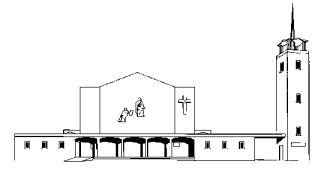




The Announcer



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 B

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7TH JANUARY 2024

Gospel: *Matthew 2: 1-12*

We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.

The story of the Magi has a profound contemporary relevance and challenges us on a variety of fronts. First, let's consider their effort to get to Bethlehem. We do not know exactly where they came from, though they most likely came from the area of the Persian Gulf. They faced a long and tiring journey. Imagine the fore-planning and thought that had gone into it. Now contrast this to our situation where we have fallen into the practice of not turning up on time, even though we live relatively near-by. How much preparation and effort has gone into our coming to what is the summit of our worship together? Today St Paul talks of us as '*parts of the same body*', which means that for the majority of us who are able, worship entails worshipping together not in isolation. It may be more comfortable watching mass on the box, but this hardly gives substance to the communion and charity which is at the heart of what it means to come together. Do we allow too easily less important things to encroach upon what should be the most important thing we are called to do each week? Who is calling the shots in our life? Jesus or the gods of the world? The effort of the Magi reminds me of the struggles which impoverished Christians in the so-called developing world face, when, in order to get to Church each week, they have to walk miles. They put me to shame. The second thing that strikes us about the Magi is how much they teach me about faith. They were prepared to step out, not knowing the whole picture. In comparison, how reassured do I need to be, before I believe or volunteer anything? Faith cannot be faith without an element of trust in the face of the unknown. Yet it is not the unknown because we trust also in the experience of others. They sought advice, aware that they needed help for the right direction. Their greatest help came from the Word of God. Astronomy could take them only so far. It will be the same for us. Let us never be so proud to think that we have no need of accompaniment or that God has finished with us. The third thing to note about the Magi is that their worship was truly costly. It involved a sacrifice, and a sacrifice, much more than being away from home, family and pursuits. They came bearing gifts for the new born king. Is our sacrifice of praise and worship truly sacrificial, earthed in humility? Have we like them, surrendered ourselves before Jesus in total humble adoration? Do we recognise that we are nothing without him, that all that we have, things both natural and spiritual come from above? What we make of our gifts and graces is up to ourselves but we would be wise to surrender all into God's hands. When we do this, God magnifies them with greater dividends for his kingdom and a greater blessing for ourselves and others. Even the Magi had to surrender their great wisdom to the greater wisdom of heaven. They surrendered their gifts also. These were costly, and an act of love. My offering is not an act of love when others are carrying a financial burden which I should be helping to carry, or when I withhold help when it is needed and I am able. When did I offer Jesus something which wasn't second best or the left overs? What god is draining my expenses and life? The fourth thing that strikes us is that they were outsiders. Why did God choose outsiders to be the first to welcome the new born king? Is it that they would more readily welcome and worship him than those on the inside? At what point do interested seekers become no longer outsiders but actually more insiders than many who think they are? God's ways are unfathomable, and He will use the most unlikely means to draw the most unlikely people into faith. Let us not hide behind barricades and assume that we are saved by denominationalism, because we are not. That is playing politics with the gospel of Christ. Shun Herod's ways. Become a wise man. Let us return to the poor manger, to the One whom our antiphon today proclaims as the Mighty One, holding all power, kingship and dominion.



Fr Julian.

PRAYER & LITURGY

MASS on Monday at 9.15am will be with St Cross School. All are welcome.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will take place on **Monday 8th January from 5-6pm.**

MAUREEN HARRIS formerly of St Catherine's Care Home died recently. Her funeral will be on **Thursday 18th January at 3pm.**

May she rest in peace.

CRIB APPEAL: Our Crib offerings are donated to the Catholic Children's Society. The Society is helping local families in crisis who are struggling to put food on the table, keep warm and provide a safe home for their children. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCS website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Maureen Harris and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Anne Parsons, Kevin O'Bryan, Vincenzo Martorana, Aldeuzia Crimauodo, Leo Lee-Lozone, Cornelius Van Hage, Maria Cuffaro, Pellegrino Alfieri, Filippa Gaiteri, Mary O'Donovan, Marion Miller, Vincenzo Papa, Vincenzo Provenzano, Giuseppe Chiazza, Vincenzo Segameglio, Isabella Abrahams and Connie Murphy. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

EPIPHANY: It is traditional to chalk the lintel of your house at Epiphany like this, 20+C+M+B+24. The year is obvious, the crosses refer to Calvary and C, M, B stand for the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, or alternatively for the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat* ('May Christ bless this house'),

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Gabby Hanley will be running the Children's Choir at the 9.15am Mass on Sunday mornings. The children choir will resume on **Sunday 4th February at the 4pm Mass and 11th February at the 9.15am Mass.**



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 take place at the 9.15am Mass this Sunday.



