

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

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

Year B

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10th JANUARY 2021

Gospel: Mark 1: 7-11 *'You are My Son, the Beloved. My favour rests on You.'*

My Dear Parishioners of St Augustine's,

I WAS VERY SORRY TO HAVE TO ANNOUNCE SUDDENLY, last weekend, a brief suspension of public Mass because of health reasons, but all being well the full programme of Masses will resume on Wed 13th, along with morning & evening Adoration, and Morning Prayer, at the usual times.

I AM GRATEFUL THAT THE DEAN, FR PETER HARRIS from the parish in Bishops Stortford, has offered to come and celebrate Sunday Masses this weekend (10th Jan) – **Sunday 9.15 & 11.15am ONLY** – and these will be the *only* Masses, along with the Sat 4pm Italian Mass, this weekend. The Mass intentions for the other days have all been celebrated in private, or have been rescheduled to other January dates.



THE FINAL FEAST OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON today, the feast of the **Baptism of the Lord**, completes the cycle of celebrations of His infancy with this 'leap forward' to His Baptism in the River Jordan at the age of about 30. We also commence Year-B's reading-through of St Mark's Gospel, the most concise and 'urgent' of the accounts of Our Lord's ministry. After all those years in Nazareth, for Jesus's earthly ministry to be beginning in earnest – with the Father's voice giving authoritative testimony, and the Spirit's anointing – must have been an astonishing occasion, for Our Lord Himself, and also

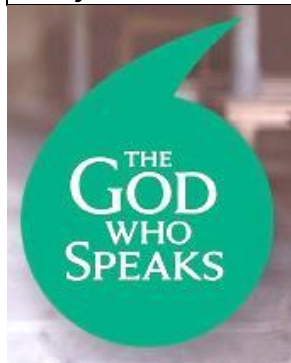
for those who were there at the Jordan with St John the Baptist. What the Lord brought to the world in that moment, the consecration of the waters of Baptism as a saving Sacrament, means that this occasion effectively touches our lives too, very profoundly, in that sacred, cherished day, of our own Baptism.

NATIONAL TIER-5 RESTRICTIONS still permit your access to Mass and the church, which is open c. 8.30am-6pm daily. We must strictly adhere to the usual hygiene protocols: face coverings to be worn; hand gel to be used on entry & exit; *sitting only with those of our own household or support bubble*; and to avoid chatting or gathering together in or outside church. The church door handles and pews are sanitized regularly.

May the Lord sustain you spiritually with faith & hope through this pandemic. Fr Philip

2020/21 Year of the Word: Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, n. 52

It must be said that Christ himself "is present in his word, since it is he who speaks when Scripture is read in Church." ... The Church has always realized that in the liturgical action the word of God is accompanied by the interior working of the Holy Spirit who makes it effective in the hearts of the faithful. Thanks to the Paraclete, "the word of God becomes the foundation of the liturgical celebration, and the rule and support of all our life. The working of the same Holy Spirit ... brings home to each person individually everything that in the proclamation of the word of God is spoken for the good of the whole gathering. In strengthening the unity of all, the Holy Spirit at the same time fosters a diversity of gifts."



PRAYER & LITURGY

MARY KNIVETT, formerly of Benstede Court, Hoddesdon died recently, aged 88. Her funeral will be held in Chichester where she has lived near her daughter since 2019. Mass will be offered here for Mary on 21st January.

MARY RYAN of Murchison Road died recently, aged 79. Her funeral will be held in church in private.

VINCENZO MARTORANA of Tovey Avenue died recently, aged 78. His funeral will be held in private in the church with Don Antonio. Our sympathies go out to their families.

May they rest in peace.

CRIB APPEAL: LAST CHANCE! 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 5,500+ children & their parents/carers. These families have faced desperate situations due to the pandemic. There are many more families in need of support, so please consider making a donation.

BRIEF SUSPENSION OF MASS: only the following Sunday Masses – **Sat 4pm (Italian); Sun 9.15am & 11.15am** – will be offered publicly prior to Wed 13th Jan. From Wednesday onwards, the usual timetable is expected to resume, with the church open daily (c. 8am – 7pm) and Mass and Adoration at the usual times. **Adoration at the end of the day (6-7pm) will continue, Monday-Friday** (from 13th Jan). Low-level supervision operates throughout each day, to ensure that all is safe: volunteer parishioners 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 last year. However, covering parish costs is still a big problem. The parish bank a/c decreased by about £11.5k across 2020.

