

# The Announcer

## St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

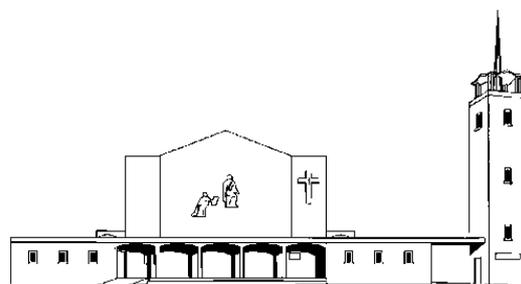
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Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

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Year B

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017

GOSPEL: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

*There stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me.*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

THE PRECIOUS SEASON OF ADVENT REACHES, TODAY, 'GAUDETE SUNDAY' which is highlighted by the rose-pink candle and Mass vestments. We see the great feast of Jesus's birth at Christmas rapidly approaching, and we sing out, 'Rejoice!'

It's a wonderful moment to 'take stock' of our Advent preparation, and to hear again, in the Gospel, of St John the Baptist's appeal to us across the centuries: "He came as a witness to speak for the Light." Let's make sure that this Sunday, with the 'rejoicing' that Christmas is near, we create a time of prayer to give thanks to God for His saving actions in bringing His Son to birth in our world. St John the Baptist urges us not to let the Saviour pass us by, but to turn to Him and serve Him. John prepared the way for Christ, so let him also prepare the way in our hearts to welcome Christ fervently this Christmas.

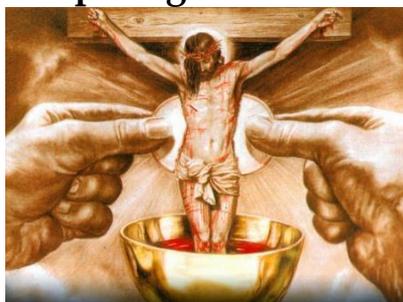


OUR PARISH CAROL SERVICE TODAY (17<sup>th</sup> Dec at 5pm) is a beautiful opportunity to come together for reflective carols and readings for Advent and to spend a truly blessed hour away from the practical pressures of getting ready for Christmas. Please keep this time free and bring your children, and any friends, Christian or non-Christian! All are welcome, and for some refreshments afterwards in the crypt.

I am offering **another extra evening for Confessions** between now and Christmas: **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> (7-8pm)**, so please make use of this chance for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or in other local parishes (see inside Newsletter for times). If you haven't been to Confession for some months, then you should certainly take this opportunity in this sacred season of Advent.

**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*, 11:**



"The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed" instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice of his body and his blood. The words of the Apostle Paul bring us back to the dramatic setting in which the Eucharist was born. The Eucharist is indelibly marked by the event of the Lord's passion and death, of which it is not only a reminder but the sacramental re-presentation. It is the sacrifice of the Cross perpetuated down the ages. This truth is well expressed by the words with which the assembly in the Latin rite responds to the priest's proclamation of the "Mystery of Faith": "*We announce your death, O Lord*".

## PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Joseph Martorana who will be baptised this weekend.

### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

**SUNDAY HOLY HOUR** (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month) will be replaced this month by the **Parish Carol Service, 5pm this Sun. Adult and young readers are needed, so if you are able to assist, please sign the lists at the back of the church.**

**SCHOOL MASSES:** On **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** there will be Mass at St Augustine's School at 9.30am and at St Cross School at 11.00am. All are welcome.

**RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS:** Confessions will be available on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 7-8pm** in addition to usual times.

Confessions in other local parishes are:  
**WALTHAM CROSS:** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.30-9pm. Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> - Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.30-11am  
**HERTFORD:** parish tel. 582019 has extra confessions in the week before Christmas.

