

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

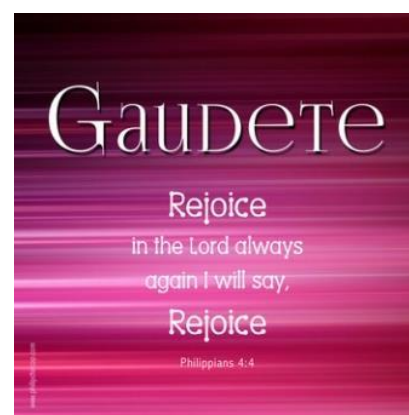
15th DECEMBER 2019

GOSPEL: Matthew 11: 2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

OUR ADVENT SEASON DRAWS CLOSER TO CHRISTMAS now with the joyful liturgy of the Third Sunday – *Gaudete* Sunday. With Christmas on the horizon, we allow ourselves a moment to 'step back' from the purple colour of Advent, and with rose pink liturgical colour to see that Christ's birth draws near: *gaudete*, rejoice! The Lord is near!



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST continues to address us this Sunday, and reaffirms to us that Jesus *is* the Messiah, the One long expected. As Jesus's reply to John confirms, He fulfils in Himself the prophecies of old and is the source of our salvation: "*happy the man who does not lose faith in Me.*" In the homily, continuing my cycle of comments on the various parts of Scripture offered us at Mass, I shall preach about the Second Reading, usually from St Paul, but today from St James.

ADVENT DRAWS TOWARDS ITS CULMINATING DAYS, now, and I emphasize and urge you to come and take the sacred opportunities for some very special events:

– the availability of the Sacrament of Confession, in the **Advent Penitential Services: THIS Tuesday 17th December, 11.30am & 7.30pm.**

– the **Parish Carol Service**, next Sunday, 22nd Dec at 5pm.

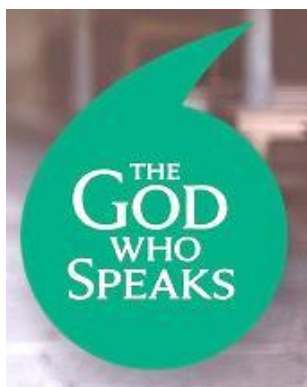
WITH THE DUST SETTLING ON THE GENERAL ELECTION, we pray for the MPs preparing to take up their seats at Westminster, and ask God that the new legislature will enact laws that care for the whole of the populace, including the poor, the unborn, the frail elderly, the sick, the disabled, those unable to seek employment ... May the mandate that the new Government has been given by the British people be used wisely, compassionately, and justly.

May this *Gaudete* Sunday fill us with joy as we pray with longing for Christ.

Fr Philip

2019/20 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 8

Scripture tells us that everything that exists does not exist by chance but is willed by God and part of his plan, at whose centre is the invitation to partake, in Christ, in the divine life. Creation is born of the *Logos* and indelibly bears the mark of the *creative Reason which orders and directs it*; with joy-filled certainty the psalms sing: "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth" ... All reality expresses this mystery: "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork."



PRAYER & LITURGY

ADVENT

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).

SCHOOL MASSES: On **Friday 20th December** there will be Mass at 9.30am at St Augustine's School and Mass at 11am at St Cross School. All are welcome.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 22nd December at 5pm**. **Adult and young readers are needed**, so if you are able to assist, please sign the lists at the back of the church. Volunteers are needed to help make refreshments afterwards. If you can help, please contact the presbytery.

MIDNIGHT MASS/CHRISTMAS DAY: If you are a Minister of Holy Communion, Reader, or Altar Server and can assist at the Christmas Masses, please sign your name a.s.a.p on the lists at the back of church.

EPIPHANY PARTY will be held on **Saturday 4th 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.

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

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR will take place **this 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.

