

# - 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>

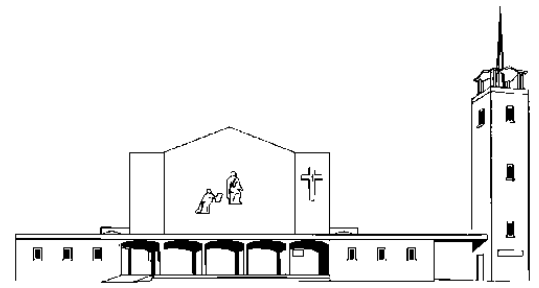
**Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies**

Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 9am-4pm)

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

Safeguarding parish rep: Rhian Hanson – [hoddesdonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:hoddesdonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

Italian safeguarding rep: Rossetta Tona – [italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)



E-mail: [hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk)

FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon"

**Year A**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

Gospel: *Matthew 11: 2-11*

*Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?*

Today is 'Gaudete' Sunday from our opening words, '*Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice*'. Being joyful is of the essence of the Christian faith. It is a contradiction for a Christian to be miserable. It may even be impossible. Hard pressed, perplexed, persecuted, struck down.....all these things we may be, but they do not control us. They are just momentary afflictions. With St Paul we can say '*we do not lose hope*'. Why? Because as he goes on to say '*the Lord is near*'. Our investment is in a future

already assured through the Christ who holds all the portfolios. Yet we are caught in this in-between time.... between the first coming of Jesus and his return. During this time of patient expectation, the knowledge that our faith will be vindicated, refined through adversity, induces joy. The person who has been given a few months to live often acquires a new purpose and zest for life. Christians know this instinctively, but we do so, not because of life draining away but because of life coming in abundance. Did we not in our baptism put to death our old life in order to live with Christ? As if to drive home the needy invitation to rejoice, this week's advent candle even sports a different colour. So why is joy seemingly in short supply in our churches and in the wider Christian life? Nietzsche said that 'I might believe in the Redeemer if his followers looked more redeemed'. Clearly Nietzsche wasn't redeemed, so let's not take his words uncritically. A palpable sense of joy is not always facially expressed. Joy is a bit like water. Sometimes it has to run underground in order to surface. The well can be deep and dark before the bucket comes to light. '*With joy*' the prophet Isaiah says '*you will draw water from the wells of salvation*'. The wells of salvation... the infinite resources of God, the endless gift of life through His Son Jesus Christ...what better resource could there be? The life-giving water of the Holy Spirit is readily and freely available. Last week we heard how John the Baptist prepared the way for the One who baptises with the Holy Spirit. So why is joy dampened? The door is now open. Are our hearts? Is it that we do not give glory to Jesus, without whom no Spirit is poured out? Do we place our hope and desires on lesser things? Do we quench the very Spirit into whose name we are baptised? Are we fully entering into the relationship that being baptised into the name of the Father, Son and Spirit entails? John's baptism was all about repentance. Jesus' baptism on the other hand was about far more than repentance. It above all conveyed forgiveness and the consequent joy of knowing where freedom can be found. Jesus says to his followers, '*I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow*'. Gaudete!



Fr Julian

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH** Munachimso Chibuike who will be baptised this weekend.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** will not take place on Tuesday and Wednesday evening due to the school Carol Services.



**MASS** on Thursday will be at 9.15am in church with St Augustine's School. Mass on Friday will be at 9.15am in church with St Cross School. There will still be 12 noon Mass as usual. All are welcome.

## ADVENT

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



**PARISH CAROL SERVICE** will be held on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm** and refreshments will be served afterwards in the crypt. **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. Children can dress up as a shepherd, angel or king. Midnight Mass will be at 12pm on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day, Mass will be at 9.15am and 11.15am.

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

**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.

**CRIB APPEAL:** Our Crib offerings are donated to the Catholic Children's Society. The Society help local disadvantaged families facing severe hardship due to the cost of living crisis. Through the fund, they are providing immediate, practical support to families in need.

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** is on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January** and is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. Mass will be at 9.15am with St Augustine's School, 2pm with St Cross School and 8pm.

