

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

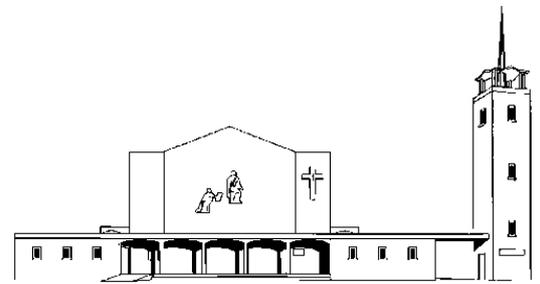
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Year A

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

8th JANUARY 2017

Matthew 2: 1-12 — *We saw His star and have come to do the king homage*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

A VERY HAPPY EPIPHANY TO YOU! This penultimate feast of the Christmas season brings much joy: the knowledge that Jesus was born not just as Messiah for the Jews, but as Saviour of all peoples! The Magi represent the outside world — the Gentile nations — coming to view and worship the new-born Son of God. So, in parts of the Church Epiphany is celebrated as a greater feast than Christmas, because it's when the news of Our Lord's birth became known. Hence the name, 'epiphany,' meaning 'manifestation': the Good News, the Gospel of 'God with us' is to be shared with all the world!

The gifts that the Magi bring are not the sort of regular gifts that a baby would expect to receive, but are "sacred gifts of mystic meaning": gold is for the Kings of kings; the incense is to honour Him as true God; the myrrh for anointing is a reminder of His early death and burial.

'THE BIG PICTURE' STARTS THIS TUESDAY 10TH JANUARY, a new series of evenings together to help us appreciate the beauty and richness of 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 coming along on Tuesday evening (crypt, 7.30pm): all welcome!

I SHALL BE ON PILGRIMAGE IN THE HOLY LAND THIS WEEK. I shall keep you all in my prayers as I visit the holy sites of Our Lord's birth, childhood, baptism, temptation, Galilean ministry, Jerusalem ministry, death and resurrection. My visit is a study retreat, with other Catholic clergy, to deepen our appreciation of the Scripture, and I pray that when I return I will be able to share some of what I have learnt through the homilies of the weeks to come.

May the Lord bless us in 2017 as we rejoice in the Good News of His birth!

Fr Philip

Pope Francis, from *Misericordia et Misera*, closing the 'Holy Year of Mercy,' nn.2-3:



Mercy is this concrete action of love that, by forgiving, transforms and changes our lives. In this way, the divine mystery of mercy is made manifest. God is merciful; His mercy lasts for ever. From generation to generation, it embraces all those who trust in Him and it changes them, by bestowing a share in His very life. What great joy welled up in the heart of these two women [in Jn 8 and Lk 7]. Forgiveness made them feel free at last and happy as never before. Their tears of shame and pain turned into the smile of a person who knows that he or she is loved. Mercy gives rise to *joy*, because our hearts are opened to the hope of a new life. The joy of

forgiveness is inexpressible, yet it radiates all around us whenever we experience forgiveness. Its source is in the love with which God comes to meet us, breaking through walls of selfishness that surround us, in order to make us in turn instruments of mercy.

PRAYER & LITURGY

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

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!

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/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 07884-187463; Princess Alexandra, Fr Leszek Gamracy 01279-426017

CATECHETICS

ADULT CONFIRMATION COURSE: Tues evenings, concludes on **17th Jan 8-9.30pm**.

BAPTISM COURSE: the current course concludes on **Fri 27th Jan 2017 7.30-9.00pm** in the church. A course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged.

CONFIRMATION 2017: The next session will be on **23rd 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 **7th/8th January** and will involve a simple statement of commitment to ongoing preparation. **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. 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 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

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2017: Applications are now open for both St Augustine's and St Cross Schools. **Deadline: 15th 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.

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL: Miss Kousoulou will be conducting a final tour of the school on **Thursday 12th 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.

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.

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 this weekend, **7th/8th January.** 2017 sees the tragic 50th 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.

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.

MISCELLANEOUS

CRIB APPEAL: LAST WEEKEND for the Crib collection! The Catholic Children's Society has 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.

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 3rd round of visits. He thanks all those who have invited him in to chat in their homes, and hopes to initiate his next cycle of visits on the 25th 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: Cheryl Holbourn, Mima Salvo, Josie Warren, Barbara Wright, & Tracey Hayes. 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: 22nd January, 5th & 19th February.

Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 7th Jan 10am Mass <i>Marina Morris's intentions</i>	PAGE 114/115 in the Mass books
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Patrick Malone RIP Sun 8th Jan EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 9.15am** <i>Peace in Syria</i> 11.15am <i>Ian & John Patrick Laydon RIP</i> 5.00pm Latin Mass <i>For the Parish</i> ‡	1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1–6 <i>Above you the glory of the Lord appears.</i> Psalm 66 — O God, be gracious and bless us. 2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2–3, 5–6 <i>It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.</i>
Mon 9th January BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9.15am Mass <i>Dec'd members of Soldano & Dinoto families</i>	Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! <i>We saw His start as it rose, and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia.</i>
Tues 10th January 9.15am Mass <i>Bridget Gorry RIP</i>	Gospel: Matthew 2: 1–12 <i>We saw His star and have come to do the king homage.</i>
Wed 11th January 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls — followed by coffee in crypt</i>	PREFACE TODAY: Epiphany (p. 67) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)
Thurs 12th January NO Mass	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 2 nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Fri 13th January <i>(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12noon Mass <i>Bridget Gorry RIP</i>	1st Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5–6 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1–3 Gospel: John 1:29–34
Sat 14th January 10am NO Mass	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i>	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>
Sun 15th Jan 2nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.15am** <i>Pietro di Leto RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Baby William O'Brien RIP</i> ‡	ROSARY Rosary is said in the Walsingham Chapel after each weekday Mass and after Saturday 10am Mass.
<p style="text-align: center;">* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p> <p>** With Children's Liturgy (nursery-age to year 2 only)</p> <p>‡ There are also Sunday evening Masses in English in Hertford (6pm) and Waltham Cross (6.30pm)</p>	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.
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 3rd 8pm Adult Confirmation, presbytery	Wed 4th 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.*