

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

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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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

5th JANUARY 2020

GOSPEL: Matthew 2: 1-12

He saw his star and have come to do the king homage.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

TODAY'S SOLEMN FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY is the next celebration of our Christmas season in which we are recalling the sacred and saving events of the birth of Jesus. The Christmas season continues until next weekend, concluding with Baptism of Our Lord.

The Epiphany, celebrated in some parts of the Church with even greater solemnity than Christmas, is the feast of the *manifestation* of the Good News of

the birth of Christ to the wider world – the Magi themselves standing for the pagan, 'Gentile,' nations beyond the bounds of God's holy people of Israel. It marks Jesus out immediately as not only the Jewish *Messiah*, but the Saviour of the World. This is truly good news for the whole of humanity! No wonder these rich, star-gazing, wanderers come to seek the divine infant out, despite the intrepid journey and the veiled threats from an unsettled King Herod.

I WARMLY INVITE YOU AS A PARISH TO COME AND CELEBRATE this glorious feast, sometimes referred to as 'Twelfth Night,' after Saturday-evening Mass this weekend (4th Jan). It's a way of showing clearly that for Christians Christmas doesn't end with the 25th December ... It only just starts then! Let's find fond fellowship in festivity this weekend, with Our Lord's Epiphany!

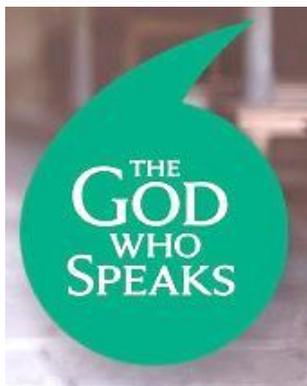
May the Magi's efforts to seek out Christ strengthen your own love for Him today! Fr Philip



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

The eternal Word, expressed in creation and communicated in salvation history, in Christ became a man, "born of woman." Here the word finds expression not primarily in discourse, concepts or rules. Here we are set before the very person of Jesus. His unique and singular history is the definitive word which God speaks to humanity. We can see, then, why "being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a definitive direction." The constant renewal of this encounter and this awareness fills the hearts of believers with amazement at God's initiative, which human beings, with our own reason and imagination, could never have dreamt of. We are speaking of an unprecedented and

humanly inconceivable novelty: "the word became flesh and dwelt among us." These words are no figure of speech; they point to a lived experience! Saint John, an eyewitness, tells us so: "We have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." The apostolic faith testifies that the eternal Word became one of us. The *divine Word* is truly expressed in *human words*.



PRAYER & LITURGY

EPIPHANY PARTY will be held **this Saturday** after the 6.30pm Mass in the crypt. We will have a shared meal of finger food only, so if you can, do bring a sweet or savoury dish with you. Drinks will be provided by the parish.

CARDINAL PROSPER GRECH OSA – cousin of our parishioner Godwin Castaldi, and renowned patristic scholar – has died in Rome, aged 94. *May he rest in peace.*

SCHOOLS' MASS on **Friday 10th January** at 9.30am with both schools. There will still be 11am Adoration and Mass at 12 noon as usual.

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 peaceful 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.

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 **THIS 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

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 St David's Drive, Hallmores, Osborne Road, Ivybridge, on **Wednesday afternoon**.

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

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**, 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 there are now only about 50 tickets left. To secure your ticket, we do now 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: 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: 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 4th January 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass Darren McGrath		PAGE 115 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1–6 <i>Above you the glory of the Lord appears.</i> Psalm 71 — All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord. 2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2–3, 5–6 <i>It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.</i> Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 2: 1–12 <i>We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.</i> PREFACE TODAY: Epiphany (p. 67) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18) NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 1st Reading: Isaiah 42: 1–4, 6–7 2nd Reading: Acts 10: 34–38 Gospel: Matthew 3: 13–17
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Mass Onofrio & Maria Giovenco & Andrea Montalbano RIP		
Sun 5th January THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 9.15am Lisa O'Sullivan RIP 11.15am Francesco Sidoli RIP 5pm Latin Mass For the Parish ‡		
Mon 6th January 8.15am Adoration 9.15 Mass Helene Gilchrist RIP Tues 7th January 8.15am Adoration 9.15 Mass Private intention Wed 8th January 8.15am Adoration 9.15 Mass Christopher Whelehan RIP Thurs 9th January 8.15am Adoration 9.15 Mass Angela Smith RIP rec. dec.		
Fri 10th January (Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+) 9.30am Joint schools' Mass in church 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass Angela Smith RIP rec. dec.		
Sat 11th January 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass Mary Connelley & Family		
4.00pm* Italian Mass 6.30pm* Eddie & Bernard McGrath		
Sun 12th Jan THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9.15am** Baby William O'Bryan 11.15am For the Parish ‡		
* 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)		
REGULAR EVENTS		
Tues 7th 12.30pm Lunch club, crypt Tues 7th 7pm Confirmation, crypt		Wed 8th 8pm Parents 1st HC meeting, 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.*