

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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Parish Priest: Fr Philip Miller.

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

Also in residence: Fr Joshy Philip (National chaplain to Knanayan community)

Safeguarding parish rep's: Claire Hay / Joy Ighade – hoddesdonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Year A

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1st DECEMBER 2019

GOSPEL: Matthew 24: 37-44

Stay awake so that you may be ready.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

ADVENT, AND THE NEW CHURCH YEAR, BEGINS TODAY. It is a precious and beautiful season, so do not allow it to get swallowed up into some sort of a 'greater Christmas.' The value of Advent longing and waiting – in praying for Christ to come – echoes wonderfully the long centuries of waiting for the Messiah that the Jewish people experienced, from the 8th-c.-BC prophet Isaiah right through to Our Lord's appearing in the 1st c. AD. Let's prepare *our* hearts for His coming!

THE NEW CHURCH YEAR brings with it a change in the Gospel that we hear on Sundays: we move to Year 'A' (the year of Matthew). 2019-20 is also being celebrated as a 'Year of the Word,' so I am going to use my Advent Sundays' homilies on helping you know more about Scripture itself. The Sunday readings are so rich in the Advent season, especially with the prophecies of Isaiah, so it will be good to explore these at some length, starting this weekend.

THE ANNUAL PARISH PRE-CHRISTMAS FAIR – named after the late parishioner who championed it, Milly Yarwood – takes place **this weekend** after Sat eve / Sunday Masses. Please come down and enjoy the charity fair, for festive refreshments, Christmas cards and much more. Additionally, this year, we have some beautiful 'sculpted' candles for sale, which were left to us as a legacy by the family of a long-standing parishioner who died recently – they would make ideal Christmas decorations.

May the prayerful waiting of Advent fill us with the peace of Christian hope.

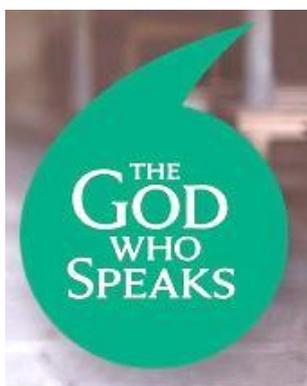
Fr Philip



2019/20 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 7

While the Christ event is at the heart of divine revelation, we also need to realize that creation itself, the *liber naturae*, is an essential part of this symphony of many voices in which the one word is spoken. We also profess our faith that God has spoken his word in salvation history; he has made his voice heard; by the power of his Spirit "he has spoken through the prophets." God's word is thus spoken throughout the history of salvation, and most fully in the mystery of the incarnation, death and resurrection of the Son of God. Then too, the word of God is that word preached by the Apostles in obedience to the command of the Risen Jesus: "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation." The word of God is thus handed on in the Church's living Tradition. Finally,

the word of God, attested and divinely inspired, is sacred Scripture, the Old and New Testaments. All this helps us to see that, while in the Church we greatly venerate the sacred Scriptures, the Christian faith is not a "religion of the book": Christianity is the "religion of the word of God", not of "a written and mute word, but of the incarnate and living Word." Consequently the Scripture is to be proclaimed, heard, read, received and experienced as the word of God, in the stream of the apostolic Tradition from which it is inseparable.



PRAYER & LITURGY

ADVENT

MILLY'S CHARITY WEEKEND is **this weekend** after all Masses in the crypt. Please make your way down to the crypt for special refreshments and a sale of charity cards etc. with many different stalls!

RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS:

Our Parish Penitential Services will be on **Tuesday 17th December at 11.30am and 7.30pm**. Fr Philip will also hear confessions if possible after Sunday Masses in Advent.

Confessions in other local parishes are:

WALTHAM CROSS: Mon 16th Dec 7.30pm

WARE: Sat 7th Dec 11-11.30am & 5.30-6pm

HERTFORD extra Confessions in the run up to Christmas (parish tel. 582109).

PARISH CAROL SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 22nd December at 5pm**. Volunteers are needed to help make refreshments afterwards. If you can help, please contact the presbytery.

ADVENT EXTRA magazine is now available to buy for £2.25 from the back of church. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

FIRST FRIDAY: The first Friday Mass will be at **7.30pm on Friday 6th December**. This will be followed by the Holy Hour at 8pm, which is always prayed for the pro-life cause.

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR will take place **Sunday 15th December at 5pm** with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction. A truly peaceful hour!

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30-8.30pm: **next meeting Friday 20th December**. A semi-formal hour in the Lady Chapel to reflect together on Sunday Scriptures and bring our needs and prayers to the Lord.

'INSTRUCTIONS FOR MY FUNERAL MASS' leaflets are available beside the newsletters at the back of the church if you wish to complete one. Please hand the completed copy into the presbytery.

THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM from St Augustine's School will be joining us for Wednesday coffee this week in the crypt. The children would like to chat to parishioners about all the work they have been undertaking this term.

HOUSEBOUND & SICK PARISHIONERS

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/bishopstortford>

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

"COME AND SEE" – we are currently running a course which is open to all parishioners – and also to non-parishioners, especially those adults thinking of seeking Baptism or the other Sacraments of the Catholic Church.* Remaining dates: **Mondays 7.30-9pm: 2nd & 9th Dec.**

CONFIRMATION 2020: next class for the candidates will be **Tuesday, 10th Dec**, 7-8.30pm in the crypt and will cover **chs. 8 & 9** of their workbook. It would be good if the candidates could look over and study chapter 7 in private.
***** CONFIRMATION RETREAT DAY** will be held on **Saturday 14th December** 11am-4pm in the crypt. The day will be run by *Rise Theatre* and all candidates will need to attend. Please return the consent form and £19 to the presbytery as soon as possible.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE:
The second meeting for parents will be on **Wednesday 8th January at 8pm** in the crypt. The first class for the children will be held on **Sat 18th Jan, 10-3pm**.

