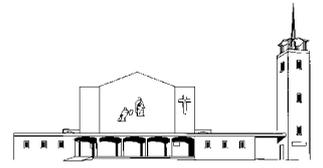




The Announcer



St Augustine's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8DS Tel: 01992-440986

Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies

E-mail: hoddesdon@rcdow.org.uk Web-site: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hoddesdon>
FaceBook: "CatholicHoddesdon" Secretary: Dawn Bates (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 9am-4pm)
Also in residence: Fr Mathews Valiyaputhenpura Joy (Chaplain to Knanaya community)
Safeguarding parish rep: Kathryn Hall – hoddesdong@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Italian safeguarding rep: Rossetta Tona – italianmissionsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

YEAR A

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3RD DECEMBER 2023

Gospel: *Mark 13: 33-37*

Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.

Today we enter the season of Advent. We await Jesus' second coming, while preparing for Christmas, the annual celebration of his first coming as a babe in Bethlehem. Advent means a coming toward; a coming towards Christmas but also a coming towards the return of Jesus, who told us to expect and await his sudden return. Over the next four weeks the great Advent hymn, *O Come O Come Emmanuel* will be sung countless times. It has its origin in the monastic plainchant of the 'O' Antiphons in the Jewish scriptures referring to the coming of the Messiah. German Jesuits composed the text of the hymn in the 17th century, while its famous tune comes from a French requiem chant of the 15th century. *O Come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel!* Those words have particular resonance this year as we pray for the release of Israel's hostages. Of course, Israel is captive in other ways, as is every other nation, including our own, together with the whole of creation, awaiting the Saviour's return. God the Son has existed from eternity, but just as he entered his-story at his first coming, so he will re-enter his-story to complete it, not in disguise this time, as he was in the womb of Mary, but in glory, with her, and with all the angels and saints. At the Ascension, the disciples were told that Jesus would return in the same way as he had left them. This inclines us towards Jerusalem. Our destiny is a transformed, new Jerusalem. Jesus told the Samaritan woman a time is coming when true worship will transcend the limitations of temporal space. But this doesn't mean that temporal space has no bearing on our faith. Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer, we pray that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We can easily fall into the trap of over spiritualising or immaterialising our faith. In so doing, we deny the incarnation-that Jesus has come in our flesh as one of us, and consequently, the very material nature of his atoning death for our sin. Last week Jesus reminded us that the quality of our faith is worked out in very practical material ways. As if to underline this we call these acts of mercy 'corporeal' done in the body and to the body.....'*in as much as you did it to one of the least of these you did it to me*'. If we are prone to spiritualise faith, we are prone also to spiritualise holy scriptures. Jesus' bible was the Jewish scriptures, otherwise known to us as the 'Old' testament. The writings which we call the 'New' testament were added to them, because they testify to Jesus as the true Messiah that the 'old' had prophesied and looked forwards to. As our St Augustine said, '*In the Old Testament the New is concealed, in the New Testament, the Old is revealed*'. The two testaments belong to each other. The Old is not simply an analogy for the New, or to be dispensed with altogether, as Hitler wished. It is eternally valid for the Jewish people as recent papal teaching has reminded us. The chosen people were chosen by God, not because they deserved it, but simply because he chose them to reveal his love to the world. No nation was so blessed by God, but as the pages of scripture reveal, no nation falls so often under God's judgement because of this privileged calling. Covenantal relationships were broken, yet the faithful prophets revealed the prospect of a new covenant on securer grounds. Yet as St Paul reminds us the previous covenants were irrevocable, including the promise of a return to the land. With this privilege came responsibilities, including welcoming those in our midst and caring for the poor. As today, there were non-Jewish communities who lived in the land, such as the Samaritans, the Syro-Phoenicians and other gentile peoples. We await the universal blessings of the Promised Land. As Christians we believe that only with Jesus' return, will the Jewish people recognise Him as their glory and non-Jewish people as their light. In spite of well-meaning peace gestures, only in Him will Jew and Palestinian find ultimate security.... that shalom and salaam which is so eagerly yearned for.



Maranatha Come Lord Jesus!

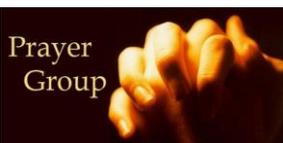
Fr Julian.

PRAYER & LITURGY

ANTONIO FIONDELLA of Claremont, died recently. Details of his funeral will follow in due course. *May he rest in peace.*

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Antonio Fiondella and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Catherine Salmon, Marina Scrivener, Pamela Taylor, Gaetano Di Stefano, Elena Mazza, Roger Cookson, Gerarda Lanza, Marjorie Gaynor, Mary Brent, Constantina Infantino, Kathleen Pewter, James Pearce, Guerina Keable, Erich Colina and Philomena Coleston. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Gabby Hanley will be running 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 **10th December**. The children will be singing at the Carol Service on the **17th December at 6pm** and also on **Christmas Eve Mass at 4pm**. They will also be performing at a Charity Carol Concert on the 2nd Dec 3pm at Christ Church, Ware. If you have any queries, please do contact Gabby on 07875 221543.



PRAYER GROUP will be held in the crypt on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Next date will be on **Thursday 7th December**. All are welcome!

ADVENT

RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS: Our Parish Penitential Services will be on **Monday 18th December at 11.30am and 7.30pm**.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 17th December at 6pm with adult and children choirs**. 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 MASSES: There will be a children's Nativity Mass at 4pm 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.

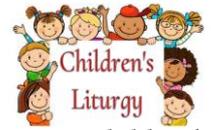
ADVENT EXTRA magazines are now available to buy from the back of the church for £2.75. Please place your money in the newspaper box.

