

# The Announcer

## St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

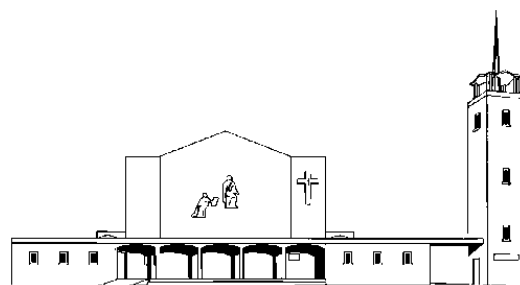
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Web-site: [www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon)

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

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Year B

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

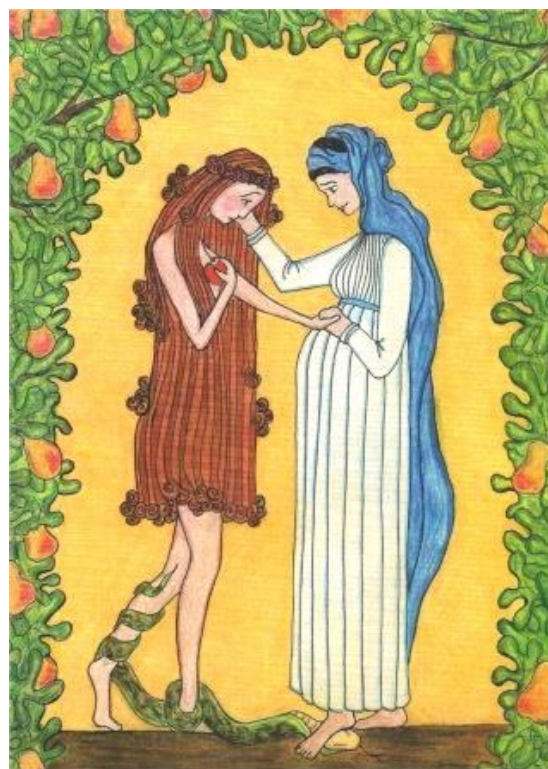
24th DECEMBER 2017

GOSPEL: Luke 1: 26-38

*Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.*

**My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,**

OUR PREPARATION SEASON OF ADVENT draws to its close this Fourth Sunday, and we hear in the Gospel the key event of the 'Annunciation' to Our Blessed Lady of the plan of God: to bring His Son into the world as her son. The Church Fathers often would make reference to the obedient faith of Mary, as she heard the "Ave" ("Hail!") of the Angel Gabriel, as undoing the disobedient sin of Eve when she succumbed, along with Adam, to the devil's lies. Hence in Latin the play on words ... *Eva / Ave* ... the one reverses the other. We see this portrayed beautifully in the image here on the right: Mary, bearing the divine Jesus in her womb, consoles bereft Eve in her sinful sadness, and crushes the head of the serpent under her foot. Eve acknowledges, as she venerates the child in Mary's womb, that her only salvation is in Him.



OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS MASSES are at the usual times, and I look forward to celebrating with you the sacred and festive day of Our Lord's birth:

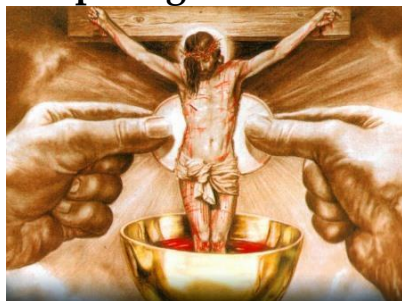
**\*\*\*\*\* MIDNIGHT MASS (Carols from 11.30pm); DAY MASSES, 9.15am & 11.15am \*\*\*\*\***

I wish you all — parishioners and visitors alike — a very blessed and peaceful Christmas celebration! THANK YOU for the many cards I have received, and for the gifts which are clustered invitingly around the Presbytery Christmas tree!

Please note any slight changes to the coming week's schedule owing to my attending a young-adults' conference with some parishioners later in the week.