PRAYER GROUP will be held in the crypt on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Next date will be on **Thursday**

1st February. All are welcome!

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 21st January at 6pm** at Hoddesdon Baptist Church on behalf of Churches Together in Hoddesdon. All are welcome.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY: For the gift of diversity in the church. We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.



COLLECTION TO SUPPORT THE LATIN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM: **This weekend,** there will be a retiring collection after all the Masses to support the charities in the West Bank and Gaza who are seeking to support the victims of the violence that is occurring during the conflict. The Patriarch, Cardinal Pizzaballa, is deeply concerned about the impact that the war is having on the Palestinian population in the West Bank, for many of whom sources of income have effectively been ended by the restrictions imposed on them.

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 9th January at 7.30pm** in the crypt.



CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024: The next meeting will be on **Monday 8th January 2024 from 7-8pm** in the crypt.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023/2024: The next meeting for children in year 3 will be on the **14th January.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 'PRAYER PARTNERS' are needed for all the children on the First Holy Communion programme. A prayer partner prays for a child at least twice a day, whilst they are preparing to make their First Holy Communion. If you would like to become a prayer partner, please print your name in capital letters on

the blue sheets on the blue board at the back of the church.

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 as soon as possible.



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

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal on the **13th/14th January**.

CAFOD are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission. Could you help in our parish, inspiring our church to help build a better world or by visiting our local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the area? Could you support local volunteers or share your admin or people skills to help CAFOD keep costs low? Training and support is provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or get in touch with brozycka@cafod.org.uk Or could you take part in The Big Lent Walk? cafod.org.uk/walk

SCHOOLS/UNDER 5'S

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL: 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. <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

SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP: The next meeting date for those undergoing separation or divorce will be held on **Wednesday 24th January 2024** from 4.30-6pm in the presbytery.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: If you've experienced a bereavement and please feel welcome to come along to our



support group on **Friday 19th January at 2pm** in the presbytery.

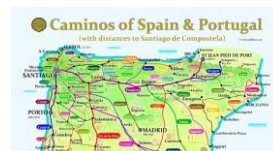
TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB will resume on **Tuesday 9th January 2024**.



2023 PARISH MAGAZINE in full colour, 60 pages, is available to buy from the presbytery during the week. To cover the cost of printing, the cost is £5.

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO:

A photo presentation of the pilgrimage route (500 miles / 790 kms) will be held on **Friday 26th January at 7pm in the crypt**. This will be accompanied by wine and nibbles at a cost of £5 per head to support church funds.



200 CLUB WINNER for January is Mrs Maher number 76. Congratulations!

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

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

FINANCE

FINANCE: On the weekend of the **20th/21st January**, Matt Morrissey, the Chair of the Finance Committee will be giving a talk after all Masses to update the parish on our financial situation.



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

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
Sat 6th January 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Maria Cuffaro RIP anniv</i>	Page 115 in the Mass books 1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6 <i>Above you the glory of the Lord appears.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	Ps 71 — All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.
Sun 7th January THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 9.15am Mass <i>Marion Miller RIP anniv</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Isabella Abrahams RIP</i>	2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6 <i>It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.</i>
Mon 8th January THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>John Brown RIP</i> with St Cross School 5-6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12 <i>We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.</i>
Tues 9th January 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Mary Christodoulou RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)</p>
Wed 10th January 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Jacob Giraldo's 2nd birthday intentions</i> followed by coffee in the crypt 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3: 3-10,19 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20 Gospel: John 1: 35-42
Thurs 11th January 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>James Griffin's intentions</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>
Friday 12th January St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot (Abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament /11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Thomas Griffin & Family intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> <p>The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
Sat 13th January St Hilary, Bishop & Dr 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Patrick Wall and Family intentions</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> <p>Any parishioner sick, frail, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.</p>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</p> <p>Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p>
Sun 14th January SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Pietro Dileto RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Paddy Brien RIP 1st anniv</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Mon 8th 7pm Confirmation, crypt Tues 9th 1pm Lunch club, crypt	Tues 9th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt Tues 9th 7.30pm RCIA, 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 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*