

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

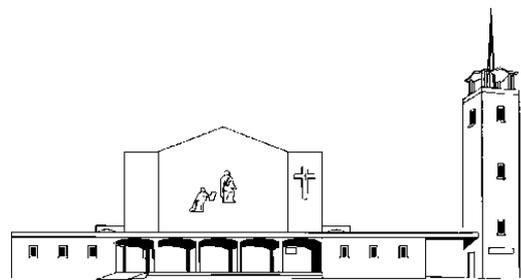
The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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(<http://yofhomilies.wordpress.com>)



Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9am–3pm)

Also in residence: Fr Joseph Thayil Mathew (chaplain to Syro-Malabar-rite Catholics)

Year A

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

5TH JANUARY 2014

GOSPEL: Matthew 2: 1–12

We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

WE COME TODAY TO THE NEXT CHRISTMAS FEAST, THE EPIPHANY. We recall today the news of Our Lord's birth reaching the 'outer world,' mankind beyond the confines of Israel and the Jewish people. It is, in fact, a feast of the Good News being made known to all humanity. In the persons of the Magi from the East, all mankind comes to see the new-born King, the Son of God made man. All humanity comes to worship and bring the gift of their lives to Jesus, for He is the One whom all should adore. The Magi's gifts have symbolic meanings which represent the reality of Jesus Christ: He is King (hence the gold), though He is a King not of this world; He is true God (hence the incense which we burn in the presence of the deity); and He is born as One who will die (hence the myrrh to anoint His body) — though in fact in dying He will conquer death.



NEXT SUNDAY WE WILL HAVE A LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP outlining the diocese's *Growing in Faith* vision, which all the parish's across our diocese of Westminster have been — or will be — partaking in. All the Catholics in Westminster are being invited to contribute to this scheme of support for the life of our diocesan parishes, especially in the urgent needs to bolster parish life, care for our priests in training, our sick & retired clergy, and the poor and vulnerable. More about this next weekend ...

A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU! I pray that, with the blessings of Jesus Christ whom we serve and adore as "king and God and sacrifice," we will have a grace-filled year together as a parish, and will, each of us, draw closer to the loving Lord.

May God bless us all as we embark together in faith in 2014!

Fr Philip

From *Gaudium et Spes*, Vatican II on 'The Church in the Modern World,' n. 7:



These new conditions have their impact on religion. On the one hand a more critical ability to distinguish religion from a magical view of the world and from the superstitions which still circulate purifies it and exacts day by day a more personal and explicit adherence to faith. As a result many persons are achieving a more vivid sense of God. On the other hand, growing numbers of people are abandoning religion in practice. Unlike former days, the denial of God or of religion, or the abandonment of them, are no longer unusual and individual occurrences. For today it is not rare for such things to be presented as requirements of scientific progress or of a certain new humanism. In numerous places these views are voiced not only in the teachings of philosophers, but on every side they influence literature, the arts, the interpretation of the humanities and of history and civil laws themselves. As a consequence, many people are shaken.

PRAYER & LITURGY

LATIN MASS: The monthly Latin Mass, with sung chants, will be at 5.00pm **this Sunday 5th January.**

MASS: This **Friday** there will be Mass at 1.45pm in church with both primary schools. All parishioners are welcome to attend. There will still be Mass at noon as usual.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday evening of each month, 7.30–8.30pm, **Friday 17th January.** A semi-formal quiet hour in the Lady Chapel once a month to reflect on the Sunday Scriptures and bring our needs and prayers to the Lord.

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR: will next take place 5pm on **Sunday 19th Jan,** finishing early at 5.45pm to allow Fr Philip to get to the Christian Unity Service.

ANNUAL CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 19th January** at Hoddesdon Baptist Church at 6pm. This service is held on behalf of the Churches Together in Hoddesdon and all parishioners are welcome.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS/READER ROTA: The next rota for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for the period February 2014 - May 2014 is due to be drawn up shortly. Can you please let Pat Kavanagh know of any dates that you are **NOT** available during this period by **21st January** at the latest (final date). Please telephone 449282 or email patandcarolkav@btinternet.com. Thank you.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

We pray for our parishioners and friends who are sick: Sue Porto, Christopher Browne, John Askew, Alan Dolan, Rosa Augello, Roberto Piacentini, Mark Reason, Hilda Andrews, Joanne Sheridan, Helen Sherman, Annette Pinto, Bohita Fanor, Jill Logsdail, Joe Barr, Jenny Miller, and Joseph Penheiro.

PLEASE TELL US IF ANYONE IS HOUSEBOUND, EVEN TEMPORARILY, SO THEY CAN BE VISITED & HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION.

IF YOU GO IN TO HOSPITAL: Catholics in hospital are unlikely to receive an automatic visit from the Catholic Chaplain, as this information is now systematically withheld from Chaplains. If someone is sick in hospital, **please let us know here at the presbytery, 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.