**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:**



The Church has received the Eucharist from Christ her Lord not as one gift — however precious — among so many others, but as *the gift par excellence*, for it is the gift of himself, of his person in his sacred humanity, as well as the gift of his saving work. Nor does it remain confined to the past, since "all that Christ is — all that he did and suffered for all men — participates in the divine eternity, and so transcends all times." 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."

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH** Christian Mauriello who will be baptised this weekend.

**BANK HOLIDAY TUESDAY MASS** will be at **10am** and the church will be closed after Mass.

**ADORATION/MORNING PRAYER** will not take place on Wednesday morning and there will be no Adoration or Benediction on Friday. There will still be 12 noon Mass.

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

**OUR EPIPHANY PARTY** will be held on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2018** 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 do sign your name on the list at the back of the church. All drinks will be provided by the parish.

**FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, 7.30-8.30pm: **next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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/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 07876-526935; Princess Alexandra, Fr Leszek Gamracy 01279-426017**

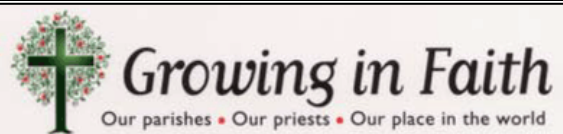
## CATECHETICS

**CONFIRMATION 2018:** The Enrolment Masses will be on the **6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> January 2018** and will involve a statement and promise of commitment to ongoing preparation. The next session will be on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

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

**BAPTISM COURSE:** The next course will be held on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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** gives grants to applicants from school age to young adults (up to 25 yrs). 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

**THE 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 so much 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

**PARISH MAGAZINE** (full colour) **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](http://www.cathchild.org.uk).

**HOUSE VISITS:** Fr Philip will resume his visits after Christmas in the first week of Jan.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** Please do not leave Christmas cards for parishioners at the back of the church. We have found from past years that they are not collected. Thank you.

**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: 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> January.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Elizabeth Nsonwah, Toni Iamarino & Michel & Jacky Jordan. Thank you for your help.

## PRAYER OF THE WEEK A Christmas Prayer

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, ... [State your intention(s) here ...] through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.



Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b> 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Justina Ogbodu RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PAGE 90 in the Mass books</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> 2 Samuel 7: 1–5, 8–12, 14–16  <i>The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord.</i></p> <p><b>Psalm 88 —</b> <i>I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.</i></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Romans 16: 25–27  <i>The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!</i></p> <p><b>Gospel:</b> Luke 1: 26–38  <i>Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.</i></p> <p><b>PREFACE TODAY:</b> Advent II (p. 52)  <b>EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:</b> no. 2 (p. 25)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Genesis 15: 1–6, 21: 1–3  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Hebrews 11: 8, 11–12, 17–19  <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 2: 22–40</p>
4.00pm* Italian Mass <b>6.30pm* Luciano Dilena RIP</b> <b>Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9.15am <i>Baby Owen Ingram</i> 11.15am <i>For the Parish</i> † 4pm Italian Mass <b>11.30pm Carols</b> <b>Christmas Midnight Mass Priest's intentions</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 10.30 – 11am &amp; 5.30 – 6.15pm            Sunday 8.30 – 9am &amp; 10.40 – 11am            or ask Fr Philip at any other time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROSARY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust</b>  <b>Registered Charity No. 233699</b></p>
<b>Mon 25<sup>th</sup> December NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i> <b>Tues 26<sup>th</sup> December ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr</b> 10am Mass <i>O'Connor Family intentions</i> <b>PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</b> <b>Wed 27<sup>th</sup> December ST JOHN, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Henry Benge RIP</i> <b>Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> December THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs</b> NO Mass <b>Fri 29<sup>th</sup> December ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop</b> (NO Abstinence from meat today) NO Adoration or Benediction today 12 noon Mass <i>In honour of the Sacred Heart</i> <b>Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Dec SIXTH DAY IN OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</b> 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Chris Whelehan RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REGULAR EVENTS</b></p>
4.00pm* Italian Mass <b>6.30pm* For the Parish</b> <b>Sun 31st Dec THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH</b> 9.15am <i>Larry O'Neill RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Mary Theresa's Intentions</i> †	
<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>	

**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.*