

The Announcer

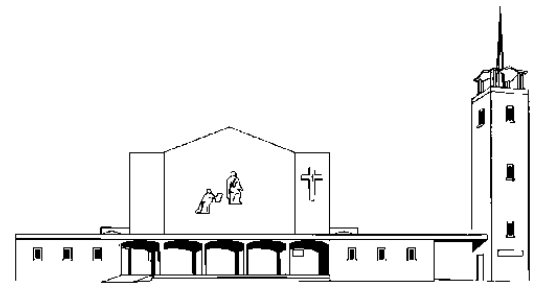
St Augustine's Catholic Church

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

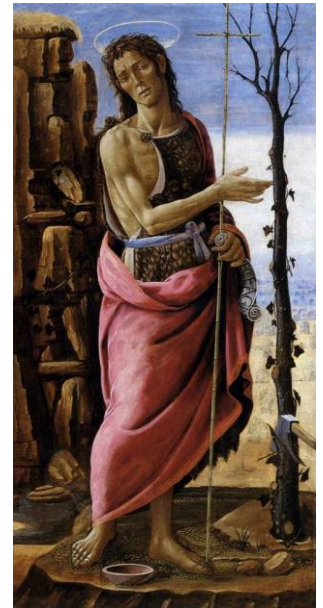
8th DECEMBER 2019

GOSPEL: Matthew 3: 1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

OUR ADVENT PREPARATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS continue with the voice of St John the Baptist crying in the wilderness, "Prepare the Way of the Lord!" As the Gospel says, this is a fulfilling of Isaiah's prophecies. We were reflecting on this last Sunday: those ancient prophet's inspirations come to their fulfilment as God's plan for the coming of the Messiah starts to unfold, and His forerunner, John the Baptist, appears, to preach at the Jordan. It's so important for us to heed the call of St John the Baptist to repent and to convert our lives anew – with God's grace – over the course of Advent. It's why I emphasize and urge you to take the Advent opportunities for the Sacrament of Confession, the most important of which is the **Penitential Service: Tues 17th December, 11.30am & 7.30pm.**



THE ADVENT SCRIPTURE READINGS FROM ISAIAH, PSALMS, ST PAUL & ST MATTHEW – amongst others – are truly a very rich fare for us to feast on in this holy season. It's why I'm focussing on the nature and meaning of Scripture over the course of these Advent Sundays. This weekend we'll consider the psalms, those sacred hymns of Israel that beautify all our liturgy.

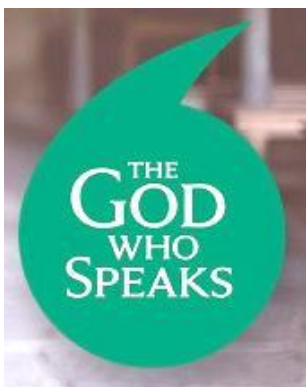
THE ANNUAL PARISH PRE-CHRISTMAS FAIR had a very lovely atmosphere last weekend, so thanks to all who arranged that for us, and all you who came and enjoyed it! We still have some of the **beautiful 'sculpted' candles for sale**, which were left to us as a legacy by the family of a long-standing parishioner – they would make ideal Christmas decorations, and will be on sale after each Mass this weekend and next in the porch: medium-sized £10, large ones £12. Do go and take a look.

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. 8

When we consider the basic meaning of the word of God as a reference to the eternal Word of God made flesh, the one Saviour and mediator between God and humanity, and we listen to this word, we are led by the biblical revelation to see that it is the foundation of all reality. The Prologue of Saint John says of the divine *Logos*, that "all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made"; and in the *Letter to the Colossians* it is said of Christ, "the first-born of all creation," that "all things were created through him and for him." The author of the *Letter to the Hebrews* likewise states that "by faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear."



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).

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 **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.

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

"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 date: **Monday 7.30-9pm: 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**.

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

GENERAL ELECTION MESSAGE from the Bishops of England & Wales. Copies are available printed on blue paper by the parish newsletters, or you can view it at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/2019-general-election-statement-and-bishops-plenary/>

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

MILLY'S CHARITY WEEKEND: A big thank you to everyone who helped make the weekend

a success: Clare Wheatcroft, Anne Cairns, Maria & Maurice Cattini, Gemma Castle and a special thank you to Mary Briggs and Maria Scott for organizing the event. These amounts were raised: Save the Children £258.95, Buy a Square £86, Christmas dec's £45, cakes £32, sweets £21.50, Surprise in a Bag £106.00, church candles £377, wreaths £120 and the kitchen £169.68. **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported the event.

200 CLUB WINNERS for December are Mrs J Grahame, Mrs V Smith & Mrs L Jackson. Congratulations!

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, Long Grove Close, Bourne Close, St Augustine's Drive on **Wednesday afternoon.**

CHURCH CLEANING: Mima Salvo, Francesca Comparetto, Pat Kavanagh, Sue Alvey & Tanya McAteer. 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: 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
<p>Sat 7th Dec ST AMBROSE, Bishop & Dr 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Mr and Mrs Lenguito 25th Wedding anniv.</i></p> <hr/> <p>4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p> <p>Sun 8th DEC SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am** <i>Larry & Maureen O'Neill RIP</i> 11.15am <i>Margherita Barone RIP anniv.</i> ‡</p>	<p>PAGE 85 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10 <i>He judges the wretched with integrity.</i></p> <p>Psalm 71 — In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.</p> <p>2nd Reading: Romans 15: 4-9 <i>Christ is the saviour of all men.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! <i>Prepare a way for the Lord, makes his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!</i></p> <p>Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12 <i>Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Advent I (p. 65) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28)</p> <p>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10 2nd Reading: James 5: 7-10 Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11</p>
<p>Mon 9th December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15 Mass <i>Susan Johnson RIP anniv.</i></p> <p>Tues 10th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15 Mass <i>Henryk Nolewajka RIP</i></p> <p>Wed 11th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Michael, Martin, Ned & Elizabeth O'Connor's intentions</i> — followed by coffee in the crypt</p> <p>Thurs 12th December NO MASS TODAY</p> <p>Fri 13th December ST LUCY, Virgin & Martyr <i>(Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Lena & Thomas Byrne RIP</i></p> <p>Sat 14th Dec ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, Priest & Dr 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Shean & Gay Dowling</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>ROSARY 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>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p> <p>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
<p>4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* <i>For the Parish</i></p> <p>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 ‡</p>	<p>REGULAR EVENTS</p> <p>Mon 9th 7.30pm Come & See, crypt Tues 10th 12.30pm lunch club, crypt Tues 10th 7.00pm Confirmation, crypt Wed 11th 6pm Brownies, crypt</p>
<p>* 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.*