

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

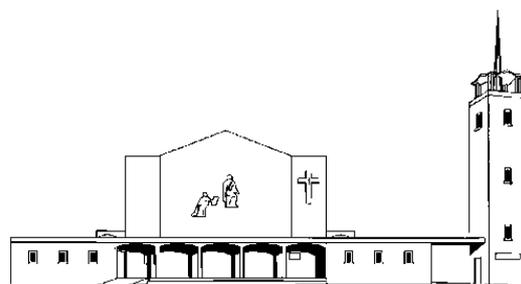
Tel: 01992-440986

Fax: 01992-440244

Web-site: www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon & Wed-Fri, 9am-3pm)



E-mail: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon"

Year B

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

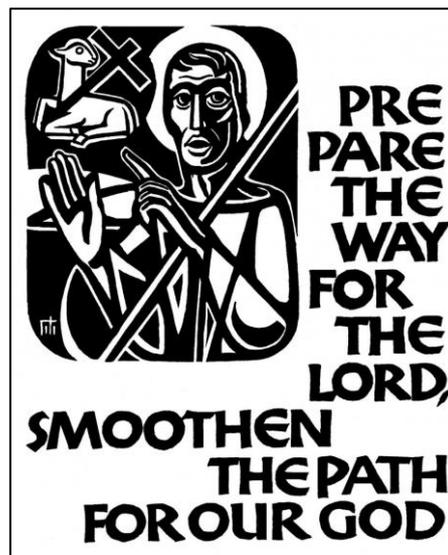
10th DECEMBER 2017

GOSPEL: Mark 1: 1-8

Make his paths straight.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

WE CONTINUE THE BEAUTIFUL SEASON OF ADVENT and today we hear in those opening words of St Mark's Gospel an introduction to the ministry of St John the Baptist. He is a great figure in our Advent liturgy, and we will hear from him again next Sunday too. His call, to "prepare the way of the Lord," echoes that "voice, crying in the wilderness" which Isaiah had long before prophesied regarding God's preparing the way for the Messiah to come. We need to listen to John the Baptist as he calls us to prepare through repentance for the coming of Christ at Christmas. In no better way can we get ready for the baby Jesus!



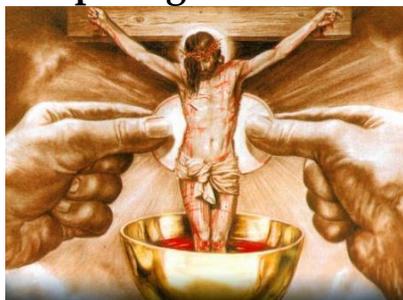
With the big Penitential Service held during the Mission a couple of weeks ago, there won't be another during Advent, but I am offering **two extra evenings of Confessions** between now and Christmas: **Friday 15th (6-7pm)** and **Tuesday 19th (7-8pm)**, so please make use of these opportunities for Reconciliation.

A REMINDER THAT OUR PARISH CAROL SERVICE will take place **next Sunday (17th Dec at 5pm)**. This is a beautiful opportunity to come together for carols and readings for the 3rd Sunday of Advent and to spend a blessed hour away from the pressures of getting ready for Christmas. Please keep this time free and bring your children, and any friends, Christian or non-Christian!

RE THE MISSION LED BY JOHN PRIDMORE, I still need to appeal to all those who were touched deeply by his visit to help the parish offset the costs of bringing him over from Ireland. So, **please, if you are able, I ask you to make a donation**, and drop an envelope into the Presbytery marked 'Mission Donation.'

May the Lord bless us with loving hearts that long to prepare for Christ's coming! Fr Philip

Preparing for the Eucharistic Congress 2018: John Paul II's *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 10:



Unfortunately, ... in some places the practice of Eucharistic adoration has been almost completely abandoned. In various parts of the Church abuses have occurred, leading to confusion with regard to sound faith and Catholic doctrine concerning this wonderful sacrament. At times one encounters an extremely reductive understanding of the Eucharistic mystery. Stripped of its sacrificial meaning, it is celebrated as if it were simply a fraternal banquet. Furthermore, the necessity of the ministerial priesthood, grounded in apostolic succession, is at times obscured and the sacramental nature of the Eucharist is reduced to its mere effectiveness as a form of proclamation.... The Eucharist is too great a gift to tolerate ambiguity and depreciation.

PRAYER & LITURGY

ROGER COOKSON RIP of The Copings, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to his family. His funeral will be on **Wednesday 13th December at 12 noon.**

May he rest in peace.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS: Confessions will be available on **Friday 15th December 6-7pm** and **Tuesday 19th December 7-8pm** in addition to usual times.

Confessions in other local parishes are:

WARE: Thursday 14th Dec 7.30pm

WALTHAM CROSS: Monday 18th Dec 7.30-9pm. Tuesday 19th - Fri 22nd 10.30-11am

HERTFORD: parish tel. 582019 has extra confessions in the week before Christmas.

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR (3rd Sunday of each month) will be replaced this month by the **Parish Carol Service, 5pm on Sun 17th 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.

