

The Announcer

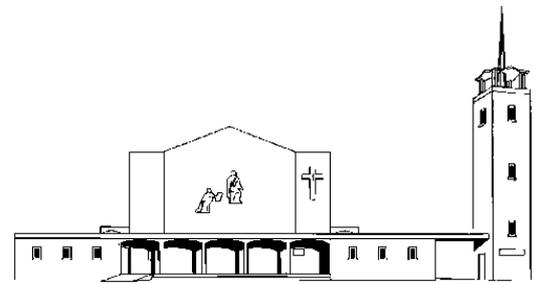
St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

Tel: 01992-440986

Fax: 01992-440244

Web-site: www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon



E-mail: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon"

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

22nd DECEMBER 2019

GOSPEL: Matthew 1: 18-24

Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

OUR ADVENT SEASON DRAWS TOWARDS ITS END now with the liturgy of the Fourth Sunday. With Christmas so near, we hear of the immediate events that preceded our Saviour's holy birth.

In this Year 'A' (the year of St Matthew), we hear the account from the perspective of St Joseph, and in particular, we are told of his anxieties over the child that Our Lady is carrying, which is not his own. In a dream, St Joseph is reassured, and comes to know the divine origin of this child, whom he is charged with caring for and protecting. St Joseph is truly a saint of immense heroism. Though the Scriptures record no single word he utters, yet his actions are bold, and show deep faith in the mission with which the Lord charged him. In these late-Advent days, we should have devotion not only to Our Blessed Mother, carrying the child Jesus towards His birth at Bethlehem, but also to the saintly Joseph, husband of Our Lady and foster-father to the divine infant.



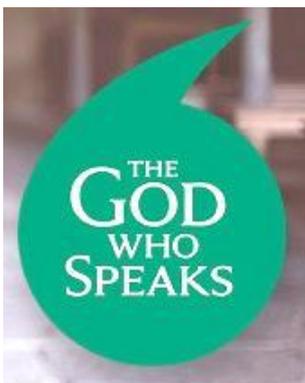
I EMPHASIZE AND URGE YOU TO TAKE NOTE OF THESE TIMES FOR THE COMING DAYS:

- **Parish Carol Service, THIS Sunday, 22nd Dec at 5pm.** Please come to this beautiful service!
- **Christmas Masses: Midnight** (carols from 11.30pm Tuesday), & **Wednesday 25th December, 9.15am & 11.15am.** *Christmas Day is a Holy Day of Obligation:* attending Mass for this feast is an obligation for each and every Catholic over the age of reason, so please make sure that wherever you are, at home or away staying with relatives or friends, that you attend Mass for Christmas Day. Only by celebrating the sanctity of Jesus's birth, with our presence as He is 'born again' on His sacred altar, can we truly be said to be keeping Christmas. God bless.

May this last Advent Sunday fill us with joy as Christmas nears. Fr Philip

2019/20 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 10

Those who know God's word also know fully the significance of each creature. For if all things "hold together" in the one who is "before all things," then those who build their lives on his word build in a truly sound and lasting way. The word of God makes us change our concept of realism: the realist is the one who recognizes in the word of God the foundation of all things. This realism is particularly needed in our own time, when many things in which we trust for building our lives, things in which we are tempted to put our hopes, prove ephemeral. Possessions, pleasure and power show themselves sooner or later to be incapable of fulfilling the deepest yearnings of the human heart.



PRAYER & LITURGY

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

PARISH CAROL SERVICE will be held **this Sunday 22nd December at 5pm**. This will be followed by refreshments in the crypt. All are welcome.

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.

THURSDAY (BOXING DAY) MASS is at **10am**; the church will be closed after Mass.

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.

FRIDAY PRAYER GROUP: 3rd Friday of each month, 7.30-8.30pm: **next meeting Friday 17th January**. 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 take place **Sunday 19th January at 5pm** with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction. A truly peaceful hour!

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/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

"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 Jan, (not 6th) 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**.

MASS OF ENROLMENT will take place at all Masses on the **11th/12th January**. We will formally welcome onto the programme those children preparing for their First Holy Communion. We will pray for them and hear these families commit themselves to their course.

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: There are a number of places available in the Afternoon Nursery class, which runs from 12:20pm -3:20pm. Children can access the 15 hours free entitlement funding. There is great continuity from the Nursery class into Reception and a seamless transition for the children. If you would like your child in a Catholic school, then contact the Head Teacher, Mrs Napier, on: 01992 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: 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. **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. So far, we have had no response and are in desperate need of volunteers.**

TOILETRIES: We are also in need of: sanitary towels, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, hand wipes & deodorant. If you can help, please hand your donation into the presbytery.

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal on the **11th/12th January**. On 21st October, the most extreme abortion regime in Europe was imposed on the people of Northern Ireland by the government at Westminster. Abortion will now be permitted for any reason up until at least 24 weeks, and even beyond that. The abortion lobby now wants to introduce this in England and Wales. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers from this new attack.

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.

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will be making house visits in Springfields and New Road on **Monday afternoon**.

TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB will resume again on the **7th January 2020**.

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.

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: Elizabeth Nsonwah, Toni Iamarino & Penny Benge. 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>.



Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 21st Dec 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass Ken Parker RIP	PAGE 90 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Isaiah 7: 10–14 <i>The maiden is with child.</i>
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Mass Livio Fattore RIP	Psalm 23 — Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.
Sun 22nd DEC FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** Filomena Lenguito RIP anniv. 11.15am For the Parish ‡ 5pm Parish Carol Service	2nd Reading: Romans 1: 1–7 <i>Jesus Christ, descendant of David, Son of God.</i>
Mon 23rd December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15 Mass Justina Ogbodu RIP	Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! <i>The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.'</i> Alleluia!
Tues 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15 Mass Connors family intentions 4pm Italian Mass 11.30pm Carols Christmas Midnight Mass Priest's intentions	Gospel: Matthew 1: 18–24 <i>Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.</i>
Wed 25th December NATIVITY OF THE LORD 9.15am Mass Priest's intentions 11.15am Mass Priest's intentions	PREFACE TODAY: Advent II (p. 66) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 2 (p. 25)
Thurs 26th December ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr 10am Mass Special intention PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3: 2–6, 12–14 2nd Reading: Colossians 3: 12–21 Gospel: Matthew 2: 13–15, 19–23
Fri 27th Dec ST JOHN, Apostle (NO Abstinence from meat in the Christmas octave) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Margaret & John Noonan	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.
Sat 28th December THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass Tony Cattini RIP	ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Dennis Dempsey RIP	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.
Sun 29th Dec THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 9.15am** Luciano Dilena RIP 11.15am For the Parish ‡	SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.
* 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)	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.*