

# The Announcer

## St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

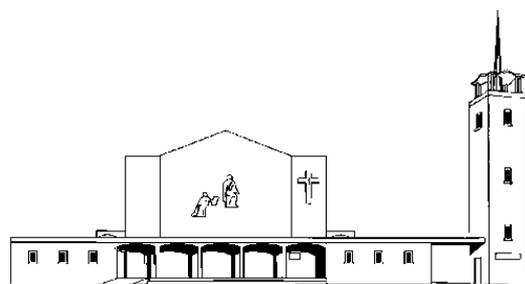
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Web-site: [www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon)

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon & Wed-Fri, 9am-3pm)



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Year B

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

14th JANUARY 2018

GOSPEL: John 1: 35-42

*They saw where he lived, and stayed with him.*

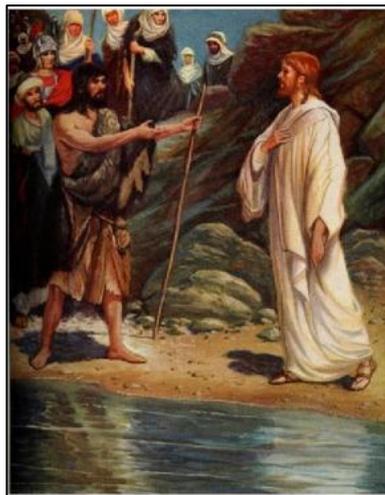
**My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,**

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB IS PUT AWAY, AND THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DOWN ... and although the short, festive season is over, I hope that you all enjoyed your Christmas and New Year and Epiphany celebrations. Many thanks, again, to all those who contributed to the festive spirit here in the parish, Our end-of-season Epiphany party was extremely enjoyable last weekend, so thanks to all who helped make that a success!

ALTHOUGH IT'S 'YEAR B' IN THE SUNDAY LECTIONARY – the year when we mostly hear from the Gospel of Mark – we have a passage today from the Gospel of John, in which John the Baptist points out to his followers Jesus, "the Lamb of God." In an earlier verse, John explains that title, in words that we hear at every single celebration of Mass: "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." John's image is drawn from the whole tradition of Jewish Passover ritual, and the various other animal sacrifices for sin offerings made in the Temple at the time. Jesus is to replace all those – He is the new lamb of the new Passover; He is the sacrifice that will truly take away humanity's sins. At the outset of His ministry, with John at the River Jordan, He is proclaimed as this sacrifice. Even as we start to reflect on our Lord's public life, so soon after celebrating His Baptism, we are introduced to the fact that His life will culminate on the Cross, in His sacrificial death: He will give up His life to free us from our sins.

PLEASE NOTE: THE NEXT MEETING OF OUR NEW 'BEFRIENDING GROUP' for contacting the elderly, isolated or lonely of the parish and locality is on **Tuesday 16th January** in the parish crypt.

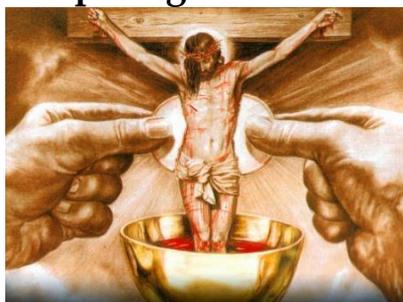
**May Christ bless us this week as we adore Him as our only Saviour and Lord! Fr Philip**



"Behold!  
The Lamb  
of God  
who takes  
away  
the sin  
of the  
world!"

John 1:29

**Preparing for the Eucharistic Congress 2018: John Paul II's *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 12:**



The Church constantly draws her life from the redeeming sacrifice; she approaches it not only through faith-filled remembrance, but also through a real contact, since *this sacrifice is made present ever anew*, sacramentally perpetuated, in every community which offers it at the hands of the consecrated minister. The Eucharist thus applies to men and women today the reconciliation won once for all by Christ for mankind in every age. "The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are *one single sacrifice*." Saint John Chrysostom put it well: "We always offer the same Lamb, not one today and another tomorrow, but always the same one. For this reason the sacrifice is always only one ... Even now we offer that victim who was once offered and who will never be consumed."

