

The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

Tel: 01992-440986

Fax: 01992-440244

Web-site: www.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon



E-mail: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon"

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

Italian safeguarding rep: Rossetta Tona – italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Year B

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6th DECEMBER 2020

Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8

Make his paths straight.

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

IT IS A GREAT BLESSING THAT WE HAVE RESUMED THE PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS, and I urge you all to return again to Mass, as we were able to in July-October this year. The same conditions apply, regarding the wearing of face coverings, spacing out in church (alternate pews etc.), and the use of hand gel on entry – for this reason we have stewards at each Mass to help you.



ADVENT IS NOW IN FULL SWING, this holy and gentle season of preparation for the feast of Christ's birth, and we should treasure and make good use of this sacred time. **St John the Baptist** speaks to us movingly on these middle Sundays of the season, calling out to us from the pages of the Gospel, as Isaiah had prophesied 8 centuries earlier: "*Prepare the way for the Lord!*" This fore-runner of the Messiah, Jesus's own cousin, makes clear to us that the most important preparation for Christmas is the spiritual readiness of our hearts, for Christ to come. Let us "prepare the way"!

Although Advent won't be quite as usual this year, as we can't have all the same celebrations, yet I draw your attention to these opportunities:

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

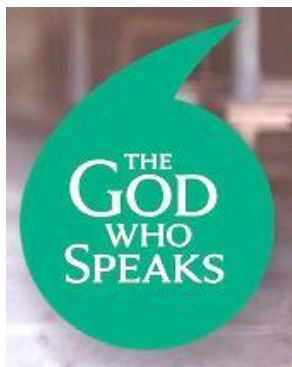
Drive-In Carol Service: Sun 20th Dec (5.30pm or 7.30pm) at Paradise Wildlife Park. Since we cannot have congregational singing in church at this time, an ideal alternative is organised by Churches Together for the final Sunday of Advent. Book your places online (details inside ...).

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

Fr Philip

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

The Lord speaks his word so that it may be received by those who were created "through" that same word. "He came among his own" (*Jn 1:11*): his word is not something fundamentally alien to us, and creation was willed in a relationship of familiarity with God's own life. Yet the Prologue of the Fourth Gospel also places us before the rejection of God's word by "his own", who "received him not" (*Jn 1:11*). Not to receive him means not to listen to his voice, not to be conformed to the *Logos*. On the other hand, whenever men and women, albeit frail and sinful, are sincerely open to an encounter with Christ, a radical transformation begins to take place.



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.*

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. Fr Philip will also hear confessions on request.

DRIVE-IN CAROL SERVICE (CHURCHES TOGETHER) will be held at Paradise Wildlife Park on **20th December** at 5.30pm & 7.30pm. Bookings are now live, so please visit: <https://www.pwpark.com/events/christmas-carol-service-3/>

CAROLS IN CHURCH will be played on the organ on **Wednesday 9th December from 2.30-3.30pm & on 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 indicate 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. It may be that the doors will need to be closed for Mass if the capacity has been reached. Please be aware of this, 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: envelopes are attached to the newsletter. Please give your envelope into the collection box or post it through the presbytery door. 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 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.

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 open 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 September 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>

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will resume his house visits on **Tuesday afternoon**, finishing EN11 9J* (Hertford Road).

APF RED BOXES (MISSIONS) now need emptying for the year. 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.

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 5th Dec 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Pier Fernandes-Kohler RIP</i>	PAGE 85 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1–5, 9–11 <i>Prepare a way for the Lord.</i>
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>John & Joan Coughlan RIP</i> Sun 6th Dec SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>Pasquale Ricotta RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Mary & Patrick Lawlor</i> 5pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	Ps 84 — Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. 2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3: 8–14 <i>We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth.</i> Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of the God. Alleluia!
Mon 7th December ST AMBROSE, Bishop 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Carole Sampson RIP</i> 6pm Adoration	Gospel: Mark 1: 1–8 <i>Make his paths straight.</i>
Tues 8th Dec IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Dec'd members of the Murphy Family</i> 6pm Adoration	PREFACE TODAY: Advent I (p. 51) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: no. 2 (p. 28)
Wed 9th Dec ST JUAN DIEGO CUAUHLATOATZIN 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Maria Miranda RIP</i> 6pm Adoration	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B) 1st Reading: Isaiah 61: 1–2, 10–11 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16–24 Gospel: John 1: 6–8, 9–28
Thurs 10th December 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass <i>Pat O'Connor RIP</i> 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.
Fri 11th December <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration/11.45am Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Tony Clayton RIP</i> 6pm Adoration	ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Sat 12th December OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Giuseppe Cognata RIP</i>	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.
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>For the Parish</i>	SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.
Sun 13th Dec THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>Larry O'Neill RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Margherita Barone RIP anniv.</i> 5pm Mass <i>David Cush RIP</i>	Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
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.*