

# The Announcer

## St Augustine's Catholic Church

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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 – [hoddesdonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:hoddesdonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

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**Year B**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

*Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.*

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

**THIS FOURTH AND FINAL SUNDAY OF ADVENT** brings us the moving Gospel account of the Annunciation, as God makes known to Mary via the Angel Gabriel His plan for salvation: the Incarnation of the Son of God. To reflect on this beautiful episode is a wonderful preparation for Christmas. As we imagine Our Lady's reaction to this incredible proposal from on high, we are drawn to appreciate the awesomeness of God's love for us, His wanting to enter creation and take our flesh, His desiring to be "God with us."

**HERTFORDSHIRE NOW ENTERING INTO TIER 3** doesn't affect your access to the church or to Mass. All we have to be mindful of is strictly to *sit only with those of our own household or support bubble*. Otherwise, it's a matter of the usual hygiene protocols: face coverings to be worn, hand gel to be used on entry and exit, and to avoid chatting or gathering together after Mass. We had 255 last weekend, so there remains *plenty* of space.

**CHRISTMAS WEEK IS UPON US**, a great and holy time, and so I draw your attention to these dates:

**Reconciliation (Sacrament of Confession): Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec (any time 6-7pm)** during quiet evening Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and both Fr Joshy & I will be available for that hour (or more).

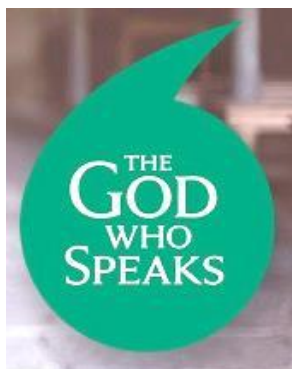
**Christmas Masses:** Midnight Mass; 9.15 & 11.15am on the day. Please note that for the sake of safety and in order to be fair to the stewards, **the church doors will be closed once Mass begins** (or earlier if church is at safe capacity). Therefore, you *must* be early for Mass (arrive at least 5-10mins before Mass).

**AS WE GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS**, I thank all those decorating our church (Crib, trees, flowers etc.), and also all those who continue with stewarding Masses and supervising the open church.

**May the Lord prepare our hearts well as we approach Christmas! Fr Philip**

**2019/20 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 51**

The relationship between Christ, the Word of the Father, and the Church cannot be fully understood in terms of a mere past event; rather, it is a living relationship which each member of the faithful is personally called to enter into. We are speaking of the presence of God's word to us today: "Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." As Pope John Paul II has said: "Christ's relevance for people of all times is shown forth in his body, which is the Church. For this reason the Lord promised his disciples the Holy Spirit, who would 'bring to their remembrance' and teach them to understand his commandments, and who would be the principle and constant source of a new life in the world."



## 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 & CHRISTMAS

### **RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS:**

Fr Philip & Fr Joshy will be available during Adoration on **Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 6-7pm**, in the Confessional & Lady Chapel.

**DRIVE-IN CAROL SERVICE (CHURCHES TOGETHER)** is now sold out. But they will be streamed online on the parish FaceBook page, 5.30pm and 7.30pm Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>.

**CHRISTMAS 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 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 will be closed once Mass begins**, for this reason, so you need to be on time (5-10mins before Mass, at least). Please be aware of this – and do not be upset if you arrive and cannot get in.

**DIOCESAN PRAYERS FOR CHRISTMAS** octave: especially if you feel you are not able to come to Christmas Mass at this time, you might think of coming to another, quieter weekday Mass in the Christmas Octave which lasts till 1<sup>st</sup> January. The diocese has also produced a wonderful [prayer sheet](#) for use at home, to guide you through this festive octave.

**CRIB APPEAL:** our Crib Offerings are donated to the *Catholic Children's Society*. Since March, the Society has provided emergency food & essentials, as well as mental-health services, for over 5,500 children & their parents/carers. These families have faced desperate situations due to the coronavirus pandemic. There are many more families in need of support, so please consider making a donation.

### **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.

## 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](https://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.

**BROXBORNE BOROUGH WINTER NIGHT SHELTER** will not take place in 2021 as the council is now housing guests and providing starter-packs of kitchen, bedroom & bathroom essentials. Thank you to all those who helped during the last two years.

**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 opened 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 Sept 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 continue his house visits on **Wednesday afternoon**, in the postcodes EN11 9H\*.

**WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS 2021** available to buy for £4.50 from the back of the church. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

**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

**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 19<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Christopher Whelehan RIP</i>	<p align="center"><b>PAGE 90 in the Mass books</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> 2 Samuel 7: 1–5, 8–12, 14–16  <i>The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord.</i></p> <p><b>Ps 88—</b> <i>I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.</i></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Romans 16: 25–27  <i>The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.</i></p> <p><b>Gospel Accl:</b> <i>Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!</i></p> <p><b>Gospel:</b> Luke 1: 26–38  <i>Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.</i></p> <p><b>PREFACE TODAY:</b> Advent II (p. 52)  <b>EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:</b> no. 2 (p. 25)</p>
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Maureen Murphy RIP</i> <b>Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Dec FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Pietro Dileto RIP</i> 5pm Mass <i>Pat O'Connor RIP</i>	<p align="center"><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b></p> <p align="center"><b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH (YEAR B)</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Genesis 15: 1–6, 21: 1–3  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Hebrews 11: 8, 11–12, 17–19  <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 2: 22–40</p>
<b>Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b> 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass <i>Angela Smith RIP anniv.</i> 6pm Adoration 9am Morning Prayer	
<b>Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b> 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass <i>Justina Ogbodu RIP</i> 6pm Adoration PLUS CONFESSIONS 9am Morning Prayer	
<b>Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b> 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass <i>Christine Jones int's</i> 6pm Adoration 9am Morning Prayer	
<b>Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> December CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 8.15am Adoration 9.15am Mass <i>Dec'd members of the Meaney family</i> 9am Morning Prayer	
<b>11.30pm</b> Carols on the organ <b>Christmas Midnight Mass</b> <i>Priest's intentions</i>	<p align="center"><b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b></p> <p align="center">Saturday 10.30 – 11am &amp; 5.30 – 6.15pm            Sunday 8.30 – 9am &amp; 10.40 – 11am            or ask Fr Philip at any other time.</p>
<b>Fri 25<sup>th</sup> December NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i>	<p align="center"><b>ROSARY</b></p> <p>The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<b>Sat 26<sup>th</sup> December ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr</b> 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Dec'd members of the Graffato Family</i>	<p align="center"><b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b></p> <p>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>
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>Connors Family int's</i>	<p align="center"><b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b></p> <p>Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p> <p align="center"><b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust</b>  <b>Registered Charity No. 233699</b></p>
<b>Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Dec THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Dec'd members of Galligan family</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 5pm Mass <i>Pat O'Connor RIP</i>	
<p align="center">* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p>	
<p align="center"><b>REGULAR EVENTS</b></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 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.*