

- 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>

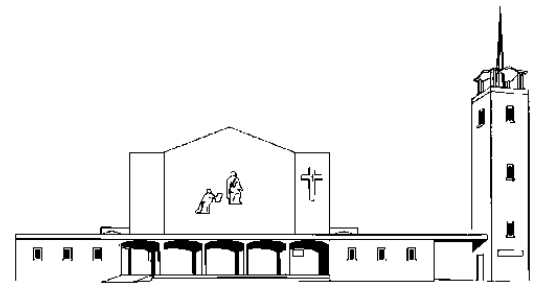
Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4TH DECEMBER 2022

Gospel: *Matthew 3: 1-12*

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

Today, in the second Sunday in Advent our gospel speaks not of Jesus' first coming in the womb, or of his second coming in the future, but of the preparation before his baptism, the advent of his public ministry. John the Baptist crashes into the scene and calls the nation of Israel back to God '*Repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand*'. Crowds flocked to the Jordan, where they were baptised by him, confessing their sins



Can we translate this into our national context? None of our rivers has the same significance for us. By telling the Jews that they had to immerse themselves in the Jordan, John was reminding them of their past, and of God's graciousness in bringing them into freedom out of slavery, for they had to cross the river in order to enter the promised land. Now the Baptist was warning them that they needed to be set free from a different kind of enslavement. Geographically also the Jordan is unique among rivers as it lies at the lowest point of the earth's surface. If the river eludes us, might we identify more with the need for national repentance? There are some countries in the world that have a National Day of Repentance such as Liberia and Papua New Guinea. Such countries tend to be wholly Christian, so that the whole country has the opportunity to reflect upon its spiritual health and to seek amendment by turning to God through acts of prayer, fasting and thanksgiving. Though today we are only nominally a Christian country, what a good thing it would be if we had such a designated Day here. But why do this just once a year? We need to acknowledge our corporate sins on a regular basis, and repent on behalf of the country. Interceding on behalf of others, as well as ourselves, as did famously Daniel and Nehemiah, is an essential aspect of our ministry of reconciliation. Two centuries ago, this country held fast days especially at a time of crisis, or thanksgiving days at times of deliverance. Although this stemmed from the initiative of the more puritan element in the parliament, it was widely accepted by those of other persuasions because the spiritual and political landscape sought and recognised the hand of God's providence. In our less religiously literate age, which doesn't seek or recognise divine favour, such an initiative would invite backlash from humanist and secularist lobbies, though possibly support from the wider religious spectrum. In the end the Church would need to take the lead, and lead by example. But we downgrade the call to repentance of John the Baptist if we think that it was just to do with national repentance. No one can hide behind the collective. At the Jordan everyone had to repent for themselves and undergo baptism. The shocking thing about this is that the Jews were never baptised. Baptism was only for the unclean entering from outside Jewry. Yet here was John saying that all were like the gentiles, and that even the chosen people of God needed the very medicine that they gave to others. Translated into our own context, what might John expect of us? Cradle Catholics need to do the RCIA? One thing is for certain, '*Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight*'?

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

WEEKDAY MASS: From next week Mass will be said in church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be at 6pm instead of 7pm.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Thomas McArdle, Giuseppina Lanza and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Elena Mazza, Roger Cookson, Gerarda Lanza, Marjorie Gaynor, Mary Brent, Constantina Infantino, Kathleen Pewter, James Pearce, Guerina Keable and Philomena Coleston. *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 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.

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.** 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/bishopstortford>

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 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.

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 CROSS SCHOOL have their Christmas fair on **Friday 9th December from 2-4pm** and all are welcome. If the weather is fine, the fair will be held on the playground, so please wrap up warm!

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP: The next meeting for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held in the New Year (date to be confirmed) 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!

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

200 CLUB WINNERS for December are no 116 Lina Mariconda, no 100 David Greenall and no 150 Margaret McDonnell. Congratulations!

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

CHURCH CLEANING: Michele & Pelle De Luca, Sophie Lenguito & Alex Thomson. Thank you for your help.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Sat 3rd December St Francis Xavier, Priest 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass <i>Mary & Christopher Byrne</i>	Page 85 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10 <i>He judges the wretched with integrity.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass* <i>Luigi Corsini RIP</i>	Ps 71 — In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.
Sun 4th December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Melania Pinto RIP</i>	2nd Reading: Romans 15: 4-9 <i>Christ the saviour of all men.</i>
Mon 5th December 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Annie Doyle RIP</i> 12 Noon Funeral Giuseppina Lanza RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl.: <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!</i> Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12 <i>Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.</i>
Tues 6th December St Nicholas, Bishop 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Patrick White RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)</p>
Wed 7th December St Ambrose, Bishop & Dr 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Thanksgiving Nsonwah Family</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	1st Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10 2nd Reading: James 5: 7-10 Gospel: Mathew 11: 2-11
Thurs 8th December IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Pasquale Ricotta, Rosalia & Luciano Dilena RIP</i> NO Exposition	<p style="text-align: center;">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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
Fri 9th December St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction in the crypt 12 noon Mass <i>Private intention</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK Any parishioner sick, frail, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p>
Sat 10th December Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto 9.30am Exposition 10am Mass <i>Private intention</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm* Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	
Sun 11th December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>Filomena Lenguito RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Nicola & Margherita Barone RIP</i>	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 6th 1pm lunch club, crypt Tues 6th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Tues 6th 7.30pm RCIA, presbytery Wed 7th 6pm Brownies, 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.*