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Paolo di Maria, Annie Keogh, Margherita & Nicole Barone, Onofria Maniscalco, Henryk Nolewajka, Sheila Turpin, Adelina Ciraolo, Georgina Nottle, Norman Waite, Giuseppe Leto, Paul O'Connell & Filomena Lenguito. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

**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 **11<sup>th</sup> December, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> January**. 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:**

The Warm Spaces will be open from the 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> 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. **There will be no warm space on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December.** 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 **25<sup>th</sup> July - 9<sup>th</sup> August** for anyone aged 18-35. Our diocese has an allocation of 50 places, so please sign up by the 16<sup>th</sup> 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/dona>

[te/](#) for the details, or fill in [this form](#). For a Standing Order, here are the necessary details:

<b>Account Name:</b>	<b>WRCDT Hoddesdon</b>
<b>Sort Code:</b>	<b>40-05-20</b>
<b>Account Number:</b>	<b>31264370</b>

**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 pray for our sick parishioners & friends: Marina Morris, Patricia Dempsey, Andrew, Kozlowski, Ian Witham & Frances Kearney.*

**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 20<sup>th</sup> December** at 7.30pm in the presbytery.



### **CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2022/2023:**



The register continues this weekend. More details of the programme will follow in due course.

### SCHOOLS

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

**GOVERNOR VACANCY:** St. Augustine's School are looking for a Safeguarding Governor. The roll is a 4-year tenure and requires attendance at 3 meetings per term plus occasional visits to the school to meet with classes and subject teachers. Training is provided to help Governors fulfil their very important role. If you are a practising Catholic and are interested in giving something back to your local Catholic school, please let Father Julian know. More information can be found at [www.rcdow.org.uk/education/governors/ser-ving-as-a-governor](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/education/governors/ser-ving-as-a-governor).

**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](mailto:staugustinesunder5s@hotmail.co.uk) or call 460614. Apply with covering letter and CV to Charlton Close Hoddesdon EN11 8DR. **CLOSING DATE Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

### SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

**SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP:** The next meeting for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on the **4<sup>th</sup> January at 4.30pm** in the presbytery. The group is working really well and if you need support and would like to join the group, please do contact the presbytery.



**PARISH MAGAZINE:** The magazine is now with the printers so should be on sale soon.

**WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS 2023** are now available to buy for £5 from the back of church. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

**BROXBOURNE COST OF LIVING DIRECTORY** is available at the back of the church by the newsletters. Also available to take are leaflets on looking after your mental health and wellbeing through winter.

**BROXBOURNE COMMUNITY CHOIR** will be singing on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm** at the Spotlight. Tickets are £7 from the Spotlight.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Elizabeth Nsonwah, Toni Iamarino, Penny Bengé & Antonia Di Piano. Thank you for your help.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Sat 10<sup>th</sup> December Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto</b> 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass <i>Private intention</i>	<b>Page 88 in the Mass books</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 35: 1-6,10 <i>God himself is coming to save you.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>For the Parish</i>	<b>Ps 145 — Come, Lord, and save us.</b>
<b>Sun 11<sup>th</sup> December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Filomena Lenguito RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Nicola &amp; Margherita Barone RIP</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> James 5: 7-10 <i>Do not lose heart for the Lord's coming will be soon.</i>
<b>Mon 12<sup>th</sup> December Our Lady of Guadalupe</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Private intention</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel Accl.:</b> <i>Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!</i>
<b>Tues 13<sup>th</sup> December St Lucy, Virgin &amp; Martyr</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Saint Lucia</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 11: 2-11 <i>Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?</i>
<b>Wed 14<sup>th</sup> December St John of the Cross, Priest &amp; Dr</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Angela Smith RIP anniv</i> followed by coffee in the crypt NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b>  <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>  <b>(YEAR A)</b></p> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Isaiah 7: 10-14 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Romans 1: 1-7 <b>Gospel:</b> Mathew 1: 18-24
<b>Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> December</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass with St Augustine's School <i>Joy &amp; Justin Ighade's intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b> Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.45 – 9am & 10.45 – 11am or ask Fr Julian at any other time.
<b>Fri 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 9.15am Mass in church with St Cross School 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Lena &amp; Thomas Byrne RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROSARY</b></p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
<b>Sat 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass <i>Jean Walsh RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b></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>For the Parish</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b></p> Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.
<b>Sun 18<sup>th</sup> December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Maureen Murphy</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Vincenza Cusumano RIP</i> 6pm Parish Carol Service	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust</b>  <b>Registered Charity No. 233699</b></p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	

**REGULAR EVENTS**

<b>Tues 13th</b> 1pm lunch club, crypt	<b>Tues 13th</b> 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt
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**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.*