

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-1pm)

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

Safeguarding parish rep: Rhian Hanson – hoddesdong@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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Year B THIRD ("GAUDETE") SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13th DECEMBER 2020

Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

There stands among you ... the one who is coming after me.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

GAUDETE SUNDAY – THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – brings with it a certain new joy of expectation as Christmas draws nearer. The rose-pink 3rd candle of the wreath, and rose-pink Mass vestments, point to this change, as we prepare to enter the second part of Advent from the 17th December, days in which we make our final preparation for Christmas. It means that this week the Christmas decorations begin to go up: the trees and the crib. I urge you all to pop in to Church for private prayer when passing, to keep your hearts focussed on what Advent means, the imminent *coming* of Christ.

HAVING HEARD ST JOHN THE BAPTIST IN LAST WEEK'S GOSPEL (St Mark), we hear of him again today in the Gospel of St John: he is described as "a witness to speak for the Light." His message was irreplaceable, as he prepared the people for the appearance of that Light, the Messiah, Jesus, and he urged them all to prepare their hearts, "to clear the way," by repentance for their sins ...

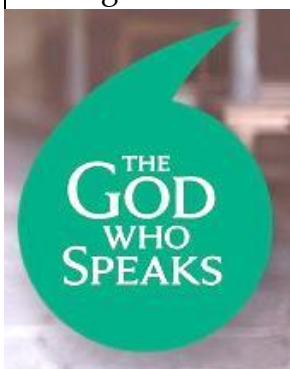
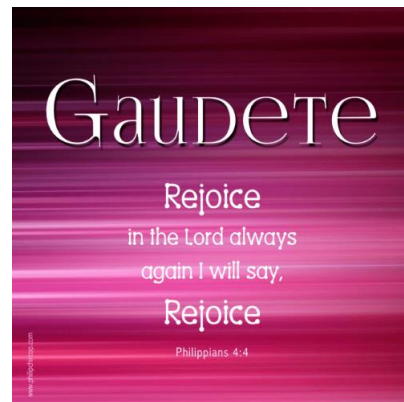
Reconciliation (Confession) for Christmas: both Wed 16th and Tues 22nd Dec (any time 6-7pm); this will take place during the quiet evening Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and both Fr Joshy & I will be available for that hour (or more). **PLUS: Fri 18th Dec 12.30-1.30pm.**

I THANK THOSE WHO IMMEDIATELY RETURNED TO MASS after the November suspension, and I urge all who are not shielding because of health conditions to be here at Mass once more, as we move through Advent towards Christmas. We had c. 225 last weekend across all the Masses, so there is *plenty of space* still, despite the requirements of being spaced – particularly, there is room at Sunday 5pm Mass which I have added in recent months to give you more options. The same conditions apply as earlier in the year, regarding the wearing of face coverings, spacing out in church (alternate pews etc.), and the use of hand gel – for this reason we have stewards at Mass to help you; please politely follow their directions.

May the Lord cleanse our hearts, in readiness for His coming! Fr Philip

2019/20 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 50

To receive the Word means to let oneself be shaped by him, and thus to be conformed by the power of the Holy Spirit to Christ, the "only Son from the Father." It is the beginning of a new creation; a new creature is born, a new people comes to birth. Those who believe, that is to say, those who live the obedience of faith, are "born of God" and made sharers in the divine life: *sons in the Son*. As Saint Augustine puts it nicely in commenting on this passage from John's Gospel: "you were created through the Word, but now through the Word you must be recreated."



PRAYER & LITURGY

GAETANO DI STEFANO of Whitley Road died recently, aged 63. His funeral will be held in church in private. Our sympathies go out to his family.
May he rest in peace.

ADVENT

RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS: Fr Philip & Fr Joshy will be available during Adoration on **Wed 16th & Tues 22nd Dec** 6-7pm, in the Confessional & Lady Chapel. And also **Friday 18th Dec 12.30-1.30pm.**

DRIVE-IN CAROL SERVICE (CHURCHES TOGETHER) is now sold out.

CAROLS IN CHURCH will be played on the organ on **Wednesday 16th & 23rd December** from 2-3pm.

