

The Announcer

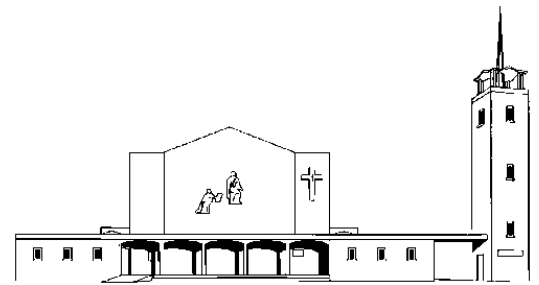
St Augustine's Catholic Church

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 – hoddesdong@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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

Year C

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

19TH DECEMBER 2021

Gospel: Luke 1: 39-45

Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Our gospel readings today form part of the Visitation narrative, the encounter of two amazing women, the cousins, Mary and Elizabeth who were divinely chosen to play a part in the most important event in human history. Elizabeth tends to be overlooked. Yet with remarkable prophetic insight she utters those famous words which have become the second part of the Rosary acclamation: 'Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus'. Equally remarkable is the



question which she puts to Mary. 'Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?' In this question Elizabeth, even before Jesus' birth acknowledges him as her Lord. The word she uses for lord is kurios, the very word used of God (Yahweh) in the Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures. In calling him 'my Lord' she recognises Jesus' messianic and divine claims over her life. Mary in her response gives voice to praise in what has been called the Magnificat which is a song of pure prophecy from first to last. She proclaims that through the divine conception of Jesus in her womb, God would accomplish and has accomplished everything that he prophesied he would. Its words send shock waves through all who build their lives on the false foundations of pride, power and riches. No wonder those who seek to control the masses find it unpalatable. It is after all the most radical manifesto in human history, a declaration that God is bringing about through the person of Mary's son, a social, moral and economic revolution which will overturn the false and sham values of the world. All this would be hidden from calloused and locked minds and remains hidden today to those who have missed the point why we celebrate the birthday of the Saviour. It is so easy to sanitise the Christmas story and reduce it to the level of wishful thinking and sinking sentimentality. Rejoice with Mary and Elizabeth in fact and faith. Jesus' birthday approaches: the dawn of our redemption and the revelation of God's divine purpose for the salvation of the world.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

JAMES PEARCE of McKenzie Road, died recently aged 83. His funeral will be on **Wednesday 22nd December at 2pm.**

KATHLEEN PARKER of Danemead, died recently, aged 81. Her funeral will be on **Thursday 23rd December at 11am.**

SHEILA TURPIN of Meadway, died recently, aged 75. Her funeral will be on **Monday 10th January 2022 at 11am.**

NORMAN WAITE of Broune Close, died recently aged 87. His funeral will be on **Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 11am.**
Our sympathies go out to their families.

May they rest in peace.

ADVENT

PARISH CAROL SERVICE will be held this **Sunday 19th December** at 6pm and will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the crypt. All are welcome!

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

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD is on **Thursday 6th January** and is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. Mass will be at 9.30am, 12 noon and 8pm.

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

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/>. A letter from our Parish Rep, Michel Jordan, explaining more as well as 6 simple questions for you to reflect on and answer is beside the box at the back of church. **Please answer the questions and return them to the box provided at the back of the church.** If you prefer, you can email or post your replies to the presbytery. Additional sheets are available at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

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.

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 help the parish out. 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 James Pearce, Kathleen Pewter, Sheila Turpin, Norman Waite and Costa Souraz and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Albert Warden, Livio Fattore, Theodora Van Hage, Margaret Byrne, William

Rainsford, Paul Grixti, Jean Walsh, Mary Ryan and Kay Gaffney. *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: Come and explore if you are considering becoming a Catholic or are an adult Catholic wishing to be confirmed. We will meet at the presbytery on **Tuesday 4th January at 7.30pm.**

CONFIRMATION 2022: The date for the first class will be on **Monday 17th January at 7.15pm.** Forms are now available to apply for the course from the presbytery during the week or please email the presbytery to request the form. Please return the form to the presbytery by the 12th January 2022.

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.

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal on the **15th/16th January.** SPUC is currently campaigning to protect Pro-Life speech. Pro-life witness is being restricted now more than ever; we must be able to speak freely to protect unborn babies.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

COVID UPDATE: With the daily news about the omicron variant, it is important to ensure the following:

- Anyone displaying symptoms of covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person
- Please do use the hand sanitiser when you enter and leave the church
- Unless exempted, or in the sanctuary, please wear a face covering during the act of worship.

CRIB APPEAL: At Christmas our Crib offerings are donated to the Catholic Children's Society.

Throughout the pandemic the Society has provided mental health services and family support for thousands of vulnerable children and families. There are many more families in need of support. You can donate at the Crib or via the website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib.

REPOSITORY: The repository is now stocked with Christmas cards, so please do take a look!

MISSIO RED BOXES: Boxes should be opened for 2021 by the 20th December. My sincere thanks to members who have informed me of their change of payments. If you would like your box collected, please ring me on 464677. If you have moved house or area in the last 6 years and wish to continue to support Missio, please let me know. Calendars will be sent direct from London. Thank you. Ellen Bartlett.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Please do not leave cards for parishioners at the back of the church. We have found from past years that they are not collected. Please give them into the hands of the intended recipients! Thank you.

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. 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>.

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

CHURCH CLEANING: Elizabeth Nsonwah, Tina Pegna, Romeo Rodrigues and Sophie Lenguito. Thank you for your help.

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



Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<p>Sat 18th December 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass <i>Jean Walsh RIP</i></p> <hr/> <p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>Maureen Murphy RIP</i></p> <p>Sun 19th Dec FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>Chris Whelehan RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 6pm Carol Service</p>	<p>Page 90 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Micah 5: 1-4 <i>Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.</i></p> <p>Ps 79— <i>God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.</i></p> <p>2nd Reading: Hebrews 10: 5-10 <i>Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl.: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!</i></p> <p>Gospel: Luke 1: 39-45 <i>Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?</i></p>
<p>Mon 20th December 8.30am Exposition 9.15am Mass <i>Gerry & Mary O'Connor & Family</i> 6pm Exposition</p> <p>Tues 21st December ST PETER CANISIUS, Priest 8.30am Exposition 9.15am Mass <i>Michael Downey & Family intentions</i> 6pm Exposition</p> <p>Wed 22nd December 8.30am Exposition 9.15am Mass <i>Josephine & Thomas Murphy – followed by coffee in the crypt</i> 2.00pm Funeral James Pearce RIP 6pm Exposition</p>	<p>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (YEAR C)</p> <p>1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14 2nd Reading: Colossians 3: 12-21 Gospel: Luke 2: 41-52</p>
<p>Thurs 23rd Dec 8.30am Exposition 9.15am Mass <i>Justina Ogbodu RIP</i> 11am Funeral Kathleen Pewter RIP NO Exposition</p> <p>Fri 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 3pm Children's Nativity Mass 4.30pm Italian Mass 11.30pm Christmas Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i></p>	<p>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.45 – 9am & 10.45 – 11am or ask Fr Julian at any other time.</p> <p>ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</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 Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.</p>
<p>Sat 25th December NATIVITY OF THE LORD 9.15am Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i></p> <p>Sun 26th Dec THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 9.15am Mass <i>Daniel Doyle</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</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.</p> <p>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
* 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.*