

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

12th JANUARY 2020

GOSPEL: Matthew 3: 13-17

As soon as Jesus was baptised he saw the Spirit of God coming down on him.

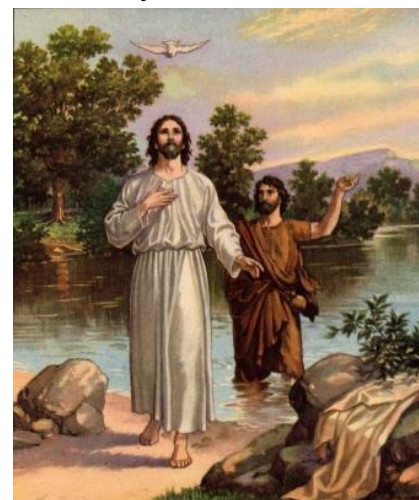
My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

TODAY'S FINAL FEAST OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON – the Baptism of the Lord – also serves as the First Sunday of Ordinary Time, so our festive season dovetails smoothly into the early weeks of 2020, as we keep 'Ordinary Time' prior to Lent.

The Christmas decorations, and the beautiful Crib, are still in place for one last weekend, as we conclude the season. We take a long 'jump forward,' now, from the scene in Bethlehem which we have been gazing at with love for the new-born Christ ever since we began the season with Midnight Mass. We gaze now with just as much love as Jesus, 30yrs old, comes to the River Jordan, and to His cousin John, baptizing, and opens His public ministry. As God the Holy Spirit descends on God the Son we see the "baptism of water" that John offered become the Sacrament, the "baptism of fire and the Spirit," which Jesus offers. Let's renew our baptismal faith today; let's give thanks for the baptism that we have received – however long ago it was – and for those who brought us to Baptism.

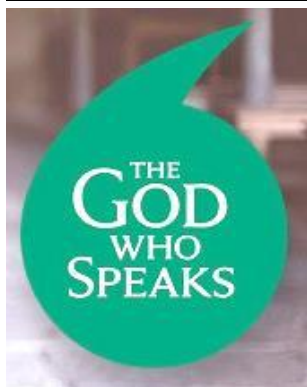
IT IS FITTING THAT TODAY WE WELCOME FORMALLY the families of First-Holy-Communion children onto the 2020 programme with their brief Rite of Enrolment after the homily. These children have been members of our baptismal community for years, but now are preparing for that next step in their initiation as Catholics in receiving the Holy Eucharist. Prior to that, they will prepare to receive that other Sacrament so precious to us Catholics, i.e. Reconciliation, or Confession. We pray for these c. 60 families in this special year – why not consider being a 'prayer partner' to one or other of them, that they may grow in grace and in love for the Lord?

May the Baptism of Christ give us a new appreciation of our having been baptized! Fr Philip



2019/20 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 12

Reading the Gospel accounts, we see how Jesus's own humanity appears in all its uniqueness precisely with regard to the word of God. In his perfect humanity he does the will of the Father at all times; Jesus hears his voice and obeys it with his entire being; he knows the Father and he keeps his word; he speaks to us of what the Father has told him; I have given them the words which you gave me." Jesus thus shows that he is the divine *Logos* which is given to us, but at the same time the new Adam, the true man, who unflinchingly does not his own will but that of the Father. He "increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man." In a perfect way, he hears, embodies and communicates to us the word of God.



PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH
Giulietta, Malena & Rocco Matthews who will be baptised this weekend.

ROSARIO LO MONACO RIP of Gladstone Road, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to his family. His funeral will be on **Friday 17th January at 1.30pm with Don Antonio.**

KEVIN O'BRYAN RIP of Dorchester Avenue, Hoddesdon died recently. Our sympathies go out to his family. His funeral will be on **Monday 20th January at 1pm.**

May they rest in peace.

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 (till 5.45pm)** with a Scriptural reflection, Adoration, Evening Prayer and Benediction. A truly prayerful hour!

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 19th January at 6pm** at St Augustine's Church, Broxbourne on behalf of Churches Together in Hoddesdon. All are welcome. Refreshments and 'mingling' BEFORE (not after) the Service, from 5.30pm.