MIDNIGHT MASS/CHRISTMAS DAY: Mass will be at midnight on Christmas Eve and at 9.15am & 11.15am on Christmas Day. There will be stewards at each Mass who will show you where you need to sit. We do need to impose a safe capacity in the church given the requirements of being sufficiently spaced. The current capacity of our church is 50-90, depending on whether people come as singles, couples or families. Only half the pews are available for sitting in. The doors may well be closed once Mass begins, for this reason. Please be aware of this – be on time, and do not be upset if you arrive and cannot get in.

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC MASS:

- Parish volunteer stewards will ensure that those arriving at Mass adhere to the protocols regarding hygiene and distancing.
- *Please note that the toilets will remain CLOSED.*
- *Sunday Mass is shortened, to give time for sanitizing the church between Masses. There is no congregational singing, no Offertory Procession and no Sign of Peace. Holy Communion will be distributed carefully and slowly. You can give your usual weekly donation as you exit the church, rather than in the middle of Mass.*
- *The obligation to attend Sunday Mass continues to be suspended, so those whose health is compromised may still feel it necessary to avoid coming to Mass for the time being.*
- *Confessions – available again 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.

PARISH TIMETABLE: the church is open daily (c. 8am – 7pm) with Mass and Adoration at the usual times. Additionally, **Adoration at the end of the day (6-7pm) will continue, Monday-Friday.** 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.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' COLLECTION:

Please give your envelope into the collection box or post it through the presbytery door. You can also donate online at 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:

Account Name:	WRCDT Hoddesdon
Sort Code:	40-05-20
Account Number:	31264370

You can also give by Virgin Money Giving: by using this link 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.

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. The catalogues we have been sent are inserted in the newsletters.

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. Applications for the September 2021 intake opened on 2nd November 2020 and the deadline for return is **15th 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.

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL RECEPTION CLASS ADMISSIONS 2021-22: If your child was born between 1st Sept 2016 and 31st August 2017, you can apply for a Primary School place to start in Sept 2021. The application process closes on the **15th 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 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>

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL has a small number of vacancies in years 2,3 4 & 5. Please contact the school for more info on 463549.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will resume his house visits on **Wednesday afternoon**, beginning to visit in the postcodes EN11 9H*.

200 CLUB WINNERS for December are: first prize no. 102, £125, Mrs Mary Wipperman; second prize no. 28, £75, Mr & Mrs C A Wright; third prize no. 25, £50, Mr D Lydon. Congratulations to you all!

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.

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
Sat 12th Dec OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass Giuseppe Cognata RIP	PAGE 87 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Isaiah 61: 1–2, 10–11 <i>I exult for joy in the Lord.</i>
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass For the Parish Sun 13th Dec THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass Larry O'Neill RIP 11.15am Mass Margherita Barone RIP anniv. 5pm Mass David Cush RIP	Ps Luke 1: 46–50, 53-54 — My soul rejoices in my God. 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16–24 <i>May you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the Lord.</i>
Mon 14th Dec ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, Priest 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Josephine & Thomas Murphy RIP 6pm Adoration	Gospel Accl: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!</i>
Tues 15th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Joy Ighade's intentions 6pm Adoration	Gospel: John 1: 6–8, 19–28 <i>There stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me.</i>
Wed 16th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Giuseppe & Maria-Teresa Distefano RIP 6pm Adoration PLUS CONFESSIONS	PREFACE TODAY: Advent I (p. 51) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)
Thurs 17th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Wright Family intentions 6pm Adoration	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B) 1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7: 1–5, 8–12, 14–16 2nd Reading: Romans 16: 25–27 Gospel: Luke 1: 26–38
Fri 18th December <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration/11.45am Benediction 12 noon Mass Thomas & Lena Byrne RIP 6pm Adoration	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.
Sat 19th December 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass Christopher Whelehan RIP	ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* Maureen Murphy RIP Sun 20th Dec FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass For the Parish 11.15am Mass Pietro Dileto RIP 5pm Mass Pat O'Connor RIP	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 style="text-align: right;">* Vigil Mass of Sunday</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. Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699
REGULAR EVENTS	

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.*