

# The Announcer

## St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

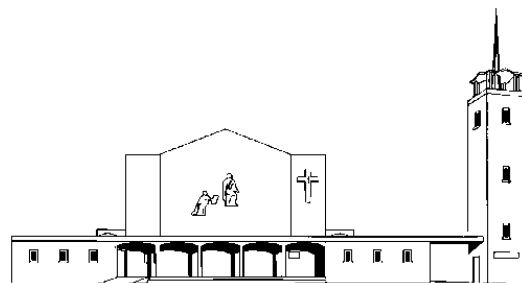
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Year A SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2017

Luke 2: 16-21 – *They found Mary and Joseph and the baby  
When the eighth day came, they gave him the name Jesus.*



My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

A VERY HAPPY ONGOING CHRISTMASTIDE TO YOU! I extend my Christmas greetings especially to those of you who were away from the parish at Christmas, and pray that you have had a blessed time, perhaps visiting relatives and friends for the festive season. Also, a Happy New Year 2017 to you all!

This octave day of Christmas we keep as the Solemnity of Our Blessed Lady as Mother of God, acknowledging that through Immaculate Mary, the Son of God took His flesh to enter into the history of this world. She truly became His Mother when He chose to be conceived in her womb, and so the Church accepts as an appropriate title for her, 'Mother of God' – the *Theotokos*, or 'God bearer.' It is a title of Mary that was solemnly defined way

back in 431AD, at the great Council of Ephesus, and we use this sacred title for her every single time we pray the *Hail Mary*: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners ..."

I INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMASTIDE TOGETHER WITH ME at our parish Epiphany party next weekend: 7.30pm after the Saturday evening Mass (7<sup>th</sup> Jan). Please come, and bring finger food; and the parish will provide the drinks for the occasion. It will be a wonderful way to share some Christmas joy together prior to the close of the season.

'THE BIG PICTURE' STARTS ON TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY. This new series of evenings together will help us to appreciate the Bible's message. Please take a flyer, and also sign up on the noticeboard, as there'll be a book & DVD pack provided for each participant, so we need to know (roughly) how many want to come along. It'll be a great series, so please think of joining!

May the Lord bless us in 2017 with a growing love for Him, by the prayers of Mary! Fr Philip

Pope Francis, from *Misericordia et Misera*, closing the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' n.2:



*Forgiveness* is the most visible sign of the Father's love, which Jesus sought to reveal by His entire life. Every page of the Gospel is marked by this imperative of a love that loves to the point of forgiveness. Even at the last moment of His earthly life, as He was being nailed to the cross, Jesus spoke words of forgiveness: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Nothing of what a repentant sinner places before God's mercy can be excluded from the embrace of His forgiveness. For this reason, none of us has the right to make forgiveness conditional. Mercy is always a gratuitous act of our heavenly Father, an unconditional and unmerited act of love. Consequently, we cannot risk opposing the full freedom of the love with which God

enters into the life of every person.

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**MASS on Monday** will be at 10am due to the Bank Holiday. Please note the church will be closed straight after Mass.

**BRIDGET GORRY RIP** of Granville Gardens, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. **The funeral will be on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am. Please note there will therefore be no 11am Adoration or 12 noon Mass that day.** *May she rest in peace.*

**FIRST FRIDAY:** The first Friday Mass will be at **7.30pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January.** 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 8<sup>th</sup> January.**

**EPIPHANY PARTY** will be held on **Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Jan** 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 will be provided by parish.

**"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 **10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017** in the crypt at 7.30pm. **See the noticeboard in porch.**

**FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, 7.30-8.30pm: **next meeting Jan 20<sup>th</sup>.** 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!

**SUNDAY HOLY HOUR** will take place on at **5pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction. A truly peaceful hour!

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Children (any age) who have at least made their First Holy Communion and wish to become altar servers, 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**

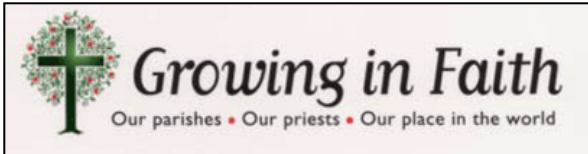
## CATECHETICS

**ADULT CONFIRMATION COURSE:** Tuesday evenings, continues **3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 8-9.30pm.**

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

**CONFIRMATION 2017:** The next session will be on **23<sup>rd</sup> Jan at 7.15-8.45pm** in the crypt for **candidates and parents.** Candidates will need to have read chapters 9 & 10 of the Gospel of Mark. The Enrolment Masses will be on the **7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> January** and will involve a simple statement of commitment to ongoing preparation. **We have slightly adjusted the times of the Confirmation Masses on the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 fourth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 8-9pm** in the crypt. The fourth session for children will be on **Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 6-7.30pm.**



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](http://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. **Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> January.** Please ensure that you apply to both schools as in total 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 AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL:** Miss Kousoulou will be conducting a final tour of the school on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 11.45 am.** If there are any prospective families that would like to view Reception Class, please ring the school office. Telephone number 01992-463549.

**ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5's** needs a cleaner to start in January 2017. The hours are flexible and would be 2hrs per week. For more information, please contact under 5's on 460614.

### JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

**SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:** The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal on the **7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> January.** In 2017 SPUC is commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act. Over 8.7 million unborn children have lost their lives due to abortion in the last 50 years. Since 1967, SPUC has been working tirelessly to uphold the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. Please help make 2017 a landmark year in SPUC's

historic campaign to win legal protection for unborn children. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC and help save mothers and babies from abortion.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**CRIB APPEAL:** The Catholic Children's Society have been helping children who have been sleeping on floors, who go hungry to bed and whose health has suffered because there is no heating at home during winter months. Please give to help families in need this Christmas by the Crib or visit [www.cathchild.org.uk](http://www.cathchild.org.uk).

**MISSIO RED BOXES:** The total collected for 2016 was £1181.25. My sincere thanks for your donations which will help churches and schools all over the world. Ellen Bartlett.

**WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS 2017** are now available by the newspapers for £4.50. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

**HOUSE VISITS:** Fr Philip has now finished his visiting of the parish in this 3<sup>rd</sup> round of visits. He thanks all those who have invited him in to chat in their homes, and hopes to initiate a 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of visits later in January.

**CHURCH CLEANERS** are **urgently needed** to help clean the church for just one hour per month. **Help is still needed on Wednesday mornings and afternoons as there are only 3 people on each team.** If you can help, please contact presbytery **as soon as possible.**

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Filomena Mezzullo, Elizabeth Nsonwah, Laura Harwood & Tony & Linda Barrell. 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: 22<sup>nd</sup> January & 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY IN OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</b> 10am Mass <i>Christine Davies RIP Anniv</i>	<b>PAGE 109 in the Mass books</b>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm Mass* <i>For the Parish</i>  <b>Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Jan SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b> 9.15am <i>Juanita Pineda RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Deceased members of Woolsgrove &amp; McDonagh families &amp; Eileen Sweeney RIP †</i>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Numbers 6: 22–27 <i>They are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.</i>  <b>Psalm 66 — O God, be gracious and bless us.</b>  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Galatians 4: 4–7 <i>God sent his Son born of a woman.</i>  Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia.</i>
<b>Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> January SS BASIL THE GREAT &amp; GREGORY NAZIANZEN</b> 10am Mass <i>Charlie McNamee RIP</i> <b>PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</b>  <b>Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> January MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS</b> 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>  <b>Wed 4<sup>th</sup> January</b> 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Arrigo Bertolotti RIP — followed by coffee in crypt</i>  <b>Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>NO Mass</b>  <b>Fri 6<sup>th</sup> January</b> 9.30am Funeral <i>Bridget Gorry RIP</i> 7.30pm Mass <i>Pat Johnson RIP</i> 8.00pm Holy Hour  <b>Sat 7<sup>th</sup> January</b> 10am Mass <i>Marina Morris's intentions</i>	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 2: 16–21 <i>They found Mary and Joseph and the baby ... When the eighth day came, they gave him the name Jesus.</i>  <b>PREFACE TODAY:</b> Motherhood of Mary (p. 67) <b>EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:</b> no. 1 (p. 18)  <b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b> THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 60: 1–6 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Ephesians 3: 2–3, 5–6 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 2: 1–12
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Patrick Malone RIP</i>  <b>Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Jan THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b> 9.15am <i>Peace in Syria</i> 11.15am <i>Ian &amp; John Patrick Laydon RIP</i> 5.00pm Latin Mass <i>For the Parish †</i>	<b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b> 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>  <b>ROSARY</b> Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.  <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.  <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.  <b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust</b> <b>Registered Charity No. 233699</b>
<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>	
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	
<b>Tues 3rd</b> 8pm Adult Confirmation, presbytery	<b>Wed 4th</b> 7.30pm Baptism course, presbytery

**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.*