

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

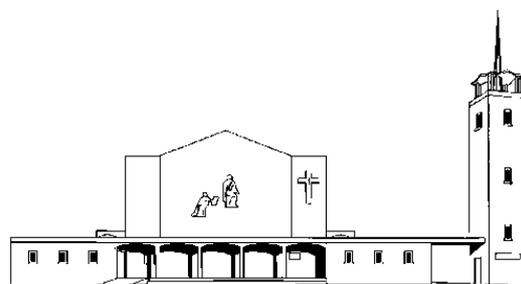
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Year B

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

31st DEC 2017

GOSPEL: Luke 2: 22-40

The child grew, filled with wisdom.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

A VERY BLESSED & HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL! I hope very much that, whether you were here in the parish or travelled to be with relatives and friends, you had a pleasant celebration of Our Lord's sacred Nativity. The Christmas season continues for many more days, encompassing the great feasts of Holy Family (today), **Mary Mother of God** (1st Jan), the **Epiphany** (next weekend), and ending with the **Baptism of the Lord** (Monday 8th). So, we still have much to celebrate in these coming days! Let's keep Christmastide well – keep up our Christmas trees and decorations, and show that Christmas isn't just a day, but a whole season!



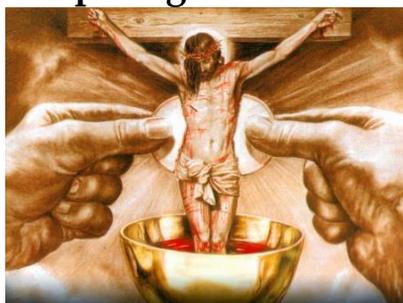
OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY takes place next weekend, on the feast of the Epiphany, sometimes known as 'Twelfth Night' – a traditional date for a festive celebration. Please come to the party at 7.30pm in the crypt, after the Saturday evening Mass is over, and bring some finger food (buffet) to share. The parish will provide wine and juice for you, and we will celebrate these joyful mysteries of the Lord's birth!

THANKS, AGAIN, TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED to the wonderful celebration of Christmas, through the music, flowers, serving and in the sacristy. And I am very appreciative of all your cards and gifts received at this time, and for your messages of love and care.

NOTE: Monday's Mass is 10am (Bank Holiday); and Friday's Masses are 9.30am and 7.30pm (NOT 12 noon this week). The *full* version of this week's Newsletter can be found, as always, online at the parish website address, www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon/newsletters.

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:



When the Church celebrates the Eucharist, the memorial of her Lord's death and resurrection, this central event of salvation becomes really present and "the work of our redemption is carried out." This sacrifice is so decisive for the salvation of the human race that Jesus Christ offered it and returned to the Father only *after he had left us a means of sharing in it* as if we had been present there. Each member of the faithful can thus take part in it and inexhaustibly gain its fruits. This is the faith from which generations of Christians down the ages have lived. The Church's Magisterium has constantly reaffirmed this faith with joyful gratitude for its inestimable gift. I wish once more to recall this truth and to join you, my dear brothers and sisters, in adoration before this mystery: a great mystery, a mystery of mercy. What more could Jesus have done for us? Truly, in the Eucharist, he shows us a love which goes "to the end," a love which knows no measure.

PRAYER & LITURGY

MARGHERITA BARONE RIP of Hertford Road, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. **Her funeral will be on Monday 8th January at 11am.** *May she rest in peace.*

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS on Monday will be at 10am due to the Bank Holiday and then the church will be closed after Mass.

FRIDAY MORNING MASS will be at 9.30am with both schools in church. **There will therefore be no 12 noon Mass.** There will still be 11am Adoration and Benediction as usual.

FIRST FRIDAY: The first-Friday Mass will be at **7.30pm on Friday 5th January.** This will be followed by the Holy Hour at 8pm, which is always prayed for the pro-life cause.

EPIPHANY PARTY will be held on **Sat 6th January** 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 sign your name on the list at the back of the church. Drinks provided by the parish.

LATIN MASS: The monthly Latin Mass, with sung chants, will be at **5.00pm next Sun 7th Jan.**

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30-8.30pm: **next meeting 12th Jan.** A semi-formal hour in the Lady Chapel to reflect together on Sunday Scriptures and bring our needs and prayers to the Lord.

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR will next take place on **Sunday 21st January at 5pm** (to 5.45pm only, because of the Christian Unity service at 6pm) with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction. A truly peaceful hour!

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 Enrolment Masses will be on the **6th/7th January 2018** and will involve a statement and promise of commitment to ongoing preparation. The next session will be on **Tuesday 9th January 7.15pm** for candidates. Candidates will need to have read chapter 9 of the Gospel of Mark. The Confirmation Mass will be on **Sunday 22nd April at 1.30pm.**

"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 8th January 2018.**

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

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 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

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

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 for your support.

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal on the **13th/14th January**. SPUC is currently

campaigning to stop the decriminalisation of abortion, which means taking abortion outside the law. This is the most dangerous threat to unborn children and their mothers in decades. Please be as generous as you can to help us defeat the latest attack on unborn babies and their mothers, and to stop abortion getting even worse in this country by decriminalisation.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

BEFRIENDING-GROUP MEETING: there will be a follow-up meeting for those who attended the December training evening on Tuesday 16th January at 7.30pm in the crypt. Claire Hay will speak to us about safeguarding matters in regard to parish visiting. Please come along, or contact Janet Lampard if necessary on 428490.

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.

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

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: 7th, 21st & 28th January.

CHURCH CLEANING: Filomena Mezzullo, Elizabeth Nsonwah, Tony & Linda Barrell. Thank you for your help.



Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 30th December 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Chris Whelehan RIP</i>	PAGE 105 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Genesis 15: 1–6, 21: 1–3 <i>Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood.</i>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* For the Parish	Psalm 104 — He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.
Sun 31st Dec THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 9.15am <i>Larry O'Neill RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Mary Theresa's intentions</i> †	2nd Reading: Hebrews 11: 8, 11–12, 17–19 <i>The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac.</i> Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!</i>
Mon 1st January SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 10am Mass <i>Andrea Rosalinda Cattini RIP</i> PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS	Gospel: Luke 2: 22–40 <i>The child grew, filled with wisdom.</i>
Tues 2nd January SS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN, Bishops & Doctors 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Kitty Keenan RIP</i>	PREFACE TODAY: Nativity II (p. 52) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)
Wed 3rd January 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Kathleen Coyle RIP</i>	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1–6 2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2–3, 5–6 Gospel: Matthew 2: 1–12
Thurs 4th January NO Mass	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) 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>
Fri 5th January <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 9.30am Mass with Schools <i>Angela & Terry McIntyre int's</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction NO 12 noon Mass 7.30pm Mass <i>Freda Benge RIP</i> 8pm Holy Hour	ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Sat 6th January 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Pietro Dileto RIP</i>	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.
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Ian Witham's intentions Sun 7th January THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 9.15am** <i>Clare Linscott RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Christina Deloughery RIP</i> 5pm Latin Mass <i>For the Parish</i> †	SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.
* 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)	Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699
REGULAR EVENTS	

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.*