

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

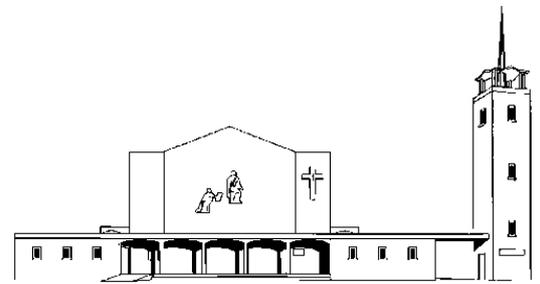
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Year A

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

27TH NOVEMBER 2016

Matthew 24: 37-44 – *Stay awake so that you may be ready.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

THIS WEEKEND WE JOYFULLY BEGIN OUR ADVENT SEASON, and we have these four lovely weeks in which to express the wonderful virtues of faith and hope. Advent – which means "coming" – expresses that profound hope, in the Church's liturgy, through a great *longing*. We long for the celebration of Christmas itself, Christ's birth at Bethlehem 2000 yrs ago; but we also long for Him to come again at the end of time, to bring all things to their right and just conclusion in accordance with His love and mercy. Let us enter wholeheartedly into this Advent spirit, and take some time to give this season over to the Lord, that he may renew in us our longing for Him, and a real hope.



As we start Advent, and maybe are thinking of Christmas cards and other purchases, we have our "**Milly's Charity Weekend**" fair in the Crypt after each of the Masses this weekend. It's named after a deceased parishioner, Milly Yarwood, who championed this charity sale in her inimitable and kindly way, and who died in 2009. So, after Mass this weekend, please come down to the Crypt for very special refreshments and browse round the stalls. The sign-in sheets for First Holy Communion and Confirmation will also be in the Crypt this weekend.

POPE FRANCIS CONCLUDED THE 'HOLY YEAR OF MERCY' last Sunday in Rome with the closing of the Holy Door at St Peter's basilica, and with the release of a beautiful Apostolic Letter *Misericordia et Misera* ("Mercy and Misery"). I will quote from this letter at the bottom of this Newsletter front page in the coming weeks as we reflect on what the Year of Mercy has meant and how we are to keep putting it into practice. One of the most obvious ways is to make our preparation carefully for Christmas by a good Confession. As well as at other times, there will be the Sacrament of Reconciliation available on **Monday 19th December at two Penitential Services** – 11.30am/7.30pm – so keep that date noted for this great opportunity for mercy! When we have received the Lord's mercy then we are more likely to be merciful to others!

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,':



MISERICORDIA ET MISERA is a phrase used by Saint Augustine in recounting the story of Jesus' meeting with the woman taken in adultery. It would be difficult to imagine a more beautiful or apt way of expressing the mystery of God's love when it touches the sinner: "the two of them alone remained: *mercy with misery*." What great mercy and divine justice shine forth in this narrative! Its teaching serves not only to throw light on the conclusion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, but also to point out the path that we are called to follow in the future.

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Leo Vazquez and Anastasia Camfield who will be baptised this weekend.

FIRST FRIDAY: The first Friday Mass will be at 7.30pm on **Friday 2nd December**. This will be followed by the Holy Hour at 8pm, which is always prayed for the pro-life cause.

LATIN MASS: The monthly Latin Mass, with sung chants, will be at 5.00pm next **Sunday 4th December**.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting Dec 16th**. 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!

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

"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. More details to follow!

DEANERY PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA (22nd to 26th May 2017): a 4-night pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady in Portugal, 100yrs on from the apparitions. Flyers now available in porch. Price expected to be £575. Please phone up the Presbytery to register your interest. Final call for pilgrims – **we need your names a.s.a.p.** Already about 30 have asked to come.

ADVENT

MILLY'S CHARITY WEEKEND will be held **this weekend** after all Masses in the crypt. Please make your way down to the crypt for special refreshments and a sale of charity cards etc with many different stalls!

