

The Announcer

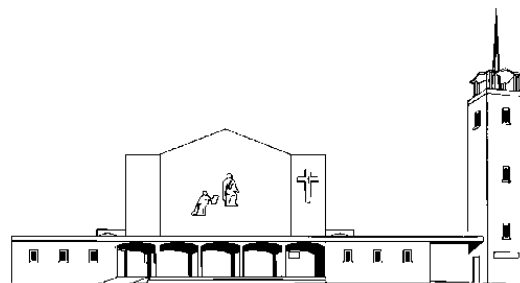
St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon"

Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies

Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 9am-3pm)

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

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

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

Year C

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

28TH NOVEMBER 2021

Gospel: Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

Your liberation is near at hand.

Are we losing our grip? We should be, for today is Advent Sunday, the start of the season which reminds us that everything other than God is provisional and that time temporal is running out. Our readings proclaim that the Lord is coming back. The clock is five minutes to midnight. Are we on the right track for heaven, and prepared for his return? As if to reinforce the message our bishops have asked us whether we are truly honouring the Lord in our Mass attendance, or is our acquaintance a casual visit. How important for us is attending



Mass, relative to attending to our other Sunday activities? As the Sunday Mass is the very heartbeat of the Church and of our personal life of faith, they remind us that, *'Our Lord Jesus invites us to receive anew the gift of Sunday as the preeminent day, the day of the Resurrection, when the Church gathers to celebrate the Eucharist. Here we stand together before our heavenly Father, offering our thanksgiving and prayer, through our Saviour in the Holy Spirit. Here we receive Christ in his Word. Here we are nourished by Christ in his precious Body and Blood. This is our primary joy, for which there is no substitute, and from which we draw our strength. We gather on the "first day of the week," and devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42). The Eucharist sustains us and spurs us on, renewing our gratitude and our hope. When we say "Amen" to Christ in receiving his Body and Blood, we express the love of God which is deep within us, and at the end of Mass, when we are sent forth, we express our love for our neighbour, especially those in need. These two dimensions reveal the full meaning of our faith. We are gathered together and sent out, we pray and are fed, we worship and we adore; these are intrinsic to our lives as those baptised into Christ.*

While recognising that for some it may still be impossible to fulfil the Sunday obligation of Mass attendance, the bishops remind us that Mass attendance remains obligatory. It is our personal response to the selfless offering of Christ's love, who said 'Do this in remembrance of me'. There are many things that Jesus also told us to do, but if we had to stand before him tonight, should he return or should we leave this mortal life, would we be able to say to him in confidence I gave you the priority of my time and my life in keeping the faith?? As we enter Advent, conscious that we do not know not the time or the hour of his return, let's take stock of where we are. Let's put right what's amiss and keep awake.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

MARIE LAYDON of High Road died recently, aged 99. Her funeral will be on **Wednesday 8th December at 10am**. The Morning Mass will be at 9am. Our sympathies go out to her family.

GIUSEPPE MANISCALCO of Middlefield Road died recently, aged 91. His funeral will be on **Wednesday 15th December at 12.30am**. Our sympathies go out to his family.

May they rest in peace.

ADVENT

RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS: Our Parish Penitential Services will be on **Monday 13th December at 11.30am and 7.30pm**.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 19th December at 6pm**. Volunteers are needed to help make refreshments afterwards. If you can help, please contact the presbytery.

CHRISTMAS MASS: There will be a children's Mass at 3pm on Christmas Eve and there will also be Mass at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day, Mass will be at 9.15am and 11.15am.

ADVENT EXTRA magazine is now available to buy for £2.25 from the back of church. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will not take place on Thursday evening.

FIRST FRIDAY Mass will be held on **Friday 3rd December at 7pm**.

SYNODAL PATHWAY is an initiative from Pope Francis & is being conducted in all churches around the world. The Westminster Diocese website has detailed information on this <https://rcdow.org.uk/synod/>. Attached to the newsletter is a letter from our Parish Rep, Michel Jordan, explaining more as well as 6 simple questions for you to reflect on and answer. This will also be added to our website. **Please answer the questions and return them to the box provided at the back of the church by the 12th December. Please note the date has now been extended.** If you prefer, you can email or post your replies to the presbytery. Additional sheets are available at the back of the church.

CONGRATULATIONS to Giovanni & Maria

Amico who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary this weekend.

FR JULIAN'S FORMAL INDUCTION AS PARISH PRIEST will take place at the 6.30pm Mass on **Saturday 29th January 2022**. Bishop Paul McAleenan will be the principal celebrant, and it will be followed by a celebration in the crypt. Please do put the date in your diary. More details to follow in due course.

MUSICIANS are needed to help at the Sunday Masses. If you can assist, please do contact the presbytery.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY HELPERS NEEDED at the 9.15am Mass. If you are available to assist, please do contact the presbytery.

