

# 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-12 noon)

Also in residence: Fr Joshy Philip (National chaplain to Knanayan community)

Safeguarding parish rep: Rhian Hanson – [hoddesdonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:hoddesdonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

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**Year B**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

Gospel: Mark 13: 33-37

*Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.*

**My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,**

**THANKFULLY, PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS CAN RESUME ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER!** It has been a great shame that we have had another month during which Mass celebrated publicly was suspended, but Fr Joshy & I have celebrated all the daily Masses, with the special November remembrance and prayer for the Holy Souls. *May they rest in peace.*

*Our church is open all day long, and evening Adoration (6-7pm) will continue on weekdays even after Tuesday.* Adding to [Prayer Sheet no. 1](#) and [Prayer Sheet no. 2](#) I have also prepared a [Prayer Sheet no. 3](#) for you for this final weekend without Mass; please continue to pray fervently!



**WE BEGIN THE NEW CHURCH YEAR THIS WEEKEND,** with the first Sunday of Advent. It will be a shame not to have you present for that first liturgical action of this beautiful season of Advent – the blessing of the Advent wreath – but be assured that it will be there in the sanctuary, and lit ready for you to return to Mass from Wednesday. The Lord asks us in the Gospel from [Mk 13](#) that we "stay awake, ... and stand ready!" – this is the key theme of Advent: to hope, to wait, to long, for the Lord's

coming. Perhaps this year more than ever we can long for Christmas with spiritual hopes high; for a simple Christmas that is focussed on the coming of the Lord, then, and now, and again.

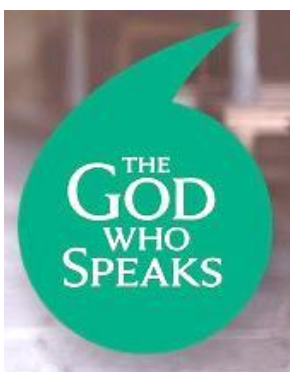
**OBVIOUSLY THE PARISH HAS TAKEN ANOTHER FINANCIAL 'HIT' THIS MONTH,** because of this second period of suspension of public Mass. Please continue to give to the parish as generously as you are able, to support our finances, either putting your offerings (e.g. offertory envelopes) through the Presbytery door, or by Standing Order or other online means: details available inside the Newsletter. Thank you!

**May the Lord bless this Advent, and stir up our hearts for His coming!**

**Fr Philip**

**2019/20 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 49**

Holiness inspired by the word of God thus belongs in a way to the prophetic tradition, wherein the word of God sets the prophet's very life at its service. In this sense, holiness in the Church constitutes an interpretation of Scripture which cannot be overlooked. The Holy Spirit who inspired the sacred authors is the same Spirit who impels the saints to offer their lives for the Gospel. In striving to learn from their example, we set out on the sure way towards a living and effective hermeneutic of the word of God. Through the intercession of the saints ..., let us ask the Lord that our own lives may be that "good soil" in which the divine sower plants the word, so that it may bear within us fruits of holiness, "thirtyfold, sixtyfold, a hundredfold."



## PRAYER & LITURGY

**LUISA DI PALMA** of Whitehands Close died recently, aged 56. Her funeral will be held in church in private. Our sympathies go out to her family. *May she rest in peace.*

**CHURCH OPENING:** the church is open daily (c. 8.30am–7pm), with **Adoration** at the beginning and at the end of the day for an hour or more. Low-level supervision operates throughout each day, to ensure that all is safe: volunteer parishioners or Fr Philip or Fr Joshy, are available in church/porch. There are hygienic facilities in place, masks are to be worn, and distancing (2m from any person other than from one's own household) is to be maintained.

### (UNTIL TUESDAY ONLY) ... PUBLIC SUSPENSION OF MASS:

- The suspension of public Mass means that the *obligation to attend Sunday Mass is removed* for the duration of the suspension.
- *Sunday Mass can be followed online* from various churches. E.g., *Bishops Stortford*, <http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford>; *Westminster Cathedral*: <https://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk/> ; *The Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham*: <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>
- *The readings for Mass* can be found every day on the 'Universalis' website <http://www.universalis.com/mass.htm>
- You don't have to be a FaceBook user to view our parish page, as it's open-access: [www.facebook.com/CatholicHoddesdon](http://www.facebook.com/CatholicHoddesdon) – I will be adding a *video* of my homily to this page for one last Sunday.
- *A resource for daily spiritual nourishment* is the '[Pause for Faith](#)' YouTube channel hosted by Westminster priest Fr Stephen Wang: 30-min reflections, very accessible.
- *Confessions* – available by request in the usual confessional, but only *kneeling at the grille/curtain*, not face to face. Alternatively, ring Fr Philip for an appointment for confession in the open in the parish garden.

**DRIVE-IN CAROL SERVICE (CHURCHES TOGETHER)** will be held at Paradise Wildlife Park on **20<sup>th</sup> December** at 5.30pm & 7.30pm. Please put the date in your diary and more details will follow in due course.

**SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' COLLECTION** would usually be taken at this time of the year. Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools, hospitals, hospices & parishes. By supporting the fund, you can help cover essential costs and give them peace of mind that in the event of an emergency, their needs will be met. You can donate online at [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations) or use the QR code alongside:



Scan to Give

## FINANCE

**PARISH FINANCE** is greatly helped by the many new Standing Orders set up this year. However, covering parish costs is still a big problem. The parish bank a/c has decreased by about £13k since the start of the year.

