

# - 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>

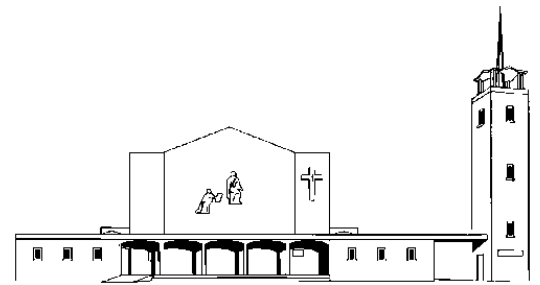
**Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies**

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"

### CHRISTMAS DAY & SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Year A

25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022 & 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2023

Gospel: *John 1: 1-18*      *The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.*

The other day I was in a bookshop seeking some Christian literature. The manager showed me an area on the floor, under the bottom shelf and out of view. 'We had to move it for the Christmas items,' he said. He looked embarrassed realising the irony of his words. How can you have Christmas without Christ? The marginalisation of Christ's birth, its divorce from the very festivities that it occasions, is nothing new. We have become used to the toxicity of political correctness that encourages the celebration of winter rather than the celebration of Christ, the author of winter. How could the simplicity of the nativity scene be an affront in public space? Admittedly a shack providing shelter for a homeless couple and a new born babe might diminish the latest fashion or fads, but the real reason is that it is too religiously charged for this scrupulous age. Over twenty years ago, at the approach of the millennium, I asked Madame Tussauds if they would be interested in creating a Nativity tableau to sit under the large portico of our parish church, just a few yards down the road. Their response was that they could not possibly promote a particular religion, apart from the fact that it would cost over twenty thousand pounds (apparently over one hundred and fifty thousand pounds now) to create a single effigy. Jesus, the central figure of human history, whose Jewish facial features are unknown to us, was not deemed relevant to the millennium celebrating his birth, and he certainly was not welcome in the hall of fame. We should neither be surprised or despair. Our Lord was the object of betrayal and rejection throughout his life. The validity of the gospel doesn't depend upon public spectacle, political edict or lubricating lucre. If we are to accompany the shepherds and the magi to Bethlehem then we need to surrender all our false images of God and turn the status of being a celebrity, wealthy, religious or powerful on its head. As Graham Kendrick addresses Christ in one of his songs, '*You came from the highest, reached down to the lowest.... You came from the brightest, to light up the darkest... You came from the kindest, to suffer the cruellest.... You came from the purest, to die for the foulest. You are the message of love*'. The author of the cosmos entered into its very substance, into our frail human flesh, in the greatest act of self-giving love, exposing himself to all the vulnerabilities and vagaries of our human existence. Why? So that we might live from the inside out, insiders, totally fulfilled in outward going relationship, revealing his new creation and heralding the dawn of a new age to a world hopelessly lost in its own imaginations. St John's invitation is as fresh today as it was when he wrote his prologue. '*To all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in his name, who was born not of human stock, or the urge of the flesh, or the will of man but of God himself*'. May the good news of the Saviour's birth increase our joy this Christmas time and evermore. Fr Julian



## PRAYER & LITURGY

**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.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** will not take place on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December & Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January** in the morning and evening. Please note the church will be closed after Mass.



**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 including Stefano Diesi, Vincenzo Silenti and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary Ryan, Kay Gaffney, Christine Davies, Arnaldo Moruzzi, Salvatore Colletti, Ettore Forte, Giuseppa Busciglio, Joanne Smith, Roy Peacock, Thomas Murphy, Alfonso Carubbia, Patrick Sheridan, Antonia Orsini, Francesco Soldano, Joseph Stollenwerk, Antonietta Cacciatore, Calogero Amico, Americo Guacu, Patrick McNaughton, Mariano Palombelli, Barbara Woodbridge, James Needham, Rose Beeson, Anne Parsons, Kevin O'Bryan, Vincenzo Martorano, Ann Jenkins & Isabella Abrahams. *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 **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>.

## 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:

<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 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 3<sup>rd</sup> January** 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 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 two Governors, one with SEND skills and one with personnel skills. 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 info 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).

### 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 **14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> January**.

### 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.



**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.

**CHILDREN'S BOOKS** by Kristina Cooper, the

former editor of Good News, are available to buy from the repository. Esmeralda & the Readies are £9.95 each and The Little Witch Who Wanted to be Good are £7.95 each.

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

**COST OF LIVING DIRECTORY:** An updated directory is available by the newsletters.

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

**DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES** can be viewed online <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/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 Mathews and Dawn.**



Liturgy this week	Liturgy next week
<p><b>Sat 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>  4.00pm Italian Mass  6.00pm Children's Nativity Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i>  12pm Midnight Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i></p> <p><b>Sun 25<sup>th</sup> December NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>  9.15am Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i>  11.15am Mass <i>Priest's intentions</i></p>	<p><b>Mon 2nd January Ss Basil the Great &amp; Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop &amp; Drs</b>  9.15am Mass <i>Salvatore Cusumano RIP</i>  <b>PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</b></p> <p><b>Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>  8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  9.15am Mass <i>Doyle &amp; Doherty Families</i>  6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>
<p><b>Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Dec ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr</b>  9.15am Mass <i>Private intention</i>  <b>NO</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  <b>PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</b></p> <p><b>Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Dec ST JOHN, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b>  9.15am Mass <i>Thanksgiving - Miss Zulu</i>  <b>NO</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  <b>PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AFTER MASS</b></p> <p><b>Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Dec THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs</b>  8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  9.15am Mass <i>Sheila McElligott RIP— followed by coffee in the crypt</i>  6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p> <p><b>Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Dec ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop &amp; Martyr</b>  8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  9.15am Mass <i>Roy Peacock RIP</i>  6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p> <p><b>Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Dec HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH</b>  <i>(Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i>  11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction  12 noon Mass <i>Margery Davies RIP</i>  6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p> <p><b>Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</b>  9.30am Adoration  10am Mass <i>Eileen Carroll RIP</i></p>	<p><b>Wed 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>  8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  9.15am Mass <i>Paddy, Lily &amp; Family intentions – followed by coffee in the crypt</i>  6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p> <p><b>Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>  8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  9.15am Mass <i>Martina &amp; boys intentions</i>  <b>NO</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p> <p><b>Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Jan EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION</b>  <i>(NO Abstinence from meat today for those aged 14+)</i>  9.15am Mass with St Augustine's School <i>Mary O'Donovan RIP</i>  2pm Mass with St Cross School <i>Private intention</i>  8pm Mass <i>Hugh &amp; Kathleen</i></p> <p><b>Sat 7<sup>th</sup> January St Raymond of Penyafort</b>  8.30am Adoration  10am Mass <i>John Walsh RIP</i></p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass*  6.30pm Mass <i>Ann Jenkins RIP</i></p> <p><b>Sun 1<sup>st</sup> January SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b>  9.15am Mass <i>Isabella Abrahams RIP</i>  11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p>	<p>4.00pm Italian Mass*  6.30pm Mass <i>Marion Miller RIP 1<sup>st</sup> anniv</i></p> <p><b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>  9.15am Mass <i>Peggy Folan RIP</i>  11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROSARY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Rosary is often prayed in the lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass</p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	

**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.*