

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

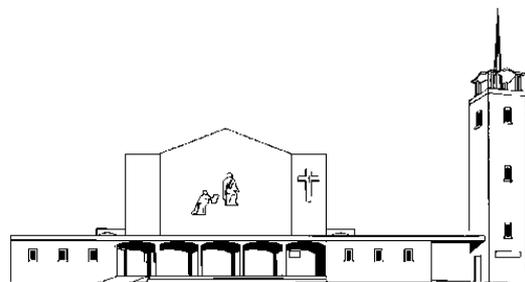
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Year A

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

15th JANUARY 2017

John 1: 29-34 – *Look, there is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world!*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

Behold, the
Lamb of God
Who takes away the sins of the world



THESE POWERFUL WORDS, "BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD," are given to us in the Gospel today from the mouth of St John the Baptist, as he testifies to the unique Saviour, Jesus Christ. We concluded our Christmas season a week ago with the feasts of Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord, and now we return to the 'Ordinary Sundays of the Year.' Although most of this 'Year A' will be taken up with the Gospel of Matthew, yet today we hear from St John's Gospel about the closing of St John the Baptist's ministry and the opening of Jesus's at the River Jordan.

I AM ON PILGRIMAGE IN THE HOLY LAND this weekend, and shall return to the parish on Monday evening. Please welcome and make feel at home the various priests who come to supply here in Hoddesdon in these days – I am very grateful for their coming here to celebrate Mass for you during my absence. I shall be keeping you all in my prayers at the holy places, including the Jordan River.

May we come to know intimately the Lamb of God who takes away our sins!

Fr Philip

Pope Francis, from *Misericordia et Misera*, closing the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' n. 3:



How meaningful ... are the words of encouragement found in an early Christian text: "Clothe yourselves in joy, which always is agreeable and acceptable to God, and rejoice in it. For all who are joyful do what is good, think what is good, and despise sadness ... All who put aside sadness and put on joy will live in God." The experience of mercy brings joy. May we never allow this joy to be robbed from us by our troubles and concerns. May it remain rooted in our hearts and enable us to approach with serenity the events of our daily lives.

In a culture often dominated by technology, sadness and loneliness appear to be on the rise, not least among young people. The future seems prey to an uncertainty that does not make for stability. This often gives rise to depression, sadness and boredom, which can gradually lead to despair. We need witnesses to hope and true joy if we are to dispel the illusions that promise quick and easy happiness through artificial paradises. The profound sense of emptiness felt by so many people can be overcome by the hope we bear in our hearts and by the joy that it gives. We need to acknowledge the joy that rises up in a heart touched by mercy. Let us keep in mind, then, the words of the Apostle: "Rejoice in the Lord always."

PRAYER & LITURGY

ADORATION/MORNING PRAYER will not take place on **Monday** morning whilst Fr Philip is away. There will still be 9.15am Mass as usual.

MASS ON WEDNESDAY this week will be a **school Mass** in church for the opening of the new term. Mass will be at **9.30am**, and there will not be Morning Prayer that day.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting Jan 20th**. 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 22nd January** with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction. A truly peaceful hour!

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE: this year's united service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place **next Sunday (22nd) at 6.30pm at St Cuthbert's church** in Whitley Road.

"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, continuing on the **24th Jan 2017** in the crypt at 7.30pm. **See noticeboard in porch.**

NEW ALTAR SERVERS: Children (any age) who have at least made their First Holy Communion, please contact the presbytery.

THE ROTA FOR READERS / MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION for the period February – May 2017 is due to be drawn up shortly. Please advise Pat Kavanagh (tel. 449282 or e-mail patandcarolkav@btinternet.com) by **Wed 25th Jan** at the latest of any dates in this period that you are NOT available. Please also advise of any changes in personal contact details e.g. address, telephone number etc.

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: Tues evenings, concludes on **17th Jan 8–9.30pm**.

BAPTISM COURSE this month finishes **Fri 27th Jan 7.30-9pm** in the church. A course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged.

