

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

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Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

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

Also in residence: Fr Mathew Kattiyangal (National chaplain to Knanayan community)

Year C

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

23rd DECEMBER 2018

GOSPEL: Luke 1: 39-45

Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

ON THIS FOURTH & FINAL SUNDAY OF ADVENT we come to hear in the Gospel of the events that preceded Our Lord's birth, events concerning His Blessed Mother, Mary, and St Joseph her saintly husband. The actual passage we hear this year is the account of the Visitation, Our Lady's visit to Elizabeth, who was carrying St John the Baptist. The encounter between these holy mothers, and between their blessed unborn babies, is a moment of profound beauty in the infancy narratives of the Gospels. The divinity of Our Lord Jesus, as yet unborn, shines through the occasion, bringing much blessing, and a sign of what is to come to the world.



THE LAST OF MY ADVENT-SUNDAY HOMILIES on the use of Scripture at Mass concerns **the four Gospel accounts of Our Lord's life and ministry**; this is the high-point of the Liturgy of the Word. As we approach Christmas, we should treasure all that the Holy Gospel gives to us as the record of the saving accounts of Jesus's sacred ministry. The apostles Matthew and John, and the early disciples Luke and Mark, recorded these events to transmit them to the Church of all the ages. As we hear these 2000-yr-old words, let's allow them to penetrate our hearts.

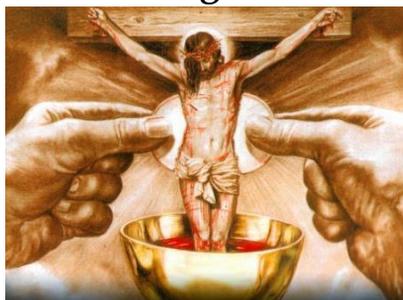
Please make sure that you have noted this final Advent date for **this weekend**:

***** 23rd December (Sunday) 5pm – PARISH CAROL SERVICE with Refreshments after. *****

Then the **MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS** will be: **Midnight (carols from 11.30pm); 9.15 & 11.15am**

May the Lord bless us as we celebrate His birth to be God-with-us and save us! Fr Philip

Celebrating the Eucharistic Congress 2018: John Paul II's *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 60:



At the dawn of this third millennium, we, the children of the Church, are called to undertake with renewed enthusiasm the journey of Christian living. ... The programme already exists: it is the plan found in the Gospel and in the living Tradition; it is the same as ever. Ultimately, it has its centre in Christ himself, who is to be known, loved and imitated, so that in him we may live the life of the Trinity, and with him transform history until its fulfilment in the heavenly Jerusalem." The implementation of this programme of a renewed impetus in Christian living passes through the Eucharist. Every commitment to holiness,

every activity aimed at carrying out the Church's mission, every work of pastoral planning, must draw the strength it needs from the Eucharistic mystery and in turn be directed to that mystery as its culmination. In the Eucharist we have Jesus, we have his redemptive sacrifice, we have his resurrection, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit, we have adoration, obedience and love of the Father. Were we to disregard the Eucharist, how could we overcome our own deficiency?

PRAYER & LITURGY

ADELINA CIRAOLO RIP of New River Close, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to her family. Her funeral will be on **Monday 31st December at 11am.**

LIVIO FATTORE RIP of Gladstone Road, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to his family. His funeral will be on **Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 1pm.**

May they rest in peace.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

PARISH CAROL SERVICE will be held this **Sunday 23rd December at 5pm.** This will be followed by refreshments in the crypt. All are welcome.

EPIPHANY PARTY will be held on **Saturday 5th January 2019** after the 6.30pm Mass in the crypt. We will have a shared meal of finger food only, so if you can bring a sweet or savoury dish, please do sign your name on the list at the back of the church. Drinks will be provided by the parish.

BANK HOLIDAY (WEDNESDAY) MASS is at 10am; the church will be closed after Mass.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30-8.30pm: **next meeting Friday 18th 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 **Sunday 10th February at 5pm** with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction. A truly peaceful hour!

HOLY FAMILIES, the diocesan faith-sharing resource is **now available to buy from the back of the church for £3.** The booklet explores themes from the Holy Father's teaching on marriage and the family in *Amoris Laetitia*.

ALTAR SERVERS: Children (any age) who have at least made their First Holy Communion and wish to become altar servers, please contact the presbytery so that training can be arranged.

