

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-1pm)

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

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

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Year B CHRISTMAS DAY / FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY 25th/27th DECEMBER 2020

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40 *The child grew, filled with wisdom.*



My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

A BLESSED & HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU! Whether or not you are able to come to Christmas Mass this year – I know that many of you are still feeling fearful of the ongoing 'waves' of the pandemic – I wish you the blessings of this sacred time, and invite you to celebrate this great feast with faith in the Son of God, made man for our salvation. The [diocesan prayer sheet for the Christmas Octave](#) can help you to focus your meditations on the eternal meaning of Christmas, which is unchanging, whatever the world throws at us! "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and for ever"!

HERTFORDSHIRE'S NOW BEING IN TIER 4 still doesn't affect your access to the church or to Mass. We have to be mindful of strictly *sitting 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. The church pews are cleaned regularly, and after each Mass. We had c. 180 last weekend, so there remains *plenty* of space for you to come safely to Mass.

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION is a key part in any parish of how it funds its priest, so I do ask you to consider your Christmas offering, even if you are unable to come to Mass: you can give through any of the online means (see inside Newsletter) or posting it through the Presbytery door. Thank you! Those of you who have made significant savings this year, might wish to consider, as I have, of giving generously to charities this Christmas: suggestions I would propose are: [CaFOD](#), [Mary's Meals](#), [Aid to the Church in Need](#), and [Friends of the Holy Land](#), all of which have good websites via which to donate.

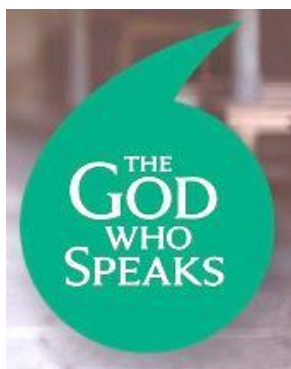
I THANK ALL WHO HAVE HELPED the parish celebrate Christmas, even in these reduced circumstances: the daily open-church supervisors; Mass stewards; floral-decoration team; organists; altar servers; parish secretary; money-counters; and those who erected the Crib. I pay especial tribute to Pat Kavanagh, with *enormous* thanks for his ongoing organisation of supervisors and stewards for the Church's opening ever since mid-June, in order to keep our church safe for those who come to pray and come to Mass. *Thank you also* to those who have given me gifts, cards and greetings – I hope that you can celebrate Christmas somehow, even if simply then with a gentle joy, and a prayer-filled heart.

May the Lord bless you with joyous grace at His holy birth!

Fr Philip

2020/21 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 51

The Bride of Christ — the great teacher of the art of listening — today too repeats in faith: "Speak, Lord, your Church is listening." ... Here we encounter a dynamic definition of the Church's life: "... The Church draws life not from herself but from the Gospel, and from the Gospel she discovers ever anew the direction for her journey. This is an approach that every Christian must understand and apply to himself or herself: only those who first place themselves in an attitude of listening to the word can go on to become its heralds."



PRAYER & LITURGY

MARY KNIVETT, formerly of Benstede Court, Hoddesdon died recently, aged 88. Her funeral will be held in Chichester where she went to live near her daughter in 2019. Mass will be offered here for Mary on 21st January. Our sympathies go out to her family. *May she rest in peace.*

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 1st 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.

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.

CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC MASS:

- Parish volunteer stewards ensure that those arriving at Mass adhere to the protocols regarding hygiene and distancing.
- *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.
- *Please note that the toilets will remain CLOSED.*
- *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.

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 £12.5k 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, 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.

BROXBOURNE 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 over the last 2 yrs!

SCHOOLS

ST CROSS SCHOOL HEADTEACHER, Mrs Joanne Walsh, writes: due to the current restrictions with COVID-19, visits for prospective parents of the Reception intake 2021 are not feasible. I 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 Jan 2021**. Application forms can 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 September 2021. The application process closes on the **15th January 2021**. The school is providing socially distanced tours and a face-to-face meeting with the Headteacher. Please check the school website www.staugustines.herts.sch.uk for the link to the sign-up form, dates, and times of each tour. Videos of the Reception class environment and an application form are available here: <https://staugustines.herts.sch.uk/herts/primary/staugustines/site/pages/sign-upform>

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.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' COLLECTION amounted to £180, on top of which we made a further parish donation of £200.

MARSHAL VOLUNTEERS: vaccinations against the virus are taking place in Barclay Hall, by Hoddesdon Anglican 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 |
|---|---|
| <p>Sat 26th Dec ST STEPHEN, the First Martyr 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Dec'd members of the Graffato Family</i></p> | <p>PAGE 105 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Genesis 15: 1–6, 21: 1–3 <i>Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood.</i> Ps 104 — He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever. 2nd Reading: Hebrews 11: 8, 11–12, 17–19 <i>The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac.</i> Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!</p> |
| <p>4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Connors Family int's</i></p> <p>Sun 27th Dec HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 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> | <p>Gospel: Luke 2: 22–40 <i>The child grew, filled with wisdom.</i></p> <p>PREFACE TODAY: Christmas II (p. 52) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 1 (p. 18)</p> |
| <p>Mon 28th Dec THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs 10am Mass <i>Sheila Tonelli RIP</i> THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</p> | <p>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (YEAR B) 1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 24: 1–2, 8–12 2nd Reading: Ephesians 1: 3–6, 15–18 Gospel: John 1: 1–18</p> |
| <p>Tues 29th Dec ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Brendan McPeake RIP</i> 6pm Adoration</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>Wed 30th Dec 6TH DAY IN OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Luciano Dilena RIP</i> 6pm Adoration</p> | <p>ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p> |
| <p>Thurs 31st Dec 7TH DAY IN OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Marian Joyce RIP rec. dec.</i> 6pm Adoration</p> | <p>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> |
| <p>Fri 1st Jan SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD 11am Adoration/11.45am Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Liberato Reveglia RIP</i> THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</p> <p>Sat 2nd Jan SS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Private intention</i></p> | <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</p> |
| <p>4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>Samuel Mungai's intentions</i></p> <p>Sun 3rd Jan SECOND SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY 9.15am Mass <i>Enzo Genuardi RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 5pm Mass <i>Wilfred Maciel & Stanley Almeida RIP</i></p> | <p>* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p> |
| 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 ciascuna 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.*