evangelization that had existed from the beginning. It was a fresh undertaking for all Christians to bear witness to their faith with greater enthusiasm and conviction. The Church sensed a responsibility to be a living sign of the Father's love in the world.

PRAYER & LITURGY

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

SCHOOL MASS: This **Friday** there will be an extra Mass at 1.45pm in church with both primary schools. All parishioners are welcome to attend. There will still be Mass at 12 noon.

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!

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.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

We pray for our sick parishioners and friends: Moyra O’Neill, 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



Growing in Faith

Our parishes • Our priests • Our place in the world

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 fourth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 6th Jan 8–9pm** in the crypt. The fourth session for the children will be **Sat 9th Jan 10am–12noon**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: MASS BOOKS for children are available 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 4th January at 7.15pm** for parents and candidates. Candidates will need to have read **chapter 8 & 9** of the Gospel of Mark. The Enrolment Masses will be on the **9th/10th January** 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 5th January at 7pm.**

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Fridays 8th and 29th Jan 2016, 7.30pm–9pm** in the presbytery. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, contact the presbytery.

SCHOOLS & YOUNG PEOPLE

CRYPT DISPLAYS: our Primary Schools have updated their displays in the crypt. St Cross has placed its powerful display regarding Blessed Oscar Romero; and St Augustine's is showing some of the pieces from the term's RE 'Art Competition'. Thank you to both Schools for this beautiful decoration to our crypt!

PRIMARY SCHOOL 'CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE': Fr Philip will hold another session for those looking to gain admission to Reception for the signing of the priest's form. This will be on **Mon 4th Jan 1.30–3.30pm**. There is no need to make an appointment, please just attend at the allocated time. If you cannot make this time, please ring to make an appointment. **PLEASE NOTE: an 'Information for Certificate of Catholic Practice' form is now available to collect from the presbytery. This form MUST be completed and handed back in to the presbytery prior to the dates of signing.** Fr Philip will *only* be able to give Certificates to those who practise at Sunday Mass weekly and who have done so over a considerable period of time. (This accords with the diocesan guidance: <http://www.rcdow.org.uk/fileupload/upload/prf4117200691341.pdf>.) Others should simply hand in the schools' 'Supplementary Information Form' to the schools without the Certificate and will be treated fairly according to their published admissions criteria.

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 all you can to the Crib or visit www.cathchild.org.uk or text CCSW12 plus the amount £2, £5, £10 to 70070. **On 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.**

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip intends to visit parish homes this Wednesday afternoon in: Manor Road, Southfield Road, and Briscoe Road.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS 2016 are now available for £4.50 from the back of the church. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

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: Filomena Mezzullo, Theresa Casbard, Elizabeth Nsonwah and Laura Harwood. Thank you!

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

A Prayer of Consecration of the Family to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary



Most holy Hearts
of Jesus and Mary,
united in perfect love,
as you look upon us with
mercy and caring,
we consecrate our hearts,
our lives, our family to you.
We know the beautiful example
of your home in Nazareth was meant to be
a model for each of our families.
We hope to have,
with your help,
the unity and strong, enduring love you gave
to one another.
May our home be filled with joy.
May sincere affection, patience,
tolerance and mutual respect be freely given
to all.
May our prayers be filled with the needs of
others, not just ourselves and may we always
be close to your sacraments.
Bless those who are present,
as well as those who are absent,
both the living and the dead;
may peace be among us
and when we are tested,
grant us the Christian acceptance of God's
will.
Keep our family close to your Hearts;
may your special protection be with us
always.
Most Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary,
hear our prayer. Amen.

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy												
Sat 2nd January SS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN 10am Mass <i>Baby Riaine RIP</i>	<p align="center">PAGE 115 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1–6 <i>Above you the glory of the Lord appears.</i></p> <p>Psalm 71 — All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.</p> <p>2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2–3, 5–6 <i>It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!</i></p> <p>Gospel: Matthew 2: 1–12 <i>We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Epiphany (p. 67) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)</p> <p align="center">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS BAPTISM OF THE LORD</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1–5, 9–11 2nd Reading: Titus 2: 11–14, 3: 4–7 Gospel: Luke 3: 15–16, 21–22</p>												
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Joseph Penheiro RIP</i> Sun 3rd Jan THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 9.15am** <i>Neville Yarwood RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Vincenzo Graffato & Deceased members of Graffato Family & Giammalva Family</i> 5.00pm Latin Mass <i>For the Parish</i> ‡	<p align="center">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> <p align="center">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></p> <p align="center">ROSARY</p> <p>Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.</p>												
Mon 4th January 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Victor Pollard RIP</i>	<p align="center">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> <p>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>												
Tues 5th January 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Leo Lee-Lozone RIP</i>	<p align="center">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</p> <p>Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p> <p align="center">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>												
Wed 6th January 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Mick Sheahan RIP</i> — followed by coffee in the crypt.	<p align="center">REGULAR EVENTS</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Mon 4th</td> <td>7.15pm Confirmation, crypt</td> <td>Wed 6th</td> <td>8pm 1st HC meeting, crypt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tues 5th</td> <td>7pm RCIA, presbytery</td> <td>Fri 8th</td> <td>7.30pm Baptism course</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wed 6th</td> <td>6pm Brownies, crypt</td> <td>Sat 9th</td> <td>10am 1st HC session</td> </tr> </table>	Mon 4th	7.15pm Confirmation, crypt	Wed 6th	8pm 1 st HC meeting, crypt	Tues 5th	7pm RCIA, presbytery	Fri 8th	7.30pm Baptism course	Wed 6th	6pm Brownies, crypt	Sat 9th	10am 1 st HC session
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Thurs 7th January 9.15am Mass <i>Kay Gaffney RIP</i>	<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: <i>Si pregano tutti i parroccchiani 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.</i></p>												
Fri 8th January (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Mary Minter RIP</i> 1.45pm Joint Schools' Mass in church													
Sat 9th January 10am Mass <i>Mary & Joseph Murphy RIP</i>													
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i>													
Sun 10th January THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9.15am** <i>Baby William O'Bryan RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Bridie & Maurice Cooper RIP Anniv</i> ‡													
<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>													