REPOSITORY now has Christmas cards and Christmas decorations for sale. Please do pop in to take a look.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR DECEMBER: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.



HELPERS FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY at the 9.15am Mass are needed. **If you can help, please do contact the presbytery immediately.**



Without more volunteers, children's liturgy may not be able to continue. Children's Liturgy will be held on the **3rd and 17th December**.

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.

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 Felix Adiele 01279-973183.

CATECHETICS

'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 5th December at 7.30pm** in the crypt.



CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024: The next meeting will be on **Monday 11th December from 7-8pm** in the crypt. A letter has now been emailed to parents with the dates for next year. If you have not received the letter, please contact the presbytery.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023/2024: The next meeting for children in year 3 will be on the **3rd December**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: If your child is in year 2 and is interested in making their First Holy Communion in 2025, please contact the presbytery to register your interest.



BAPTISM COURSE: The next course will be held on **Saturday 20th January 2024 at 11.30am** in the church. The course must be completed before a Baptism can be arranged. To enrol on the course, please contact the presbytery.

JUSTICE & PEACE & PRO-LIFE

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS are a fun and meaningful way to give gifts and make a difference to some of the poorest communities around the world. Catalogues are now available at the back of the church.



SCHOOLS/UNDER 5'S

ST CROSS SCHOOL is looking for an Afterschool Club Leader from January to July. Monday to Thursday 3pm - 6pm. Training will be provided. If interested, please contact the school - 01992 467 309

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL has prospective Open Day Tours for New Reception and Nursery Parents on **6th December at 2:00pm and 11th December at 9:15am**. Open days for school are on: Mon 8th January @ 9:15am, Wed 10th January @ 2:00pm and Mon 15th January @9:15am - this is the last date for Reception class applications Nursery dates are: Mon 22nd January @9:15am, Mon 29th January @9:15am and Mon 5th February @9:15am. Please visit <https://staugustines.herts.sch.uk/herts/primary/s/taugustines/site/pages/sign-upform>



ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S - a Registered Charity. The Under 5s is a friendly, busy and thriving early years setting. As a charity trustees are needed to help to continue to provide a valuable service for our parish and the community. If you are interested in helping and would like to find out more, please call the Under 5s on 01992 460614.

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

FESTIVE GET TOGETHER will be held on **this weekend after the 6.30pm Mass** in the crypt with festive refreshments. On **Sunday 3rd December** breakfast will be served after the 9.15am and 11.15am Mass. All are welcome!



SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP: The next meeting date for those undergoing separation or divorce is to be confirmed.



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: We are seeking to develop our ability to help those of us who have undergone bereavement. If you would like to be involved, please contact the parish office.

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S 200 CLUB WINNERS for December are 1st prize - Pat and Carol Kavanagh - £125, 2nd prize - Alan Palin - £75 and 3rd prize - Cathy Pearce - £50. Congratulations to you all!

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 823. Thank you.



DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES can be viewed online <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs>.

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

FINANCE

PARISH FINANCE: Thank you to all who continue to give regularly by standing order, or by envelopes. For those whose finances are more stable at present, please consider your parish giving, to help the parish out. Please see the link below <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

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2022:

During 2022, we did not cover our daily running costs and had an average deficit of £663 per week. Even though our total offertory has gone up by 24.4% over the last 3 years, the average weekly donation per person was £3.67. If you are in a position to give more, it would make a real difference. Just 32% of our total offertory and donations were gift aided. If everyone had gift-aided their donations, we would have received an extra £26,036 this year! If you pay tax, please do sign up for Gift Aid so that we can add 25% to everything that you give, at no cost to yourself. You will find gift aid forms by the newsletters or you can click on the link above.



NO CASH? You can make your offering here by scanning the QR Code with your smartphone. Alternatively, there is a contactless device at the left-hand exit door of the church. If you are a Tax Payer, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<p>Sat 2nd December Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Margaret Griffin's intentions</i></p>	<p>Page 82 in the Mass books</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64: 1, 3-8 <i>Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down.</i></p> <p>Ps 79 — God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.</p> <p>2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 <i>We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel: Mark 13: 33-37 <i>Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.</i></p>
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>James Pearce RIP</i></p>	
<p>Sun 3rd December FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>Erich Colina RIP & deceased members of O'Brian family</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the parish</i></p>	<p>2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 <i>We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel: Mark 13: 33-37 <i>Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.</i></p>
<p>Mon 4th December St John Damascene, Priest & Dr 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Pasquale Ricotta RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 <i>We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.</i></p> <p>Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel: Mark 13: 33-37 <i>Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.</i></p>
<p>Tues 5th December 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Thanksgiving from Nsonwah Family</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11 2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3: 8-14 Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8</p>
<p>Wed 6th December St Nicholas, Bishop 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Gaetano Distefano RIP</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>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>ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p> <p>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>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> <p>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
<p>Thurs 7th December St Ambrose, Bishop & Dr 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Deceased innocent children of Gaza & Israel</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	
<p>Friday 8th December IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (NO Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Thomas Delaney's intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	
<p>Sat 9th December St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Paul O'Connell</i></p>	
<p>4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i></p> <p>Sun 10th December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>Larry O'Neill RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Nicola & Margherita Barone RIP</i></p>	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
<p>Tues 5th 1pm Lunch club, crypt Tues 5th 2.30pm Tuesday club, crypt Tues 5th 7.30pm RCIA, crypt</p>	<p>Wed 6th 6pm Brownies, crypt Thurs 7th 7.30pm Prayer Group, crypt</p>

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 in the porch. 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