The Chaplains are: QEII, Jacqueline Humphreys and John Paul Lyttle 01438-285518 or 07884-187463; Princess Alexandra, Fr Slawek Jedrych 01279-426017

'YEAR OF FAITH'

www.annusfidei.va (click on 'EN' for English)

CYCLE OF HOMILIES: if you have missed any of Fr Philip's homilies on the *Catechism*, you can catch up with them at <http://yofhomilies.wordpress.com>.

FR PHILIP'S TALKS: If anyone missed any of the talks on Vatican II, handouts are available from the presbytery.

CATECHETICS

FIRST-HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The fourth meeting for parents will be on **Wed 8th Jan** from 8–9pm in the crypt. The fourth meeting for the children will be on **Saturday 11th Jan at 10am.**

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: The next meeting for **candidates and parents** will be held on **Monday 6th January** from 7-9pm in the crypt. **If you haven't already paid the £10 for the "YouCat" youth catechism,** could you please drop it off to the presbytery as soon as possible. Thank you. Also, please get the consent forms and £17 cost back to us for the day retreat in January.

"RCIA" – The '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 Tuesday 7th January at 7pm.**

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Monday 13th and Friday 24th January from 7.30-9pm** in the presbytery. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

CAFOD: The amount collected in December amounted to £373. Thank you.

SCHOOLS

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS: applications to our Catholic schools requires the Parish Priest to provide a priest's reference as testimony of **Catholic practice, i.e. attendance, every week, at Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass.** This accords with Priests' guidance <http://www.rcdow.org.uk/fileupload/upload/prf4117200691341.pdf>. In order to help him be just and fair to the practising Catholics of our parish, Fr Philip will continue to adopt the pattern of occasionally in the next few months asking those who will require a priest's form to be signed to come and see him briefly (each and every time he asks) after Sunday Mass. **This concerns those whose children are now in nursery-year in 2013/14.**

PRIMARY SCHOOL: PRIEST'S REFERENCE FORM: Fr Philip will hold another session for those looking to

gain admission to reception, for the signing of priest's reference forms. This will be on **Wed 8th Jan 10.30am–12.30pm**. There is no need to make an appointment, please just attend at the allocated times. If you cannot make this time, please ring to make an appointment.

MISCELLANEOUS

CRIB APPEAL: Every day the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) works with families who are struggling on low incomes and facing domestic crises. Through their work, and the generosity of donations, they are able to bring light into their darkness, ease their burden and so give them real hope and faith in the future. For many people in the Diocese of Westminster, the Catholic Children's Society is an essential lifeline and safety net. The donations they receive are used to provide everything from essentials like food and toiletries through to immediate practical support and financial assistance to families in crisis over Christmas. **None of this would be possible without the generosity of people. Thanks to all your support, the Society is able to reach out to some 3,000 children and families throughout the whole year.**

HESTER COUNSELL would like to thank everyone who signed the Christmas card. Hester really appreciated the card as it really meant a lot to her. Hester has settled in very well to new home and would love to hear from parishioners. Her address is Room 4, Aslockton Hall, New Lane, Aslockton, Notts NG13 9AH.

TAKE A LOOK AT THE NEW PARISH WEBSITE (www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon, same address as before), if you have not yet done so. It is much more flexible than the old, with greater ease of adding information. Please think of *signing up for e-alerts* on the parish website, then you will get notified whenever there is some new information/event added to it.

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER in on **7th March**
A new rep is urgently required to join the committee which organises the services for the day. If you can help, please contact Janet Lampard on 428490.

CENSUS CARDS: If you have still not completed a census card, please do fill one in and hand it in to the presbytery. The cards are at the back of the church alongside the newsletters. Thank you.

CATHOLIC SINGLES is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website www.catholicsingles.org.uk or email info@catholicsingles.org.uk

SUNDAY LUNCH: Fr Philip thanks all the parish households to which he has been invited, and would continue to like to meet further 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 January, 2nd and 9th February.

CHURCH CLEANING: Filomena Mezzullo, Dave & Kathy Greenall, Maria Ventura, Theresa Casbard and Domenic Galdo. Thank you!

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

A Prayer of Consecration of the Family to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary



Most holy Hearts
of Jesus and Mary,
united in perfect love,
as you look upon us with mercy and caring,
we consecrate our hearts,
our lives, our family to you.
We know the beautiful example
of your home in Nazareth was meant to be
a model for each of our families.
We hope to have,
with your help,
the unity and strong, enduring love you gave
to one another.
May our home be filled with joy.
May sincere affection, patience,
tolerance and mutual respect be freely given
to all.
May our prayers be filled with the needs of
others,
not just ourselves and may we always be close
to your sacraments.
Bless those who are present,
as well as those who are absent,
both the living and the dead;
may peace be among us
and when we are tested,
grant us the Christian acceptance of God's
will.
Keep our family close to your Hearts;
may your special protection be with us
always.
Most Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary,
hear our prayer. Amen.