CONFIRMATION 2017: next session **23rd Jan at 7.15-8.45pm** for **candidates and parents**. Candidates need to have read chs 9 & 10 of the Mark's Gospel. We have slightly adjusted the times of the Confirmation Masses on the **7th May 2017 to 1.15pm and 4pm**. However, the numbers for each Mass are very unbalanced. **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 18th Jan 8–9pm** in the crypt. The fourth session for children will be on **Mon 16th 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

SCHOOLS/UNDER-5s

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE: If your child is presently in year 5 and would wish to go to St Mary's or another Catholic secondary school in 2018, or if your child is looking to go into Reception year in a Catholic Primary school in autumn 2018, then you will need to apply **immediately** to go on the list for requesting a 'Certificate of Catholic Practice' towards the end of 2017. An information pack is **available now** from the presbytery. Once you have completed the form and returned it to the presbytery, your name will be added to the weekly sign-in-sheet which will be available in the church porch on the noticeboard (by the fire-exit door) for signing after the Saturday evening vigil Mass and the Masses of Sunday. On this basis Fr Philip will be in a better position to judge whether he can issue the Certificate you ask for.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH CAFOD. Make 2017 the year you meet new friends, inspire others to act for social justice, and use your skills to help our sisters and brothers working to overcome poverty around the globe. Are you a people-person who would relish involving and encouraging others in your local area? Or maybe you are a good communicator who would enjoy speaking in churches or presenting assemblies and workshops in schools? Please get in touch with us on westminster@cafod.org.uk or 020-8449-6970 to find out more and book a place on one of our Understanding CAFOD information sessions: on **Sat 28th January** in Stratford E15 and **Sat 4th February** in Waterloo SE1. The Stratford session has limited places so please contact us early if this is your preferred session.

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The amount collected was £272.25. Thank you!

TRAIDCRAFT stall will be at the back of the church next weekend.

MISCELLANEOUS

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS 2017 are now

available by the newspapers for £4.50. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

HOUSE VISITS: Before Christmas Fr Philip finished his visiting of the parish. He thanks all those who invited him in to chat in their homes, and hopes to initiate his next cycle of visits on Wednesday 25th January.

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION: Thank you to everyone who came and brought food to share at the Epiphany party last Saturday. Thanks especially to Vicky & Tony Forni for their help. It was a really lovely evening to celebrate the Christmas season!

200 CLUB winner for January was Mr and Mrs Alvey no 6. Congratulations!

TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB will be held in the crypt on **24th Jan**, 7th & 21st Feb, 7th & 21st March and 4th April from 12.30-2.30pm. Price £4. All welcome!

MASS INTENTIONS: Please note that there are plenty of spaces to have Masses said during the week. Please do complete a brown envelope and hand it into the presbytery to book a Mass.

REFUGEES: NEXT STEP: Caritas Westminster in partnership with Capital Mass are holding an event relating to the refugee crisis on **Wednesday 1st Feb, 7-9pm, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QN.** This is a chance to hear more about the community sponsorship programme, and an update about the current situation in Syria. Please RSVP to caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk if you'd like to attend, or search for the events on Eventbrite.

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: Michele & Pelle De Luca, Mary Dineen and Kathleen Connors. 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: 5th & 19th February.

Masses this week		Today's Liturgy
Sat 14th Jan NO 10am Mass		PAGE 125 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5–6 <i>I will make you the light of the nations.</i> Psalm 39 — Hear I am, Lord, I come to do Your will. 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1–3 <i>May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.</i> Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia. Gospel: John 1:29–34 <i>Look, there is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world!</i> PREFACE TODAY: ad lib. EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: ad lib. NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 3 rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1st Reading: Isaiah 8: 23-9:3 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17 Gospel: Matthew 4: 12-23
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i> Sun 15th Jan 2nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.15am** <i>Pietro di Leto RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Baby William O'Bryan RIP</i> ‡		
Mon 16th January 9.15am Mass <i>Maria McDonagh Ford RIP</i> Tues 17th January ST ANTHONY ABBOT 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Kitty O'Rourke RIP Anniv</i> Wed 18th January 8.15am Adoration 9.30am Mass <i>Intentions of our parish schools — followed by coffee in crypt</i> Thurs 19th January NO Mass Fri 20th January <i>(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12noon Mass <i>Neville Yarwood RIP</i> Sat 21st January ST AGNES, virgin & martyr 10am Mass <i>John & Johanna Doyle RIP Anniv.</i>		
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Patrick Malone RIP</i> Sun 22nd Jan 3rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.15am** <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am <i>Giuseppe Tambuzzo</i> ‡ 5.00pm Holy Hour		
<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>		
REGULAR EVENTS		
Mon 16th 6pm 1st HC session, crypt Tues 17th 8pm Adult Confirmation, presbytery	Wed 18th 6pm Brownies, crypt Wed 18th 8pm Parents 1st HC meeting, crypt	

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.*