

The Announcer

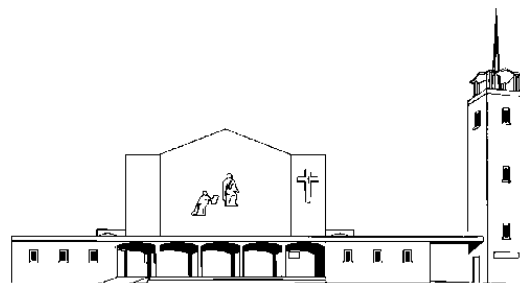
St Augustine's Catholic Church

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 – hoddesdong@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Year A HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

29th DECEMBER 2019

GOSPEL: Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

Take the child and his mother and escape into Egypt.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

A VERY HAPPY & HOLY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL! I pray that your Christmas celebrations – both at Mass and in your homes or with your families – were joyful occasions and that you were truly able to give heartfelt thanks to the Lord for your faith and for your loved ones. To be a disciple of Jesus Christ is the greatest possible calling, and gives life its meaning and hope, and an incentive to love unconditionally. We should never allow the glory of God's choosing to take our human flesh to be anything other than awe-inspiring! Christmas should bring this home to us powerfully, and tenderly. God's majesty and humility are all 'wrapped up' in the divine infant laid in that Bethlehem manger.



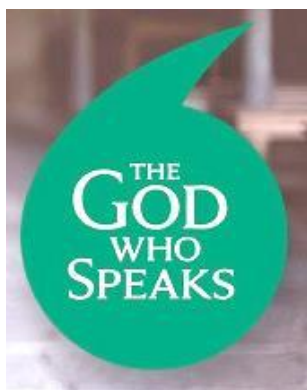
FOR THIS FEAST DAY OF THE HOLY FAMILY, Cardinal Vincent has written us a Pastoral Letter, so we will listen to his words after the Gospel this weekend as he leads us in a reflection of the wonderful mystery of the Incarnation, and in particular draws our attention to the Crib scene.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY ENORMOUS GRATITUDE to all those parishioners who gave of their time and talents to make Christmas a special time in our parish's year: the Parish Secretary, Dawn Bates; our sacristan and altar servers; our organists and parish musicians, including those who sang at the beautiful Carol Service last Sunday; our team of flower arrangers; those who skilfully erected our lovely parish Crib; plus our readers at Mass, and those who assist with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass and to those housebound; and those who clean the church. Thank you, one and all! Many of you work tirelessly throughout the year as parish volunteers, and I am indeed most grateful! And for so many cards and gifts, thank you!

May the holy joy of Christmas fill your hearts as we enter 2020. Fr Philip

2019/20 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 11

It is very beautiful to see how the entire Old Testament already appears to us as a history in which God communicates his word: indeed, "by his covenant with Abraham and, through Moses, with the race of Israel, he gained a people for himself, and to them he revealed himself in words and deeds as the one, living and true God. It was his plan that Israel might learn by experience God's ways with humanity and, by listening to the voice of God speaking to them through the prophets, might gradually understand his ways more fully and more clearly, and make them more widely known among the nations."



PRAYER & LITURGY

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS on Wednesday will be at **10am** due to the Bank Holiday and then 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.

PARISH EPIPHANY PARTY will be held on **next Saturday 4th January 2020** 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.

LATIN MASS: The monthly Latin Mass, with sung chants, will be at **5pm on Sunday 5th January**.

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 has a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, led by Fr. Carlos Quito, the Assistant Priest. The cost is £1333 (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 12.20-3.20pm. 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.

There are also a *small* number of vacancies 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

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

CHRISTMAS CRIB COLLECTION: 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 resume his house visits to parishioners' homes in the streets of Broxbourne after New Year.

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

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

CHURCH CLEANING: Filomena Mezzullo, Elizabeth Nsonwah & Tony & Linda Barrell. 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
<p>Sat 28th December THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Tony Cattini RIP</i></p> <hr/> <p>4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Mass <i>Dennis Dempsey RIP</i></p> <p>Sun 29th DECEMBER HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 9.15am <i>Luciano Dilena RIP</i> 11.15am <i>For the Parish</i> ‡</p>	<p>PAGE 106 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3: 2–6, 12–14 <i>Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.</i></p> <p>Psalm 127 — O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!</p> <p>2nd Reading: Colossians 3: 12–21 <i>Family life in the Lord.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!</i></p> <p>Gospel: Matthew 2: 13–15, 19–23 <i>Take the child and his mother and escape into Egypt.</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Christmas II (p. 66) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1–6 2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2–3, 5–6 Gospel: Matthew 2: 1–12</p>
<p>Mon 30th Dec 6th DAY IN OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15 Mass <i>Santa Lucia</i></p> <p>Tues 31st Dec 7th DAY IN OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15 Mass <i>Deceased members of Davila Family RIP</i></p> <p>Wed 1st January SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 10am Mass <i>Private Intention</i> PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</p> <p>Thurs 2nd January SS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN, 9.15 Mass <i>Intentions of John Welsh & Aaron Hill</i></p> <p>Fri 3rd January HOLY NAME OF JESUS <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Jack RIP</i> NO FIRST-FRIDAY EVENING MASS THIS MONTH</p> <p>Sat 4th January 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Darren McGrath</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> <p>The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</p> <p>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>
<p>4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>Onofrio & Maria Giovenco & Andrea Montalbano RIP</i></p> <p>Sun 5th Jan THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 9.15am <i>Lisa O'Sullivan RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Francesco Sidoli RIP</i> 5pm Latin Mass <i>For the Parish</i> ‡</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REGULAR EVENTS</p>
<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>	

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.*