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 the church.

EPIPHANY PARTY will be held on **Saturday 6th January 2018** 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 the parish.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30-8.30pm: **next meeting 15th Dec.** A semi-formal hour in the Lady Chapel to reflect together on Sunday Scriptures and bring our needs and prayers to the Lord.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for our sick parishioners & friends: John Askew, Rosa Augello, Siobhan Fiorentini, Tallulah Scott & Marina Morris.

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/bishopstortford>

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 07876-526935; Princess Alexandra, Fr Leszek Gamracy 01279-426017

CATECHETICS

CONFIRMATION 2018: The next session will be on **Tuesday 12th December 7.15pm** for candidates and parents. Candidates will need to have read chapter 8 of the Gospel of Mark.

"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 Mon 11th Dec.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: Next meeting for parents is on **Wed 10th Jan 8-9pm** in the crypt. The third session for children will be on **Mon 11th 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.

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 24th January 2018 7.30-9pm** in the presbytery. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged.



Our fundraising began in 2014, and we have

pledges of c. £185k, to give our parish project, ultimately, a slice of c. £51k. So far we already have £24k available for our parish project, which is to employ a part-time worker in the area of catechetics and evangelization.

Fr Philip is working with the diocese and seeking advice from other diocesan priests to draw up a job description to find the right person for this role.

www.rcdow.org.uk/growing-in-faith

SCHOOLS/UNDER-5s

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it; now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2018: 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 County Council. **The Primary-School 'Catholic practice' register has now finished.**

BROXBOURNE EDUCATIONAL CHARITY give grants to applicants school aged to young adults up to 25 years. They cover schools/colleges/church groups and individuals, in the Borough of Broxbourne, who require financial support to attend an educational/sport/religious event. Application forms and further information is available on the tables in the porch beside the newsletters.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

BROXBOURNE FOODBANK: The foodbank is currently low on tinned meat, fruit juice, and they are especially in need of long life milk. The donations box is in the church porch.

'POWER TO BE' CARDS: Have you posted off your card to CAFOD campaign, enclosed in the Parish Magazine, asking the World Bank for renewable resources tackling poverty? If not, then please do so, and join over 20,000 people across England and Wales who have acted

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

THANK YOU to all the parishioners who contacted us with information on available properties. The parish family in need has now found a place locally and will be moving in just after Christmas.

PARISH MAGAZINE now available to buy for £4 after all weekend Masses or from the presbytery during the week..

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will be making house visits this **Wednesday afternoon**, calling at homes in: Stanstead Road (high nos.)

MILLY'S CHARITY WEEKEND: A big thank you to everyone who helped make the weekend a success: Callum & Paul Scott, Maria Cattini & Clare, Stephen, Milly & Grace Wheatcroft. **A special thank you to Mary Briggs & Maria Scott for organising the event.** These amounts were raised: Save the Children £197, Flowers £95, refreshments £98.50, Brownie stalls £159.85, UK Aid Felsted £65, Traidcraft £99.45. **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported the event.

200 CLUB WINNERS for December are £125 Mary Lee-Lozone, £75 Alan Casbard and £50 Dawn Bates. Congratulations to you all!

POPPY APPEAL: The total raised was £41.30. Thank you for supporting The Royal British Legion.

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.

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 December.

CHURCH CLEANING: Mima Salvo, Josie Warren, Barbara Wright, Tracey Hayes & Tanya McAteer. Thank you for your help.

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 9th December 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Larry O'Neill RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 85 in the Mass books</p> 1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1–5, 9–11 <i>Prepare a way for the Lord.</i>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* For the Parish	Psalm 84 — Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.
Sun 10th Dec SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>Melanie Pinto RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Danny Hurley RIP Anniv</i> †	2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3: 8–14 <i>We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth.</i>
Mon 11th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Andy Anderson's Intentions</i>	Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!
Tues 12th December OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Antonio & Domenico Ermini RIP</i>	Gospel: Mark 1: 1–8 <i>Make his paths straight.</i> PREFACE TODAY: Advent I (p. 51) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28)
Wed 13th December ST LUCY, Virgin & Martyr 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Mary & Christopher Byrne</i> 12 noon Funeral Roger Cookson RIP	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> 1st Reading: Isaiah 61: 1–2, 10–11 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16–24 Gospel: John 1: 6–8, 19–28
Thurs 14th December ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, Priest NO Mass	
Fri 15th December <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Joy Ighade's Intentions</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> 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>
Sat 16th December 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Thomas & Lena Byrne RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Deceased members of O'Hehir & Meaney families	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</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.
Sun 17th Dec THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am <i>Linda & Vincenzo Tuzzeo RIP</i> 5pm Carol Service †	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</p> Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.
<p style="text-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>	<p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
REGULAR EVENTS	
Mon 11th 6pm 1st HC session, crypt Tues 12th Dec 7.15pm Confirmation, crypt	Wed 13th Dec 6pm Brownies, crypt Fri 15th Dec 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.*