WALK WITH ME booklets are now available to buy from the church porch for £1.00. The theme is "Advent, Season of Love." Please place your money in the newspaper box in the wall.

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR (3rd Sunday of each month) will be replaced next month by the **Parish Carol Service, 5pm on Sun 18th Dec**. Volunteers are needed to help make refreshments afterwards. If you can help, 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

'SYCAMORE': Fr Philip is showing a DVD series called 'Sycamore' on **Wednesdays at 10.15am** after coffee in the crypt. The last date is 30th November. All welcome! This week's theme: **"How do I discover the purpose of life?"**

ADULT CONFIRMATION COURSE: Tuesday evenings, continues on **29th November (8–9.30pm)**.

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

CONFIRMATION 2017: The next session will be on **28th Nov at 7.15-8.45pm** in the crypt for **candidates only**. 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 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 third meeting for parents will be on **Wed 30th Nov 8-9pm** in the crypt. The third session for children will be on **Mon 5th Dec 6-7.30pm**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - MASS OF ENROLMENT - This weekend at all Masses, we will formally welcome onto the programme those children preparing for their First Holy Communion. We will pray for them and hear them commit themselves to their course.

FAMILY PLANNING – GOD’S WAY –

NATURE’S WAY: The Billings Ovulation Method® of Natural Fertility Regulation is 99% effective in avoiding pregnancy – with no side effects. This method is also very helpful for couples having difficulty conceiving. Visit www.billingsmethodengland.org.uk to contact a teacher in your area.



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. 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 MARY’S ASSOCIATION is looking for a treasurer to join their committee. If you have book-keeping experience and would like to help, please get in touch via SMA@stmarys.net.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

BROXBOURNE FOODBANK will be holding an open meeting on **Wed 30th November** at 11am at 18 Fairways, New River Trading Estate, Cheshunt, EN8 0NJ. All are welcome.

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 Mon & Wed afternoons: Lammasmead, St Laurence Drive, Westlea Road, Wharf Road.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS’ FUND: Thank you so much for raising £594.50. All of this money will be used to support sick and elderly priests.

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.

WARE CHORAL SOCIETY present ‘Music for the Festive Season’ on **Sat 10th Dec** at 7.30pm at The Drill Hall, Ware. Tickets £15. Please contact Anne Byrne on 467097.

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

CHURCH CLEANING: Pam McCarthy, Maria Manzo, Charmaine Collins and 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, 22nd and 29th January 2017.



Masses this week		Today's Liturgy	
Sat 26th November 10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>		PAGE 82 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Isaiah 2: 1–5 <i>The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of God's kingdom.</i> Psalm 121 — I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.' 2nd Reading: Romans 13: 11–14 <i>Our salvation is near.</i> Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia.</i> Gospel: Matthew 23: 37–44 <i>Stay awake so that you may be ready.</i> PREFACE TODAY: Advent I (p. 65) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 2 (p. 25) NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 1st Reading: Isaiah 11: 1–10 2nd Reading: Romans 15: 4–9 Gospel: Matthew 3: 1–12	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i>			
Sun 27th Nov FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>Pietro DiLeto RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Holy Souls</i> ‡			
Mon 28th November 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>			
Tues 29th November 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>			
Wed 30th November ST ANDREW, Apostle 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> — followed by coffee in crypt			
Thurs 1st December NO Mass			
Fri 2nd December (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 7.30pm Mass <i>Mary McKeown's intentions</i> 8.00pm Holy Hour			
Sat 3rd December ST FRANCIS XAVIER, Priest 10am Mass <i>Mary Keen RIP</i>			
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Melanie Pinto RIP</i>			
Sun 4th Dec SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>Pasquale Ricotta RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Nicola Barone RIP</i> 5.00pm Latin Mass <i>For the Parish</i> ‡			
* 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)			
REGULAR EVENTS			
Mon 28th 7.15pm Confirmation, crypt Tues 29th 12.30pm Lunch club, crypt		Wed 30th 6pm Brownies, crypt Wed 30th 8pm Parents 1st HC meeting	

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.*