BAPTISM COURSE: The second part of the course will be on **Tues 3rd Dec** from 7.30-9pm in the church.

SCHOOLS/UNDER-5s

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL: further Open Days for new parents to Nursery /

Reception Class 2020/21 will be on **Thursday 12th December**: 9-10am (Reception Parents); 2-3pm (Nursery parents). Tours of the school will be provided by our Chaplaincy Team, Teaching & Learning and School Council members. A powerpoint presentation will be led by Mrs Blackwell, EYFS Leader, who will also be available to answer any questions that you may have. If you would like to come and look around, please phone the school office on 01992-463549 to book a place or e-mail admin@staugustines.herts.sch.uk with your name, surname and contact details.

JUSTICE & PEACE AND PRO-LIFE

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS are a fun and meaningful way to give gifts and make a difference to some of the poorest communities around the world. Catalogues are now available at the back of the church.

BROXBOURNE FOODBANK is now giving out approx. 70 parcels per week. They are experiencing shortages of **UHT milk, canned meat, canned fruit and canned vegetables** - 'normal' veg not 'exotic'. Please leave food donations in the box at back of church. Thanks you to all those who give regularly to the FoodBank!

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

TALK ON EGYPT PILGRIMAGE: Fr Philip will speak with an illustrated talk about his recent pilgrimage to Egypt on **Wednesday 4th December at 8pm** in the crypt.

CHRISTMAS CARDS are now available to buy from the repository. Please do pop into the shop to see the beautiful religious cards.

ISABEL HOSPICE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION will be held on the 10th / 11th Dec at Brookfield, Cheshunt. Collectors are needed and if you can help, please contact Ellen on 464677. **CAROL SINGING** will be held in the town centre on Sat 30th Nov from 2-3pm and on Sat 14th Dec at Sainsbury's. Singers & instrumentalists are needed. Please contact Ellen if you can help.

'SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS' with Ware Choral Society will be held on **Sat 14th Dec at 7.30pm** at The Drill Hall, Amwell End, Ware. Tickets £15. Please contact Anne Byrne 467097.

APF RED BOXES need to be returned with donations by the weekend of the 7th/8th

December, please. Many thanks for your support. Ellen Bartlett.

CHARITY BALL: I'm organising a black tie Charity Ball in memory of my Mum, Maureen O'Neill RIP and all those who have been affected by dementia and Alzheimer's. It will be held on **Sat 29th February 2020 7.30pm** at The Marquee Suite, Paradise Wildlife Park. Tickets are £45 and include a 3-course meal and disco. Tables can be up to 10 people. All funds raised will be donated to the Alzheimer's Society. For tickets, please see me after 9.15am Mass or contact me at the presbytery. **Tickets are selling very quickly and more than half of the tickets have already sold. Due to the high demand, if you would like to come, we do ask that payment is now made to secure your ticket.** Thank you. Dawn Bates.

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will be making house visits in Park Lane, Woodstock Rd, & Stratfield Dr. on Wednesday afternoon.

CHURCH CLEANERS: Two more cleaners are *urgently* needed to help clean the church for one hour per month on a Wednesday. If you can help, please contact the presbytery.

CHURCH CLEANING: Filomena Mezzullo, Elizabeth Nsonwah, Tony & Linda Barrell & Tina Pegna. 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: 1st, 8th & 22nd December.

COLD WEATHER: with winter approaching, the car park may become snowy, with potential icy conditions. Parishioners are reminded that when that is so they should take extra care. The car park is used at their own risk.

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



Masses this week		Today's Liturgy	
Sat 30th Nov ST ANDREW, Apostle 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>		PAGE 82 in the Mass books	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Mass <i>Jodie McGrath</i>		1st Reading: Isaiah 2: 1–5 <i>The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of God's kingdom.</i>	
Sun 1st DEC FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>Pasquale Ricotta</i> 11.15am <i>Pius Ogbodu's intentions</i> 5pm Latin Mass <i>For the Parish</i> ‡		Psalm 121 — I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'	
Mon 2nd December 8.15am Adoration 9.15 Mass <i>Allanaha McGrath</i>		2nd Reading: Romans 13: 11–14 <i>Our salvation is near.</i>	
Tues 3rd December ST FRANCIS XAVIER, Priest 8.15am Adoration 9.15 Mass <i>Anthony McGrath's intentions</i>		Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!</i>	
Wed 4th December 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass <i>Melanie Pinto RIP</i> — followed by coffee in the crypt		Gospel: Matthew 24: 37–44 <i>Stay awake so that you may be ready.</i>	
Thurs 5th December 8.15am Adoration 9.15 Mass <i>In Thanksgiving</i>		PREFACE TODAY: Advent I (p. 65) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 2 (p. 25)	
Fri 6th December ST NICHOLAS <i>(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Present & past members of APF Missio</i> 7.30pm Mass <i>John Bird RIP</i> 8pm Holy Hour		NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
Sat 7th Dec ST AMBROSE, Bishop & Dr 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Mr and Mrs Lenguito 25th Wedding anniv.</i>		1st Reading: Isaiah 11: 1–10 2nd Reading: Romans 15: 4–9 Gospel: Matthew 3: 1–12	
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i>		SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at any other time.	
Sun 8th Dec SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>Larry & Maureen O'Neill RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Margherita Barone RIP anniv</i> ‡		ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.	
* 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 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.	
REGULAR EVENTS			
Mon 2nd 7.30pm Come & See, crypt Tues 3rd 12.30pm lunch club, crypt	Tues 3rd 7.30pm Baptism course Wed 4th 6pm Brownies, crypt		

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.*