ROTA FOR READER/MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: for the period Feb-May is due to be drawn up shortly. Please advise Pat Kavanagh by phone 449282 or email patandcarolkav@btinternet.com by **Wed 29th January AT THE LATEST** of any dates in this period that you are NOT available. Please also advise of any changes in personal contact details e.g. address, telephone number.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND 14th-21st May 2020: St. Joseph and English Martyrs parish 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 in Nazareth, 4 nights in 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 is Monday 13th Jan, 7.30pm in the Presbytery.**

CONFIRMATION 2020: next class for the candidates will be **Tuesday 21st Jan, 7-8.30pm** in the crypt and will cover **chs. 12 & 17** of their workbook. **MASS OF ENROLMENT (CHANGE OF DATE)** will take place at Masses on the **18th / 19th January** and will involve a statement and promise of commitment to ongoing preparation.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE:
The first class for the children will be held on **Sat 18th Jan, 10-3pm.** The third meeting for parents will be on **Wednesday 5th February at 8pm** in the crypt.

MASS OF ENROLMENT will take place at all Masses **this weekend.** 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 'PRAYER PARTNERS' are needed for all the children on the programme. A prayer partner prays for a child whilst they are preparing to make their Communion. If you would like to become a prayer partner, please print your name in capital letters on the *blue sheets* at the back of the church.

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

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal **this weekend**. 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.

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. Thank 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.**

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION: Thank you to everyone who came and brought food to share at the party last Saturday. Thanks especially to Vicky & Tony Forni and Judy & Ian Livingstone for their help. It was a really lovely evening to celebrate the Christmas season!

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will be making house visits in Hallmores, St Catherine's Road, Monks Close, on **Tuesday afternoon** this week.

200 CLUB WINNER for January is no. 19, Lisa Moran. Congratulations!

CHARITY BALL in aid of Alzheimer's will be held on **Sat 29th February**, 7.30pm at Paradise Wildlife Park. Tickets are £45 and include a 3-course meal and disco. **To secure your ticket, we do ask that payment is now made.** Thank you. Dawn Bates.

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.

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: 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 11th January 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass Mary Connelley & family	<p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 118 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 42: 1–4, 6–7 <i>Here is my servant in whom my soul delights.</i></p> <p>Psalm 28 — <i>The Lord will bless his people with peace.</i></p> <p>2nd Reading: Acts 10: 34–38 <i>God anointed him with the Holy Spirit.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Alleluia!</i></p> <p>Gospel: Matthew 3: 13–17 <i>As soon as Jesus was baptised he saw the Spirit of God coming down on him.</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Baptism of Our Lord (p. 68) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 3 (p. 28)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 49: 3, 5–6 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 1–3 Gospel: John 1: 29–34</p>						
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Mass Eddie & Bernard McGrath Sun 12th January THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9.15am** Kevin & Baby William O'Bryan RIP 11.15am For the Parish ‡	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>						
Mon 13th January 8.15am Adoration 9.15 Mass Bridie Hanley & family intentions Tues 14th January 8.15am Adoration 9.15 Mass Babbie Molloy RIP Wed 15th January 8.15am Adoration 9.15 Mass Eugene Hardiman RIP — followed by coffee in the crypt Thurs 16th January 8.15am Adoration 9.15 Mass Kevin O'Bryan RIP Fri 17th January ST ANTHONY, Abbot <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Joseph Penheiro RIP 1.30pm Funeral Rosario Lo Monaco RIP Sat 18th January 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass Giuseppe Tambuzzo and Antonino & Giuseppa Cannatella RIP	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">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>						
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* For the Parish Sun 19th Jan SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.15am** Rita McGrath 11.15am Pietro Dileto RIP ‡ 5pm Holy Hour	<p style="text-align: center;">REGULAR EVENTS</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Mon 13th 7.30pm RCIA, presbytery</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Wed 15th 6pm Brownies, crypt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tues 14th 12.30pm Lunch club, crypt</td> <td>Wed 15th 7.30pm All Saints, crypt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tues 14th 7.30pm Baptism course, presbytery</td> <td>Fri 17th 7.30pm Prayer Group, church</td> </tr> </table>	Mon 13th 7.30pm RCIA, presbytery	Wed 15th 6pm Brownies, crypt	Tues 14th 12.30pm Lunch club, crypt	Wed 15th 7.30pm All Saints, crypt	Tues 14th 7.30pm Baptism course, presbytery	Fri 17th 7.30pm Prayer Group, church
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<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.*