

The Announcer

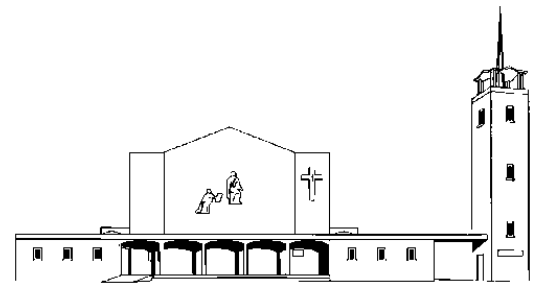
St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

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Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies

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

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Year C CHRISTMAS DAY/FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY 25TH/26TH DECEMBER 2021

Gospel: John 1: 1-18

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

Have yourself a merry, merry Christmas or have yourself a merry, selfish Christmas. These are the only two options. Here's some ingredients for a healthy Christmas.

First adore Jesus who is the reason for the season. The lights, the evergreen, the gifts all point to him. Our scandalous claim is that God has entered our world to set us free. God is love, and yet so often we are not loving, showing that our fundamental human need is to be loved. Through Jesus we are loved back into being. His life for ours....he was born to die so that we might live and love. It is to those who receive him, and believe in His name that he gives power.

Second, take time to enjoy the twelve days of Christmas and not one. Celebrating Jesus' birthday over twelve days is a good way of reminding ourselves that he wants to be at the centre of every day of our life and not just one. It's also a good way of transitioning into the New Year.

Third let's surrender each day and its daily activity to God, so that these become positively holy days, not just holidays. Let's offer up everything as an act of thanksgiving. We are called to worship and that means not just within four walls but with every fibre of our being, wherever and whatever.

Fourth, as we celebrate God's abundant provision, let's not overindulge because if you do you will kill the true meaning of Christmas and probably yourself. Remember that we are 'fed' in more ways than one not by gulping but by savouring. Take time. Taste life.

Fifth. Let's welcome a change of vision. The humble birth of Jesus reminds us that in what is small, weak, vulnerable, poor we find hidden signs of grace. Let's stop pretending we are something we are not.

Sixth, the news that the angels proclaimed was good news for everyone. The two offspring hiding behind the cloak of Christmas present in Dicken's Christmas Carol were ignorance and want. They exist today. Ignorance is a failure to face up to the reality of ourselves, the world around us and the love of God. Want is the desperate need of the human family to access the shared benefits of God's creation and recreation. What a mission for the people of God as we approach a new year.

Happy Christmas! Rejoice the Saviour is here!

Fr Julian



PRAYER & LITURGY

MASS on **Monday 27th December, Tuesday 28th December** and **Monday 3rd January** will be at 9.15am and not at 10am, as will be the case for all Bank Holidays.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will not take place during the week next week.

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.

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.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS will take place on **Friday 7th January** at 7pm.

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

NORMAN WAITE of Bourne 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.

SYNODAL PATHWAY: A big thank you to all those of you who filled in and returned the questionnaire. I have now prepared a synthesis which I passed onto Fr Julian. We plan to produce an extract in the Announcer early next year. The next stage will be the 'listening' exercise where we have the opportunity to share and expand on some of the suggestions for growing our Faith and our Community. Michel Jordan

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 Christine Davies, Arnaldo Moruzzi, Salvatore Colletti, Ettore Forte,

Giuseppa Busciglio, Thomas Murphy, Alfonso Carubbia, Patrick Sheridan and Antonia Orsini.

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.

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.

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.

CATHOLIC HERALD is now available to buy for £5 from the back of church. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

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 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/dioocese/jobs>.

NEWSLETTER: Please note that there will be no newsletter next week.



THANK YOU from the presbytery to everyone for your very kind cards, gifts and good wishes. They are very much appreciated.
Fr Julian, Fr Joshy and Dawn.

Liturgy this week	Liturgy next week
<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>Mon 3rd January MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS 8.30am Exposition 9.15am Mass <i>In honour of St Lucia</i> PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</p> <p>Tuesday 4th January 8.30am Exposition 9.15am Mass <i>Caroline Delaney & Family intentions</i> 6pm Exposition</p>
<p>Mon 27th December ST JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist 9.15am Mass <i>Luciano Dilena RIP</i> NO Exposition PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</p> <p>Tues 28th December THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs 9.15am Mass <i>Henryk & Assunta Nolewajka RIP</i> NO Exposition PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</p> <p>Wed 29th Dec ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop & Martyr NO Exposition 9.15am Mass <i>Filomena Lenguito RIP— followed by coffee in the crypt</i> NO Exposition</p> <p>Thurs 30th Dec 6TH DAY IN OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS NO Exposition 9.15am Mass <i>In Thanksgiving - Nsonwah Family</i> NO Exposition</p> <p>Fri 31st December 7TH DAY IN OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Sr Teresa Montana & Luisa de Jesus Acosta</i> NO Exposition</p>	<p>Wednesday 5th January 8.30am Exposition 9.15am Mass <i>Private intention – followed by coffee in the crypt</i> NO Exposition</p> <p>Thursday 6th Jan EPIPHANY OF THE LORD HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION 8.30am Exposition 9.30am Mass <i>Pat McBrearty RIP</i> 12 noon Mass <i>Kathleen Fitzpatrick RIP anniv</i> 8pm Mass <i>James Pearce RIP</i></p> <p>Friday 7th Jan ST RAYMOND OF PENYAFORT <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i> 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Marie Laydon RIP</i> 6pm Exposition 7pm Mass <i>Private intention</i></p> <p>Sat 8th January 8.30am Adoration 10am Mass Giuseppe Corroccoli RIP</p>
<p>Sat 1st January SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 9.30am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Elsa Castaldi RIP</i></p>	<p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Eugene McCarthy RIP</i></p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p>	<p>Sunday 9th January THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9.15am Mass <i>Kevin O'Bryan & Baby William</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p>
<p>Sun 2nd January 2ND SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY 9.15am Mass <i>Isabella Abrahams RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Antonino Cuffaro RIP</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">* Vigil Mass of Sunday</p>	<p>The Rosary is often prayed in the lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass</p>

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.*