FINANCE

CONTACTLESS GIVING AT MASS: since many people now carry little or no cash on them, there is now a device for giving your weekly offering to the parish for its upkeep contactlessly, by card. The device is at the **LEFT HAND** exit door from church as you leave Mass.

PARISH FINANCE: Thank you so much to all who continue to give regularly by S.O., or by envelope. For those whose finances are more stable at present, please consider your parish giving to support the parish. 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

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

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently including Giuseppe Maniscalco, & Marie Laydon and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Jimmy Hurley, Keith Collins, Vincenzina DiAmbrosio, Janet Denton, Antonio Terranova, Rosario Lo Monaco, Catherine Salmon, Marina Scrivener, Pamela Taylor, Gaetano Distefano, Elena Mazza and Roger Cookson. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

CATECHETICS

RCIA: 'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Are you considering becoming a Catholic or an adult Catholic wishing to be confirmed? Come and discover more. We meet at the presbytery on **Tuesday 30th November at 7.30pm.**

CONFIRMATION: Any young person who is in year 9 or above and is interested in being Confirmed, please contact the presbytery with your name, date of birth, school, school year and a contact number.

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Saturday 11th December 2021 at 11.30am** in church. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

FOODBANK: Sadly, donations to the foodbank are currently not meeting the basic need, so the Foodbank is using its reserves to buy the necessary food. If you can donate, basic foods are needed of non-perishable foods: dry food, tins and long-life milk etc. 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. Catalogues are now available at the back of the church.

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL have a vacancy for an Early Years LSA. Please visit https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view/learning-support-assistant-eyfs_67664.htm

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

REPOSITORY: A volunteer is needed to help out after the 6.30pm Mass to open the repository. If you can assist, please contact Carol on 07976.950359. The repository is now stocked with Christmas cards, so please do take a look!

JOYEUX NOEL Ware Choral Society will be singing an Oratorio and Carols on **Saturday, 11th December**, at The Drill Hall, Ware, at 7.30pm. All Tickets, £15, from Anne Byrne, 467097.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' COLLECTION: The total raised amounted to £180. Thank you!

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS 2022 are now available to buy for £4.50 from the back of the church. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

QUIZ NIGHT in aid of The Daniela Ruggiero Scholarship Fund will be held on **Friday 14th Jan**, 7.30pm in crypt. £5 per head, payable on the night. Welcome to bring your own refreshments, nibbles and brains! Please contact Vicky Lee-Lozone on 07747 485023 to reserve a table.

ST ELIZABETH'S CENTRE in Much Hadham have various job vacancies. Please visit <https://www.stelizabeths.org.uk/working-with-us/current-vacancies>.

THE PASSAGE, a Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give a matched giving scheme from 12.00 noon. Every £1 donated online between 12.00 noon on Tuesday 30 Nov and 12.00 noon on Tuesday 7 Dec makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. Please consider supporting this charity through the link <https://bit.ly/PassageBG2021>

CHURCH CLEANERS: Two more cleaners are needed to help clean the church for one hour per month on a Wednesday. If you can help, please contact the presbytery.

CHURCH CLEANING: Pat Kavanagh, Sue Alvey & Tanya McAteer. Thank you for your help.

DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES can be viewed online <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs>.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 27th Nov BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ON SATURDAY 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>	Page 82 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Jeremiah 33: 14-16 <i>I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>For the Parish</i>	Ps 24— To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
Sun 28th Nov FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Patrick White RIP</i>	2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3: 12-4:2 <i>May the Lord confirm your hearts in holiness when Christ comes.</i>
Mon 29th November 8.30am Exposition 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 6pm Exposition	Gospel Accl.: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!</i>
Tues 30th Nov ST ANDREW, Apostle 8.30am Exposition 9.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 6pm Exposition	Gospel: Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36 <i>Your liberation is near at hand.</i>
Wed 1st December 8.30am Exposition 9.15am Mass <i>Pius Ogbodu RIP – followed by coffee in the crypt</i> 6pm Exposition	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)</p>
Thurs 2nd December 8.30am Exposition 9.15am Mass <i>Patrick & Mary Wall intentions</i> NO Exposition	1st Reading: Baruch 5: 1-9 2nd Reading: Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11 Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6
Fri 3rd December ST FRANCIS XAVIER, Priest <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.45 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Lena & Thomas Byrne</i> 6pm Exposition 7.00pm Mass <i>Gaetano Distefano RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.45 – 9am & 10.45 – 11am or ask Fr Julian at any other time.
Sat 4th Dec ST JOHN DAMASCENE, Priest & Dr 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass <i>Decd members of Graffato & Gimalva Families</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>For the Parish</i>	<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 Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.
Sun 5th Dec SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>Pasquale Ricotta RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Melania Pinto RIP</i>	<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. Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 30th 1pm lunch club, crypt	Tues 30th 7.30pm RCIA, presbytery

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.*