

- The Announcer

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS

Tel: 01992-440986

Web-site: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon>

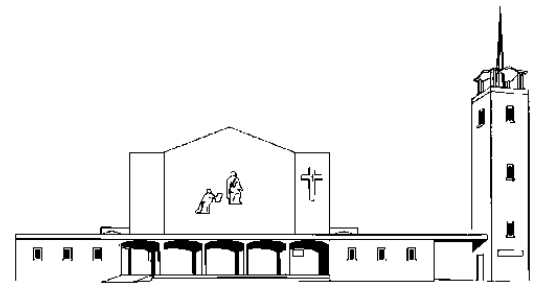
Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies

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

Also in residence: Fr Mathews Valiyaputhenpura Joy (National chaplain to Knanaya community)

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

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



E-mail: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon"

Year A

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

27TH NOVEMBER 2022

Gospel: *Matthew 24: 37-44*

Stay awake so that you may be ready.

Have you heard of the 'scandal of particularity'? This is the belief that only in Jesus Christ are we saved, and that he alone is the 'Way, the Truth and the Life'. This is fundamentally at odds with today's relativistic way of thinking, which despises the preference of one over another and any absolute claims to truth. Such relativism is a rejection of God's word and a denial of his rights. We are made in God's image, but we return the compliment, making god in our image, and the god we make in our image is offended by God's sovereign election. God chose the family of Abraham, to receive his particular blessing, and then he chose a branch of that family, the people of the promise, to reveal his purposes to the rest of the world. The Jews didn't merit this role. It was theirs simply by God's gracious election. Entering into a covenantal relationship with God, they were to carry his light to the rest of the world. The final stage in this preferential 'scandal of particularity' is that God chooses His only son, 'the glory of Israel', born of a Jewish mother, not only to internalise the light but to become the light to the nations, which will be accomplished through his missionary Church. Our reading from Isaiah depicts all this through the prophetic language of particularity but with a view to universality. The mountain of the Temple of the Lord will tower of all other mountains, all nations will stream to it. Out of Zion God will propagate the law and out of Jerusalem his word to the whole world. Holy scripture is clear that God chose the Jews not because they were better than others but simply because He choose them. We can say the same for ourselves who share the covenantal promises, through the circumcision of baptism. 'You didn't choose me, I chose you', Jesus tells his disciples. Neither Jew nor Christian has any grounds for pride. Antisemitism has arisen in the Church when Christians have sought to deny the call of the Jews-our elder brother, in St John Paul II's words. More insidiously, nations themselves have assumed that they, rather than the chosen people of God, have a covenantal relationship with God. This has sometimes fuelled colonialism, and ideologies of racial and ethnic supremacy. Every human being is made in God's image and it is God's intention that the whole world should benefit from the blessings of his covenantal promises. In this respect everyone is chosen to be a recipient of God's love. Universal peace comes as the world aligns itself with the covenantal gospel, through its scandalous particularity. It will not come through Israel or the Church glorifying itself, nor through the woke agenda, as much as we might identify with some of its concerns, for wokeism sees the scandalous particularity of God's divine election as another oppression to be torn down. Stay woke? Rather, '*stay awake because you do not know the day when your Master is coming*'.
Fr Julian



PRAYER & LITURGY

WEEKDAY MASS: On Tuesdays whilst the church is being painted, Mass will be said at 8am in the crypt. Mass for the rest of the week will be at the usual times, but will still be held in the crypt. Exposition will be at 6pm instead of 7pm in the Lady Chapel, due to the redecoration.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS will be on **Friday 2nd December at 7pm.**



WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Tamika Moyo, Mylah Gurjao and Nina Jordan who will be baptised this weekend.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Giuseppina Lanza and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Eileen Smith, Desmond Castle, Calogero Tagliarini, John Donovan, Anne Fagan, Marty Rooney, Keith Collins, Vincenzina D'Ambrosio, Janet Denton, Antonio Terranova, Rosario Lo Monaco, Catherine Salmon, Marina Scrivener, Pamela Taylor, Gaetano Di Stefano, Patrick Hourihan and Giuseppe Rubino. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

GIUSEPPINA LANZA of Woodgrange Terrace died recently aged 80. Her Requiem will be on **Monday 5th December** at 12 noon with Don Antonio. *May she rest in peace.*

ADVENT

RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS: Our Parish Penitential Services will be on **Monday 19th December at 11.30am and 7.30pm.**

PARISH CAROL SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 18th December at 6pm.** **Adult and young readers are needed, so if you can assist, please do sign the list on the blue board at the back of church.**

CHRISTMAS MASS: There will be a children's Nativity Mass at 6pm on Christmas Eve and there will also be Mass at Midnight on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day, Mass will be at 9.15am and 11.15am.

REPOSITORY now has Advent calendars, Christmas cards and Christmas decorations for sale. There are also some 2023 diaries on sale. Please do pop in to take a look.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Gabby will be resuming the Children's Choir at the 9.15am Mass on Sunday mornings. If your child would like to join the choir, Gabby will be playing **11th December.** Please ensure that your child arrives at church at 9am and goes straight to the organ loft, so there will be time to run through the hymns before Mass.