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!

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE. Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry at each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? *Retrouvaille* helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. There is no group therapy or group work. The programme has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. **The next 'virtual weekend retreat' takes place 25th-28th February.** For confidential information about *Retrouvaille*, or to register for the next programme, call 07887-296983 or 07973-380443, or e-mail retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: make a difference as a CaFOD volunteer. CaFOD Westminster is looking for volunteers, who care about global poverty, to help us inspire others to act here, so we can tackle poverty and injustice across the developing world. Are you a 'people person' who would relish involving and encouraging others? Are you a good communicator who would enjoy speaking about our work in a Parish or School? Please get in touch on westminster@cafod.org.uk or 020-8449-6970 to find out more and book a place on one of our CAFOD online information sessions.

SCHOOLS

ST CROSS SCHOOL. Applications for the September-2021 intake: deadline 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 2021: The application process closes on the **15th January 2021.** Videos of the Reception class environment and application form are available here: <https://staugustines.herts.sch.uk/herts/primary/staugustines/site/pages/sign-upform>

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



GOOD NEWS!! 'Awards for All' from the National Lottery, has awarded us a £9k+ grant to complete the upgrade of our crypt-hall flooring. The very 'tired' 25-yr-old carpet will be replaced with 2 types of flooring, one part matching the crypt-kitchen floor, for easily-cleaning areas where food is served, and the other for the remainder of the crypt. The work will commence as soon as possible.

UNDER-5s 200 CLUB: The January winner of the 200 Club is no. 14, Andrea Smith. Congrats!

HOUSE VISITS: Fr Philip will discontinue his house visits for the time being owing to the national Tier-5 'lockdown' restrictions.

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 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. If you are interested in volunteering, 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 9th Jan Private Mass <i>Lisa O'Sullivan RIP</i>	PAGE 120 in the Mass books
4pm Italian Mass* Private Mass For the Parish Sun 10th Jan BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9.15am Mass Kevin & Baby William O'Bryan RIP 11.15am Mass Benedetto & Vincenza Provenzano RIP anniv.	1st Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-11 <i>Come to the water. Listen, and your soul will live.</i> Is 12 — With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 2nd Reading: 1 John 5: 1-9 <i>The Spirit and water and blood.</i> Gospel Accl: Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: 'This is My Son, the Beloved. Listen to Him.' Alleluia! Gospel: Mark 1: 7-11 <i>'You are My Son, the Beloved. My favour rests on You.'</i>
Mon 11th January Private Mass Maria, Domenico & Giovanni Rubino RIP Tues 12th January ST AELRED OF RIEVAULX Private Mass <i>Fr John Cunningham's ints.</i> Wed 13th January ST HILARY OF POITIERS 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Patricia Merriman RIP 6-7pm Adoration Thurs 14th January 8.15am Adoration 9am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass Elizabeth O'Connor's ints 6-7pm Adoration Fri 15th Jan 11am Adoration/11.45am Benediction 12 noon Mass Joseph Penheiro RIP 6-7pm Adoration Sat 16th Jan SATURDAY MASS OF OUR LADY 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass Cono Miragliotta RIP rec. dec.	PREFACE TODAY: Baptism of the Lord (p. 54) EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: <i>ad lib.</i> <p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)</p> 1st Reading: 1Sam 3:3-10, 19 2nd Reading: 1Cor 6:13-15, 17-20 Gospel: John 1: 35-42
4pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* Giovannina & Antonio Minichiello RIP Sun 17th Jan SECOND SUNDAY OF YEAR 9.15am Mass For the Parish 11.15am Mass Giuseppe Tambuzzo RIP 5pm Mass Connie Murphy RIP 1st anniv.	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.30 – 9am & 10.40 – 11am or ask Fr Philip at any other time. <p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass. <p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</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 style="text-align: right;">* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</p> Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date. <p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</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 parroccchiani 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.*