**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.

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION** at Westminster Cathedral. An evening of Christmas music, readings, and meditation from Cardinal Vincent Nichols will take place on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm** at Westminster Cathedral. Tickets available from [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk) or 0844 844 0444

**EPIPHANY PARTY** will be held on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> 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:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, 7.30-8.30pm: **next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> Jan.** 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/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 07876-526935; Princess Alexandra, Fr Leszek Gamracy 01279-426017**

### CATECHETICS

**CONFIRMATION 2018:** The Enrolment Masses will be on the **6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> January 2018** and will involve a statement and promise of commitment to ongoing preparation. The next session will be on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 7.15pm** for candidates. Candidates will need to have read chapter 9 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 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** Next meeting for parents is on **Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 8-9pm** in the crypt. The fourth session for children will be on **Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 6-7.30pm.**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - MASS OF ENROLMENT - This weekend** at all Masses for any children who missed last weekend. We will pray for them and hear them commit themselves to their course.

**BAPTISM COURSE:** The next course will be held on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 pledged 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](http://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 from school age 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.

**THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** is distributing **12,000 Vinnie Packs** containing cold-weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Maybe you could consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.50 per pack. Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP. Thank you so much for your support.

### SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

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

**CRIB APPEAL:** The Catholic Children's Society provides mental health services for children struggling with issues such as abuse, neglect and family breakdown. Since the summer they have also been supporting children who have been traumatised by the fire at Grenfell Tower. Please give to help families in need this Christmas by the Crib or visit [www.cathchild.org.uk](http://www.cathchild.org.uk).

**HOUSE VISITS:** Fr Philip will be making house visits this **Tuesday afternoon**, calling at homes in: Stanstead Road.

**ISABEL HOSPICE CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** The total collected at Brookfield and Sainsbury's was £989. My sincere thanks to all the collectors for giving up their time. God Bless you all. Ellen Bartlett.

**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: 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> January.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Michele & Pelle De Luca & Kathleen Connors. Thank you for your help.

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
<p><b>Sat 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>            9.30am Adoration            10am Mass <i>Thomas &amp; Lena Byrne RIP</i></p>	<p><b>PAGE 87 in the Mass books</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 61: 1–2, 10–11  <i>I exult for joy in the Lord.</i></p>
<p>4.00pm* Italian Mass  <b>6.30pm* Deceased members of O'Hehir &amp; Meaney families</b></p> <p><b>Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Dec THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>            9.15am <i>For the Parish</i>            11.15am <i>Linda &amp; Vincenzo Tuzzeo RIP</i>            5pm Carol Service †</p>	<p><b>Psalm 46 — My soul rejoices in my God.</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Thessalonians 5: 16–24  <i>May you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the Lord.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <b>Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!</b></p>
<p><b>Mon 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>            8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer            9.15am Mass <i>Kathleen Nash RIP</i></p>	<p><b>Gospel:</b> John 1: 6–8, 19–28  <i>There stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me.</i></p>
<p><b>Tues 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>            9.30am Mass at St Augustine's School <i>Fr Brian Coffey RIP</i>            11am Mass at St Cross School <i>David Manners RIP</i></p>	<p><b>PREFACE TODAY:</b> Advent II (p. 52)  <b>EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:</b> no. 1 (p. 18)</p>
<p><b>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>            8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer            9.15am Mass <i>Giuseppe &amp; Maria-Teresa Distefano RIP</i></p>	<p><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b>  <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> 2 Samuel 7: 1–5, 8–12, 14–16  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Romans 16: 25–27  <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 1: 26–38</p>
<p><b>Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>            NO Mass</p>	<p><b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b>            Saturday 10.30 – 11am &amp; 5.30 – 6.15pm            Sunday 8.30 – 9am &amp; 10.40 – 11am            or ask Fr Philip at any other time.</p>
<p><b>Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>  <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i>            11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction            12 noon Mass <i>Stefan &amp; Emelia Piacentini RIP</i></p> <p><b>Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>            9.30am Adoration            10am Mass <i>Justina Ogbodu RIP</i></p>	<p><b>ROSARY</b>            The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<p>4.00pm* Italian Mass  <b>6.30pm* Luciano Dilena RIP</b></p> <p><b>Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>            9.15am <i>Baby Owen Ingram</i>            11.15am <i>For the Parish</i> †            4.00pm Italian Mass            11.30pm Carols  <b>Christmas Midnight Mass Priest's Intentions</b></p>	<p><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>
<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><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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust</b>  <b>Registered Charity No. 233699</b></p>
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	
<p><b>Mon 18<sup>th</sup></b> 7pm RCIA, presbytery</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:** *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.*