WARM SPACES PROJECT:

A Warm Spaces project is being set up as part of Churches Together and will be for people of all ages. The Warm Spaces will be open from the 7th Nov 2022 to 31st March 2023. A number of warm spaces will be provided across the Borough. **We will provide a warm space in our crypt on Tuesdays from 2.30pm-5.00pm.** Each venue will offer hot drinks and soup. For further info, please see the noticeboard in the church and also in the crypt. If you would like to donate to the Warm Spaces, there is now a GoFundMe page at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/warm-spaces-in-broxbourne>.



WORLD YOUTH DAY will be held in Lisbon, Portugal from the **25th July - 9th August** for anyone aged 18-35. Our diocese has an allocation of 50 places, so please sign up by the 16th Dec when applications will close. More information and booking forms here: <https://dowym.com/events/world-youth-day-lisbon/>

FINANCE

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

CONTACTLESS GIVING AT MASS: There is 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.

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: 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: 'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: If you are considering becoming a Catholic or are an adult Catholic wishing to be confirmed, our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 6th December** at 7.30pm in the presbytery.



CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2022/2023:



The register continues this weekend and is on the blue board in the porch at the back of the church. More details of the programme will follow in due course.

MARRIAGE CARE: Are you willing to help couples forge a lifelong loving relationship? Marriage Care is a charity that runs marriage preparation courses for couples marrying in a Catholic church, and is looking for new course facilitators. Training is provided and volunteers will join the local Centre. More information can be found at:
<https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/mpcf/> .

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL has tours for new Reception and Nursery Parents on **Thursday 1st December at 2pm and Thursday 12th January at 2pm**. Please use this [link](#) to book a visit, call or pop into the office.

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5's is looking for enthusiastic early years practitioners to join their team. Applicants to be qualified to level 3 in

Early Years Childcare and Education or equivalent. Please email the Under 5's at staugustinesunder5s@hotmail.co.uk or call 460614. Apply with covering letter and CV to Charlton Close Hoddesdon EN11 8DR. **CLOSING DATE Friday 16th December 2022**



ST ELIZABETH'S, Much Hadam, will be holding a Reflections Service in their Chapel this **Sunday at 4pm**. All are invited.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP: The next meeting for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wednesday 30th November at 4.30pm in the presbytery**. We envisage there will be a social dimension to the group and occasional outside speakers to give advice. If you would like to join the group, please do contact the presbytery.

FESTIVE GET TOGETHER will be held on **Saturday 3rd December after the 6.30pm Mass**



in the crypt with festive refreshments. On **Sunday 4th December** breakfast will be served after the 9.15am and 11.15am

Mass. All are very welcome!

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' COLLECTION: The total raised amounted to £498.85. thank you!

PARISH MAGAZINE: We hope to have the magazine ready for publication very soon.

CARITAS - Can you help in some market research? This year is the 10th anniversary of Caritas Westminster, the social action arm of the Diocese. We are inviting anyone who would be interested to be part of a focus group to get in touch. There are three Zoom focus groups to choose from: **1st, 6th & 7th December from 6.30-7.45pm**. Please email Julie Christie-Webb, Caritas Fundraising Manager, to register, at juliechristiewebb@rcdow.org.uk

CHURCH CLEANING: Pat Kavanagh, Sue Alvey and Val. Thank you for your help.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 26th Nov Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>	Page 82 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5 <i>The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of God's kingdom.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>Giuseppe & Onofria Maniscalco RIP</i>	Ps 121 — I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'
Sun 27th Nov FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>	2nd Reading: Romans 13: 11-14 <i>Our salvation is near</i>
Mon 28th November 8.30am Exposition in the crypt 9.15am Mass in the crypt <i>Holy Souls</i> 6pm Exposition in the Lady Chapel	Gospel Accl.: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help! Alleluia!</i>
Tues 29th November 8.00am Mass in the crypt <i>Holy Souls</i> NO Exposition in the Lady Chapel	Gospel: Matthew 24: 37-44 <i>Stay awake so that you may be ready.</i>
Wed 30th Nov ST ANDREW, Apostle, Patron of Scotland 8.30am Exposition in the crypt 9.15am Mass in the crypt <i>Holy Souls</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition in the Lady Chapel	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)</p> 1st Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10 2nd Reading: Romans 15: 4-9 Gospel: Mathew 3: 1-12
Thurs 1st December 8.30am Exposition in the crypt 9.15am Mass in the crypt <i>Pius Ogbodu</i> 6pm Exposition	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.
Fri 2nd December (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction in the crypt 12 noon Mass in the crypt <i>Private intention</i> 6pm Exposition in the Lady Chapel 7pm Mass <i>Anna Gianfrancesco RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Sat 3rd December St Francis Xavier, Priest 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass <i>Mary & Christopher Byrne</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> Any parishioner sick, frail, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm* Mass <i>Luigi Corsini 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.
Sun 4th December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Melania Pinto RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 29th 1 pm lunch club, crypt	Tues 29th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt

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.*