DEANERY PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND, 26th May-1st June 2019 with Fr Philip. Price £700- and further info is available with booking forms. The pilgrimage will follow in the footsteps of John Paul II and will visit Kraków,

Wadowice, Częstochowa and Auschwitz. **Space still available**, so take a booking form and submit it as soon as possible. Please ring Presbytery to let us know that you are booking.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

Please pray for our sick parishioners & friends: John Askew, Rosa Augello & Siobhan Fiorentini & Tallulah Scott.

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

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, John O'Neill 01438-285138 or 07876-526935; Princess Alexandra, Fr Leszek Gamracy 01279-426017

CATECHETICS

CONFIRMATION 2019: The next three meetings are **8th & 22nd January & 5th Feb, 7-8.30pm** for **parents & candidates.** Please do not forget to bring your copy of the St Mark's Gospel to each session, and please read ch. 9 in preparation for next time. **Remaining letters for Confirmation families to be picked up from the register sign-in table this weekend.**

The Enrolment Masses will be on the **12th and 13th January** and will involve a statement and promise of commitment to ongoing preparation.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The first meeting for parents will be on **Friday 11th January 2019** at 8pm in the crypt.

"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. **Course continues Mon 7th January at 7pm.**

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be

held on **Tues 15th Jan and Fri 25th Jan**, 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.



We have pledges of c. £185k, to give our parish project, ultimately, a slice of c. £51k. So far we already have £29k 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 PRIMARY SCHOOLS: Please note that the deadline to apply to St Augustine's and St Cross schools is the **15th Jan 2019**. Catholic parents will need to submit a paper application form ("supplementary information form") to each school office. The best practice would be to *apply to both schools*: each school has 30 places in Reception year.

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL NURSERY APPLICATIONS: Nursery applications are open and places will be given on a 'first come, first served' basis. Application forms can be picked up at the School Office, by following the link on the home page of the school website or under the 'Admissions' tab. An offer letter will be sent within a week of application received.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be **holding its annual appeal on the 12th / 13th 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.

CAFOD: Donations made during our Family Fast Days achieve wonderful things. This

year's Lent Appeal raised £4 million – a life-changing amount that will be doubled by the UK Government and fund nutrition projects in Zimbabwe, Eritrea and Zambia. Thank you for all you do throughout the year.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

CRIB APPEAL: at Christmas our Crib Offerings are donated to the *Catholic Children's Society* to support their vital work with disadvantaged children and families. This will help provide mental-health services, family support and emergency grants for vulnerable children in our Diocese.

GRAVE WREATHS on sale in church porch this weekend. Place your money in envelopes provided and post through Presbytery door. All funds raised are for the Brownies.

TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB will resume again on **8th January 2019**.

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

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS 2019 are now available to buy for £4.50 from the back of church. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES can be viewed online <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs>

CHURCH CLEANING: Elizabeth Nsonwah, Toni Iamarino & Michel & Jacky Jordan. 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: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th Jan.

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
Sat 22nd December 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Dec'd members of Meaney & O'Hehir families</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 90 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Micah 5: 1–4 <i>Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.</i></p> <p>Psalm 79— <i>God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.</i></p> <p>2nd Reading: Hebrews 10: 5–10 <i>Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.</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>Gospel: Luke 1: 39–45 <i>Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Advent II (p. 66) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no.2 (p. 25)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 1st Reading: 1 Samuel 1: 20–22, 24–28 2nd Reading: 1 John 3: 1–2, 21–24 Gospel: Luke 2: 41–52</p>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Mass <i>Luciano Dilena RIP</i> Sun 23rd Dec 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>Justina Ogbodu RIP</i> 11.15am <i>For the Parish</i> ‡ 5pm Carol Service	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at any other time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</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;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</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;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</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;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
Mon 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15 Mass <i>Private intention</i> 4pm Italian Mass 11.30pm Carols Christmas Midnight Mass Priest's intentions	<p style="text-align: center;">REGULAR EVENTS</p>
Tues 25th December NATIVITY OF THE LORD 9.15am Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i>	<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: <i>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.</i></p>
Wed 26th December ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr 10am Mass <i>O'Connor Family intentions</i> PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS	
Thurs 27th December ST JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Michael Dolan RIP</i>	
Fri 28th December THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs (NO abstinence from meat in the Christmas octave) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Jacque Chang RIP</i>	
Sat 29th December ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Antonio Della Cerra RIP</i>	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Mass <i>Dennis Dempsey RIP</i> Sun 30th Dec THE HOLY FAMILY 9.15am** <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am <i>Richard Pyper RIP</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>	

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