

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

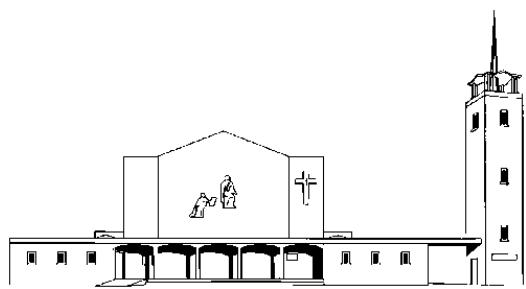
The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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Year B

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

GOSPEL: Matthew 2: 1-12

We saw His star and have come to do the Lord homage

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

A VERY BLESSED FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY! This next great celebration of the Christmas season is a beautiful moment to contemplate the 'epiphany' – that is, the 'manifestation,' or 'coming to be known' – of the Lord's birth. The Magi from the East represent the outside world, the non-Jews, coming to adore Israel's long-expected Messiah. It indicated that He who is born is for the whole world, the Saviour of the entire human race, and not just some celebrated figure within one particular race or culture.

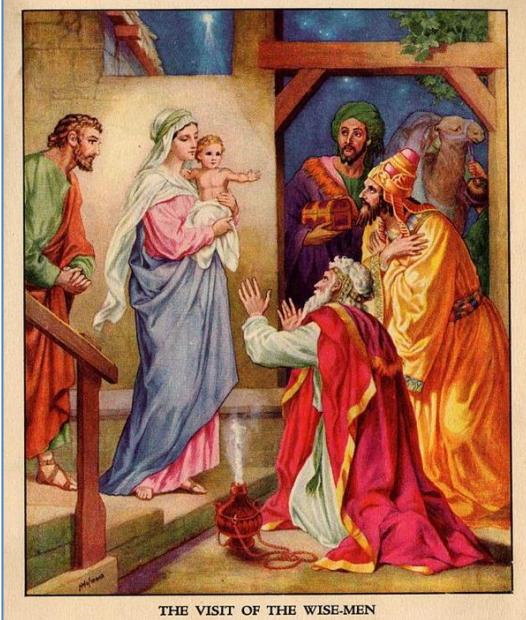
As St Paul says in the 2nd Reading today, this is a mystery that was unknown to any of the previous generations, but has come to be known: in Christ is revealed the plan of God's heart, to enter into the world Himself as God-made-man. And when the Magi come to visit the Holy Family, this great mystery starts to be revealed as 'good news' for the whole world! In some parts of the Church, especially in the east, and also for the Orthodox churches, Epiphany is celebrated with more festivity than Christmas, precisely because it is now that the birth becomes known to the world.

Our Parish party for Christmastide always takes place at Epiphany – do come down for some food, drink, and social time after the Saturday evening Mass (6th Jan). I am grateful to all those who have helped prepare the party and get the crypt ready for our celebration!

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.

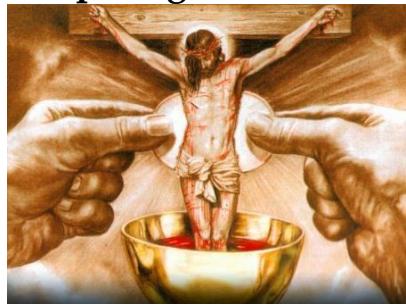
May the Lord bless us as we rejoice at the mystery of His Nativity!

Fr Philip



THE VISIT OF THE WISE-MEN

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



What more could Jesus have done for us? Truly, in the Eucharist, He shows us a love which goes "to the end," a love which knows no measure. This aspect of the universal charity of the Eucharistic Sacrifice is based on the words of the Saviour Himself. In instituting it, He did not merely say: "This is My body", "this is My blood", but went on to add: "which is given for you", "which is poured out for you." Jesus did not simply state that what He was giving them to eat and drink was His body and his blood; He also expressed *its sacrificial meaning* and made sacramentally present His sacrifice which would soon be offered on the Cross for the salvation of all. "The Mass is at the same time, and inseparably, the sacrificial memorial in which the sacrifice of the Cross is perpetuated and the sacred banquet of communion with the Lord's body and blood."

PRAYER & LITURGY

MARGHERITA BARONE RIP of Hertford Road, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. **Her funeral will be on Monday 8th January at 11am.**

ROSE BEESON RIP of The Hollies, St Catherine's Road, has also died. Her funeral details will be made available when known.

May they rest in peace.

EPIPHANY PARTY will be held on **Sat 6th January** 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 sign your name on the list at the back of the church. Drinks provided by the parish.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30–8.30pm: **next meeting 12th 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 21st 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 this weekend, **6th/7th January** and will involve a statement and promise of commitment to ongoing preparation. The next session will be on **Tuesday 9th January 7.15pm** for candidates only. Candidates will need to have read chapter 9 of the Gospel of Mark. The Confirmation Mass will be on **Sunday 22nd 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 8th January 2018.**

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

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 24th 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

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.

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.

BROXBOURNE EDUCATIONAL CHARITY gives grants to applicants of school age up to young adults up to 25 years. 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

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend, **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.

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 for your support.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

BEFRIENDING-GROUP MEETING: there will be a follow-up meeting for those who attended the December training evening on **Tuesday 16th 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.

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

CRIB APPEAL: This is the last weekend for donating to the Catholic Children's Society via the Crib collection box. The CCS 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.

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

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: 7th, 21st & 28th January.

CHURCH CLEANING: Mima Salvo, Josie Warren, Barbara Wright, Tracey Hayes & Tanya McAteer. Thank you for your help.



Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 6th January 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass Pietro Dileto RIP	PAGE 115/118 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1–6 Above you the glory of the Lord appears.
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Ian Witham's intentions</i>	Psalm 71 — All nations shall fall prostrate before You, O Lord.
Sun 7th January EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 9.15am** <i>Clare Linscott RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Christina Deloughery RIP</i> 5pm Latin Mass For the Parish ‡	2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2–3, 5–6 It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance. Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! We saw His star as it rose, and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!</i>
Mon 8th January BAPTISM OF THE LORD 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Fr John McCarthy RIP 11am Funeral Margherita Barone RIP	Gospel: Matthew 2: 1–12 We saw His star and have come to do the king homage. PREFACE TODAY: Epiphany (p. 53) EUCARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)
Tues 9th January 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Patrick Cawley RIP	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3–10, 19 2nd Reading: 1 Cor 6:13–15, 17–20 Gospel: John 1:35–42
Wed 10th January 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Johnny Delaney RIP	
Thurs 11th January 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Rose Beeson RIP	
Fri 12th January ST AELRED OF RIEVAULX (Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Joan Penrose RIP	
Sat 13th January 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass Giuseppe Tambuzzo RIP	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSON) Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at any other time.
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i>	ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Sun 14th January SECOND SUNDAY IN O.T. 9.15am** <i>Baby William O'Bryan RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Ian & John Laydon RIP</i> ‡	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.
* 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)	SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date. Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699
REGULAR EVENTS	

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.