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH** Gemma Alfieri who will be baptised this weekend.

**PELEGRINO ALFIERI RIP** of Spellbrook recently died. His funeral will be on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January** at 1.15pm with Fr Cristiano.

**ROSE BEESON RIP** of The Hollies, St Catherine's Road, has died. Her funeral will be on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 12.30pm.**

*May they rest in peace.*

**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!

**CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE:** This year's united service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 6pm** at the Methodist Church, Middlefield Road.

**FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, 7.30-8.30pm: **next meeting 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.** A semi-formal hour in the Lady Chapel to reflect together on Sunday Scriptures and bring our needs and prayers to the Lord.

**ROTA FOR READERS/MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** for the period February - May is due to be drawn up shortly. Please advise Pat Kavanagh tel: 449282 or by email patandcarolkav@btinternet.com by **Wed 31<sup>st</sup> 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, 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 next session will be on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 7.15pm** for candidates and parents. Candidates will need to have read chapter 10 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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** Next meeting for parents is on **Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 8-9pm** in the crypt. The fourth session for children will be on **Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 6-8.00pm.** **Please note the session will finish later at 8pm due to the last session being cancelled.**

**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 pledges 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

**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 2019, or if your child is looking to go into Reception year in a Catholic Primary school in autumn 2019, then you will need to apply **immediately** to go on the list for requesting a 'Certificate of Catholic Practice' towards the end of 2018. 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 able to judge whether he can issue the Certificate you ask for.

**ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL** vacancy for a Learning Support Assistant: As we are having progression within school amongst our support staff, St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School is looking to appoint a KS2 and a EYFS trained Learning Support Assistant/Nursery Nurse to join our hardworking and dedicated staff. Applicants are required to have a Level-2 or above qualification or relevant experience, or a Level-3 and full PFA certificate if applying for EYFS. Please contact Mrs Gillian Napier, Headteacher, via her PA, Carol Branch on 463549 for further info application form.

## 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**. 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.

## SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

**BEFRIENDING-GROUP MEETING:** there will be a follow-up meeting for those who attended the December training evening on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm** in the crypt. Claire Hay will speak to us about safeguarding matters in regard to parish visiting. Please come along, or contact Janet Lampard if necessary on 428490.

**TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB** will now be held weekly from the **16th January at 12.30pm** in the crypt. All are welcome!

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

**PARISH MAGAZINE still available** to buy for £4 after all weekend Masses or from the presbytery during the week.

**QUIZ NIGHT** will be held on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan at 7.30pm** in the crypt. This is in aid of Tommy's, a charity that support families through difficulties during pregnancies. They fund research into miscarriages, still births and premature births. It's a charity close to my heart as within my family we have experienced two babies being born prematurely and the most recent being born at 25 weeks. Please join us for a night of fun.£5 per head - payable on the night - bring your own refreshments & nibbles. Start time 7.30pm. Please call Vicky Lee-Lozone on 07747-485023 or 01279-862688 to reserve a table!

**THANK YOU:** John Lumley would like to thank parishioners for their prayers over the last 3 years. John has just finished a 6-week course of treatment and is awaiting the results.

**ISABEL ABRAHAMS** has now moved away from the parish and will be living with her daughter due to ill health. Anyone wishing to be in contact with her by card, letter, or phone, please contact the Presbytery.

**200 CLUB WINNER** for January was no. 148 which is a ticket donated to the Under 5's.

**HOUSE VISITS:** Fr Philip will be visiting on Wednesday afternoon, calling at homes in: Lilac Road, Old Highway, Castle Road.

**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: 28<sup>th</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Michele & Pelle De Luca & Kathleen Connors. Thank you for your help.

