

The Annoucer

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)

Year B

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3rd DECEMBER 2017

GOSPEL: Mark 13: 33-37

Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

A BIG 'THANK YOU' TO ALL OF YOU WHO CAME TO THE MISSION last week in such big numbers, and to all who helped in special ways to assist with the evening Mission services and to assist John Pridmore during his stay. I really pray that many blessings will come to you and your families as you reflect on his direct and powerful telling of the Gospel message.

Unfortunately, on Wednesday evening the collection was forgotten, which was to offset the costs of bringing John Pridmore over. So, **please, if you are able, I ask you to make a donation**, and drop an envelope into the Presbytery marked 'Mission Donation.'



WE BEGIN THE BEAUTIFUL SEASON OF ADVENT TODAY!

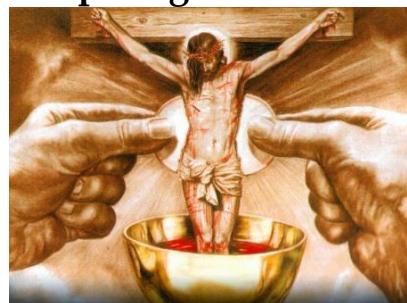
These precious weeks of waiting and preparing spiritually for Christmas form a most blessed season, I think, if kept well. Let's not try to anticipate Christmas too much, and to feel the *longing* that Advent's 'Coming' should mean. We are urged to 'stay awake' in the Gospel today, and to be alert for Jesus's Coming.

THERE ARE SOME VERY IMPORTANT ITEMS INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER, so please read and act on them, as a keen expression of love for your neighbour, as I spoke about in last week's homily:

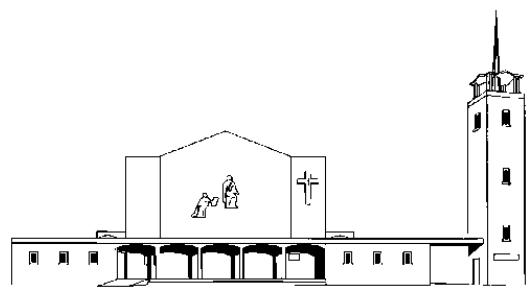
1. The walk-in swab testing at Stanborough Club (Tues or Thurs) to search for a bone-marrow donor.
2. The need for a parishioner to be re-housed, so keep an ear out for properties available.
3. The FoodBank donations needs — maybe give as an extra expression of Advent this year.
4. The 'Befriending' Group training session — Tuesday evening in the crypt, in order to get our Visiting Group for the elderly/lonely/isolated off the ground.

May the Lord bless us with loving hearts that long for Christ to come anew to us! Fr Philip

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



to those who take part in it.



E-mail: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon"

PRAYER & LITURGY

ADVENT

MILLY'S CHARITY WEEKEND is 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!

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

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR (3rd Sunday of each month) will be replaced this month by the **Parish Carol Service, 5pm on Sun 17th Dec.** Volunteers are needed to help make refreshments afterwards. If you can help, please contact the presbytery.

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/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 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 4th Dec.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: Next meeting for parents is on **Wed 6th Dec 8-9pm** in the crypt. The third session for children will be on **Mon 11th Dec 6-7.30pm**.

'PRAYER PARTNERS' are needed for the First-Holy-Communion children. A prayer partner prays for a child whilst they are preparing on this year's programme. Please print your name on the blue list at the back of the church. **Could parents please ensure that the children do not sign the blue prayer partner list instead of the register.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – MASS OF ENROLMENT – **Next 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.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE: If your child is looking to go into Reception year in a Catholic Primary school in autumn 2018, then you need to continue signing the weekly sign-in-sheet in the church porch on the noticeboard. **Secondary-school register now finished for Year 6s.**

ST MARY'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS: Please note that St Mary's is consulting on its admissions arrangements for September 2019. All consulting schools are legally required to publish their proposed policies and paperwork. Please refer to www.stmarys.net clicking on the tab Admissions/Consultation September 2019. Any responses to these proposals should be emailed to admissionsconsultation@stmarys.net by 23rd December 2017.

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.

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 the church.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

PLEASE! URGENTLY NEEDED 2-bedroom property/flat in the parish for a family of 4, (£900 pcm max). This is for a parish family that needs rehousing by the new year. If you have an empty property to let, or know of anyone

who does, then please contact the presbytery immediately.

URGENT! HELP NEEDED for a parishioner, Ian Witham, a 42-year-old father of three daughters, who is suffering from leukaemia. Ian needs to find a bone marrow match urgently. There will be a walk-in service to do a free, quick and easy swab on the **5th and 7th December at the Stanborough Conservative Club, Hoddesdon 10am-7pm**. You must be aged between 17 to 55. If you can't make it, you can register for your free swab kit at <https://www.dkms.org.uk/en>.

PARISH MAGAZINE now available to buy for £4 after all weekend Masses or from the presbytery during the week. Please note there is a postcard from CAFOD in the magazine which needs to be signed and sent off freepost as soon as possible - please see page 42 for more info.

BEFRIENDING TRAINING COURSE will be held on **Tuesday 5th December at 7.30pm** in the crypt. All are welcome to attend, particularly those who wish to visit the elderly and housebound. For more information, please contact Janet Lampard on 01992-428490.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS 2018 now available to buy from the back of the church for £4.50. Please place money in newspaper box.

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will resume his house visits this **Monday afternoon**, calling at homes in: Meadway, Admirals Walk, St David's Drive.

ISABEL HOSPICE CHRISTMAS APPEAL: Collectors needed for **Wed 6th & Thurs 7th Dec 10-4pm** at Brookfield and **Sat 9th Dec 11-12 noon** at Sainsbury's. Please contact Ellen on 464677.

WARE CHORAL SOCIETY is hosting "A Miscellany of Music for Christmas" on **Saturday 9th December 7.30pm** at The Drill Hall, Ware. Tickets £15 Please contact Anne Byrne on 467097.

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: 3rd and 10th December.

CHURCH CLEANING: Filomena Mezzullo, Laura Harwood and Tony and Linda Barrell. Thank you for your help.

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 2nd December 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass Vincenzo Graffato RIP	PAGE 82 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Isaiah 63: 16–17, 64: 1, 3–8 Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down. Psalm 79 — God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3–9 We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.
Sun 3rd Dec FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Sue Porto RIP 11.15am Nicola Barone RIP 5pm Latin Mass For the Parish ‡	Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia! Gospel: Mark 13: 33–37 Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming. PREFACE TODAY: Advent I (p. 51) EUCARISTIC PRAYER: no. 2 (p. 25)
Mon 4th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Sick & housebound of the parish	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1–5, 9–11 2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3: 8–14 Gospel: Mark 1: 1–8
Tues 5th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Dennis Dempsey RIP	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIO N) Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at any other time.
Wed 6th December ST NICHOLAS, Bishop 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass In Thanksgiving	ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Thurs 7th December ST AMBROSE, Bishop & Dr 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Maria Mustoe RIP	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.
Fri 8th Dec IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Andrea Rosalinda Cattini RIP	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
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* For the Parish	REGULAR EVENTS Wed 6th Dec 6pm Brownies, crypt Wed 6th Dec 8pm 1st HC meeting, crypt
* 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)	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.

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.