We do ask those of you whose finances are stable at present to consider your parish giving, to help the parish out at a difficult time. Please see <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon/donate/> for the details, or fill in [this form](#). For a Standing Order, here are the necessary details:

<b>Account Name:</b>	<b>WRCDT Hoddesdon</b>
<b>Sort Code:</b>	<b>40-05-20</b>
<b>Account Number:</b>	<b>31264370</b>

You can also give by Virgin Money Giving: by using this link [tiny.cc/8xn0tz](http://tiny.cc/8xn0tz), or by using the QR code alongside:



## 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" / FIRST HOLY COMMUNION /

**CONFIRMATION:** classes suspended for now. Despite looking at options for a suitable space to take classes, there seems still no safe way to pursue **First Holy Communion** class with the children, so this will continue to be suspended until the New Year 2021, after which we will try to resume their preparation.

**Confirmation:** the intended small-group celebrations of Confirmation have had to be put on hold for now. So sorry about this!

### JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

**CORONAVIRUS - FOODBANK:** Hundreds of people rely on generous donations to the local FoodBank from our parishioners and other local people. The need is for hygiene items, toilet paper, sanitary products etc., as well as sealed packages of NON-PERISHABLE foods: dry food, tins, and long-life milk etc. The FoodBank collection boxes are in the church porch.

### SCHOOLS

**ST CROSS SCHOOL HEADTEACHER,** Mrs Joanne Walsh, writes re Reception Intake September 2021: Due to the current restrictions with COVID-19 visits for prospective parents of the Reception intake 2021 are not feasible at present. I am delighted to share with you a video clip of 'a typical day in the life of a St. Cross pupil' which has been uploaded to our school website [www.stcross.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stcross.herts.sch.uk). Applications for the September 2021 intake open on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 and the deadline for return is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. Application Forms for St Cross School can also be downloaded at [www.stcross.herts.sch.uk/\\_site/data/attachments/P42/St-Cross-School-SIF-2021.214052967.pdf](http://www.stcross.herts.sch.uk/_site/data/attachments/P42/St-Cross-School-SIF-2021.214052967.pdf).

**ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL RECEPTION CLASS ADMISSIONS 2021-22:** If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017, you can apply for a Primary School place to start in September 2021. The application process closes on the **15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021**. The school will be providing a virtual video of the Reception class environment and will be setting up remote meetings. Please check the school website [www.staugustines.herts.sch.uk](http://www.staugustines.herts.sch.uk) for the link to the sign-up form, dates, and times. Application form is available here:

<https://staugustines.herts.sch.uk/herts/primary/staugustines/site/pages/ofsted/admissions>

### SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

**HOUSE VISITS:** Fr Philip will resume his house visits on **Wednesday afternoon**, finishing EN11 9L\* and beginning EN11 9J\*.

**APF RED BOXES** now need emptying. Please contact Ellen Bartlett on 464677.

**MARSHAL VOLUNTEERS:** vaccinations against the virus are going to take place in Barclay Hall, next to Hoddesdon Anglican Parish Church. The NHS is asking for volunteers to help with marshalling. The session would be for 4 hours (8.45am-1pm or 12.45-5pm). The marshals would need to be outside during this time. The NHS will draw up a rota of volunteers, so people could volunteer for just one session a week. It is unsure when the programme will start and finish at the moment, but could start in December and go on for 2 months. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [docforrest@hotmail.com](mailto:docforrest@hotmail.com).

**CHURCH CLEANING** – a special rota will be devised now that the church is open again.

**DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES** can be viewed online <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs>.

### **POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER TO OUR LADY**

**at this time of the virus outbreak**

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus's pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection.

*Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of us who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*



Masses this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Nov SATURDAY MASS OF OUR LADY</b> Private Mass <i>Jean &amp; Pat Walsh RIP</i>	<b>PAGE 82 in the Mass books</b>
Private Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 63: 16–17, 64: 1, 3–8 <i>Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down.</i>
<b>Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Nov FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> Private Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> Private Mass <i>Laurence &amp; Tona Aquilina RIP</i> Private Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<b>Ps 79 — God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.</b>
<b>Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Nov ST ANDREW, Apostle</b> Private Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 1 Corinthians 1: 3–9 <i>We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.</i>
<b>Tues 1<sup>st</sup> December</b> Private Mass <i>Pius Ogbodu RIP</i>	<b>Gospel Accl:</b> <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!</i>
<b>Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b> 8.15am Adoration <span style="float: right;">9am Morning Prayer</span> 9.15am Mass <i>Tony Clayton RIP</i> 6pm Adoration	<b>Gospel:</b> Mark 13: 33–37 <i>Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.</i>
<b>Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> December ST FRANCIS XAVIER, Priest</b> 8.15am Adoration <span style="float: right;">9am Morning Prayer</span> 9.15am Mass <i>Melanie Pinto RIP</i> 6pm Adoration	<b>PREFACE TODAY:</b> Advent I (p. 51) <b>EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:</b> no. 2 (p. 25)
<b>Fri 4<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration/11.45am Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Fr John Miller RIP</i> 6pm Adoration	<b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b> <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 40: 1–5, 9–11 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> 2 Peter 3: 8–14 <b>Gospel:</b> Mark 1: 1–8
<b>Sat 5<sup>th</sup> December</b> 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Pier Fernandes-Kohler RIP</i>	<b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b> Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at any other time.
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>John &amp; Joan Coughlan RIP</i>	<b>ROSARY</b> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
<b>Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Dec SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Pasquale Ricotta RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Mary &amp; Patrick Lawlor</i> 5pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b> 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.
<div style="text-align: right;">* Vigil Mass of Sunday</div>	<b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b> Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date. <b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust</b> <b>Registered Charity No. 233699</b>
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	

**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 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.*