

- 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>

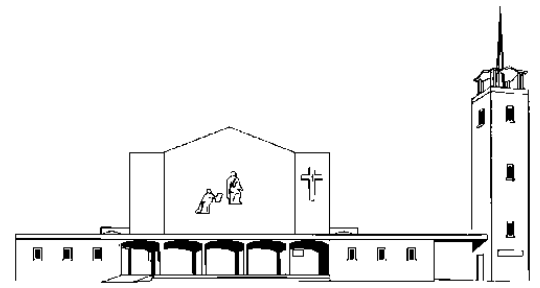
Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies

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

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



E-mail: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk

FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon"

Year A

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

18TH DECEMBER 2022

Gospel: *Matthew 1:18-24*

Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.

*'Drop down dew from above you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour'. These startling opening words of our mass from the prophecy of Isaiah remind us that there is no conception of Jesus without the impulse of heaven and the receptiveness of earth. The divine will of the Father and the responsiveness to that will, of Mary, the earthly mother let it happen. The activity of the Holy Spirit in bringing about the divine pregnancy is likened to dew and rain. The prophet is straining to find words. They are used metaphorically of course to describe that which comes from above, not in the sense of the ceiling of the sky but the boundless dimension of heaven. Recently we were blessed from above not with dew and rain, but with snow and an abundance of it. We have almost to rub our eyes as the natural world covered itself in a glistening blanket. Its winter glory will fade. We cannot linger in what melts away even if we can enjoy it for a short time. 'Sic transit Gloria mundi'...thus passes the glory of the world. These words were pronounced at papal 'coronations' for five hundred years before 1963. The procession leading the pope would stop three times. The master of ceremonies would turn to the pope, address him with these words and show him a slowly burning cloth. It reminded the pope that the glitz of this world is deceptive, and that only eternal things last. 'Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory', proclaims the psalmist today. The cosmos was made by God for his glory but even it needs to acknowledge, receive and bless him. *Ice and snow bless the Lord; praise him and magnify him for ever*' thunders the words of the Song of the Three or the Benedicite. When we who are of the earth bless, blessings come to us and to the ground upon which we stand. The greatest blessing, we can give is the costly sacrifice of worship. Abel did this, Cain did not. In this fourth Sunday of Advent, our thoughts turn towards the response of a young Jewish maiden, who in offering herself to God sacrificially, was herself blessed through all ages as the mother of the Lord. Wherever her maternal blessing has been welcomed, it is as if the earth has opened itself to bring forth the Saviour. I'm writing this on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mexico turned away from human sacrifice, and the worship of the sun and moon, when it welcomed Mary, the one clothed with sun, with the moon at her feet and the mother of the One sacrificed to end all blood sacrifices. Is not the prophecy of Walsingham that our little plot of land will be blessed in coming to faith as we recognise, like the Mexicans, her claims as our Mother? Mary is the greatest evangelist of the Church, having led and still leading countless souls to her Son. Jesus is God Emmanuel-God with us- because she, the new Eve in Christ, daughter of the earth yet mother of all the living, first opened herself up to the spiritual dew and clouds from above. May we do the same and welcome the King who comes. And what is the blessing of Mary? It is the gift of Jesus Christ.*



Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Nelly Spires who will be baptised this weekend.

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 **this Sunday at 6pm** and refreshments will be served afterwards in the crypt. All are welcome!

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. 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 6th 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 Calogero Tagliarini, Bridget Gorry, Edward McManus, Albert Warden, Livio Fattore, Theodora Van Hage, Lena Byrne, William Rainsford, Paul Grixti, Jean Walsh, Maureen Murphy, Christopher Whelehan and Vincenza Cusumano. *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 **29th 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 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. **There will be no warm space on Tuesday 27th 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>.



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 20th 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.

BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Saturday 21st January at 11.30am** in the church. The course must be completed before a Baptism is arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.

SCHOOLS

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL has tours for new Reception and Nursery Parents on **Thursday 12th 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/serving-as-a-governor.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal on the **14th/15th January**.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

SEPARATION SUPPORT

GROUP: The next meeting for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on the **4th 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.



2022 PARISH MAGAZINE in full colour, 60 pages, is now available to buy after all Masses this weekend. You can also purchase the magazine from the presbytery during the week. To cover the cost of printing, the price is £5.

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

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Please do not leave Christmas cards for parishioners at the back of the church. We have found from past years that they are not collected. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS by Kristina Cooper, the former editor of Good News, are available to buy from the repository.

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

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

PRAYER OF THE WEEK A Christmas Prayer



Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, ... [State your intention(s) here ...] through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 17th December 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass <i>Jean Walsh RIP</i>	Page 90 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14 <i>The maiden is with child.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>For the Parish</i>	Ps 23 — Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.
Sun 18th December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>Maureen Murphy</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Vincenza Cusumano RIP</i> 6pm Parish Carol Service	2nd Reading: Romans 1: 1-7 <i>Jesus Christ, descendant of David, Son of God.</i> Gospel Accl.: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!</i>
Mon 19th December 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Baby Owen Ingram</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24 <i>Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.</i>
Tues 20th December 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Daniel Doyle</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS NATIVITY OF THE LORD (YEAR A)</p>
Wed 21st December 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Maria-Teresa, Giuseppe & Gaetano Distefano RIP</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	1st Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10 2nd Reading: Hebrews 1: 1-6 Gospel: John 1: 1-18
Thurs 22nd December 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Deceased members of the O'Connor Family</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.45 – 9am & 10.45 – 11am or ask Fr Julian at any other time.</p>
Fri 23rd December (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 9.15am Mass 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Justina Ogbodu RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Any parishioner sick, frail, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.</p>
Sat 24th December 4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.00pm* Children's Nativity Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i> 12pm Midnight Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i> Sun 25th December NATIVITY OF THE LORD 9.15am Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 20th 1pm lunch club, crypt	Tues 20th 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.*