FIRST FRIDAY: advanced notice that there can be no First Friday evening Mass on Fri 3rd Jan,

owing to Fr Philip's attending a wedding.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND 14th-21st

May 2020: St. Joseph and the English Martyrs in Bishop's Stortford is planning a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, led by Fr. Carlos Quito, the Assistant Priest. The cost is £1333. Accommodation based on sharing a twin-bedded room: 3 nights at Nazareth 4 nights at Jerusalem. Please contact their Parish Office on 01279-654063 if you are interested in knowing more about it.

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

"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. The **first meeting date is Monday 13th, (not 6th) Jan at 7.30pm**.

CONFIRMATION 2020: next class for the candidates will be **Tuesday 7th Jan, 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.

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 next course will be held on **Tues 14th & Fri 24th 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.

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

VACANCIES: a *small* number of vacancies exist at present across the school in the following classes: Reception, Yr 1, Yr 3, Yr 4, Yr 6. If you would like your child to transfer to a Catholic school, then contact the Head Teacher, Mrs Napier, on: 463549

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 who give regularly to the FoodBank!

BROXBOURNE BOROUGH WINTER NIGHT SHELTER.

Last winter our parish participated in a pilot Winter Night Shelter. A big "Thank you" to all those who contributed to last year's success, from those who donated bedding and food to our team of volunteers. The pilot was successful and we will participate in a full twelve-week shelter, on Sunday nights, starting 12th January. For 2020 we are looking to increase the number of volunteers on the overnight (22:30–07:00) shift, the 'peaceful' shift that oversees the venue whilst our guests sleep. Understandably, some may be concerned about volunteering on a Sunday night due to work commitments the following day; previously, volunteers have arranged to work from home on Monday whilst others took Monday off. In addition, some organisations allow additional days off for volunteering activities. Furthermore, volunteers are not expected to attend every Sunday night; volunteering for a single shift would be greatly appreciated! This is such a great way to help our homeless through the winter months, so please contact me, Martin, on mancoleston@googlemail.com if you would like to volunteer or if you are just curious and would like further details.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will be making house visits in Bourne Close & St Augustine's Drive on **Tuesday afternoon**.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS 2020 are now available to buy for £4.50 from the back of the church. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

KNITTED BABY CLOTHES: The neonatal unit at Lister Hospital would like to thank everyone who knitted the beautiful baby clothes as they are just what the babies need.

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. Please give them into the hands of the intended recipients! Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING: Michele & Pelle De Luca & Kathleen Connors. 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: 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th January 2020.

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>.

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 14th Dec ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, Priest & Dr 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Shean & Gay Dowling</i>	PAGE 88 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Isaiah 35: 1–6, 10 <i>God himself is coming to save you.</i> Psalm 145 — Come, Lord, and save us.
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Mass <i>For the Parish</i> Sun 15th DEC THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>Joy Ighade's intentions</i> 11.15am <i>Danny Hurley RIP</i> † 5pm Holy Hour	2nd Reading: James 5: 7–10 <i>Do not lose heart for the Lord's coming will be soon.</i> Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!</i>
Mon 16th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15 Mass <i>Elizabeth Ade Talabi's intentions</i> Tues 17th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15 Mass <i>Sarah McGrath's intentions</i> Wed 18th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Giuseppe & Maria-Teresa Distefano RIP</i> followed by coffee in the crypt Thurs 19th December 9.15am Mass <i>Giuseppe, Vincenzo & Carmelo Messa's ints</i> Fri 20th Dec (<i>Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+</i>) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Adelina Ciraolo RIP</i> Sat 21st December 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Ken Parker RIP</i>	Gospel: Matthew 11: 2–11 <i>Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?</i> PREFACE TODAY: Advent I (p. 65) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18) NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 1st Reading: Isaiah 7: 10–14 2nd Reading: Romans 1: 1–7 Gospel: Matthew 1: 18–24
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Livio Fattore RIP</i> Sun 22nd Dec FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>Filomena Lenguito RIP anniv.</i> 11.15am <i>For the Parish</i> † 5pm Parish Carol Service	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. 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. 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	
Tues 17th 12.30pm lunch club, 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.*