



The Announcer



St Augustine's Catholic Church

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YEAR C

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1ST DEC 2024

Gospel: *Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36*

Your redemption is drawing near.

Today is the first Sunday of the Church's new year, the first Sunday of Advent. It summons us to open our eyes, both physically and spiritually. We have reached a high vantage point. Before us opens out what is to be in the light of what has been. The operative words are the time is at hand, Jesus is coming. During the next four weeks we will look back to Jesus' first coming at his birth. We will be reminded also of his entering upon his public ministry, as John the Baptist prepared the way for him. Crucially Advent attunes us to the coming of God's kingdom and Jesus's return as universal king, 'his second coming', at the end of time as we know it. History is moving to its conjuncture and climax. The clock is nearing midnight. Yet the invitation remains open...so far. Repent and believe the kingdom of God! It has been breaking through, ever since Jesus proclaimed the good news, through his word and through the Spirit, now in the activity of his Church. God's kingdom and its king comes to us now as well as in the future. Welcoming him in the necessary precursor to welcoming the kingdom. Are we looking in the right direction? Where is our focus? Have we welcomed and received him? How would we feel to hear those words, 'I never knew you'? Have we made time and space for him? Let's not put off what we can do now. The consequences of rejecting his invitation cannot be ignored. If our readings herald change, so does the visual look of our churches. Green gives way to purple. These are the hues of repentance and of weighing up. We are drawn inwards to examine our hearts and outwards to look beyond ourselves. The advent wreath makes its yearly appearance, though it is a relative newcomer on the scene. Originating in Germanic countries, it was popularised among Lutheran Christians. Its adoption in the Catholic Church reminds us that the true catholicity of the Spirit comprehends whatever honours Christ beyond denominational boundaries. Like an underground stream the Spirit nourishes the ecclesial communities from its catholic well, and Mother Church recognises what is of its own and not hybrid. We might think also of some of the great Advent hymns, such as Bach's *Wachet Auf* which we see as essentially catholic, which is what they are, though they originated in the ecclesial communities of the Reformation. Today, we see another case of beneficial transference from the ecclesial communities to the Mother Church, in the new lectionary which is being introduced across the province of England and Wales and the province of Scotland. This new translation is based upon the English Standard Version which originated not in Rome but in evangelical biblical scholarship. While the readings remain the same, the translation differs in places to what we currently use. It was a central aim of Vatican II to immerse the people of God more deeply into the Word of God. As the lectionary is the means of God's word reaching us at mass, our new lectionary will give greater access to the holy scriptures. There were deficiencies in the previous lectionary, taken from the Jerusalem Bible, since this bible, as much as we like it, was rather loose in its translation from the ancient texts. Moreover, the English version was a translation of the French not the biblical languages. Our new lectionary readings are to be welcomed. No longer therefore are we authorised to use the current missals which have the previous lectionary. Advent calls us to change, and there will be more change this Advent than most. 'To live is to change and to change often is to become more perfect', according to St John Henry Newman. It depends of course what you mean by 'to live' and 'to change'. Some people change for the worse, because their ideal of life is less than worth living. But Newman doesn't mean that. He is talking of life lived as God intended it, to be open to the life-giving Spirit, through a continuous process of renewal bringing change for the better. The Spirit always glorifies Jesus, and Jesus calls us to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect. We shy away from thinking like Newman that change makes us perfect. He was doubtless thinking of the divinisation which the Fathers spoke of, called as we are into the deepest union with God, or, perhaps he was thinking of the words, 'changed from glory into glory' in Wesley's great hymn to the Holy Spirit, *Love Divine All Loves Excelling*, which he doubtless had sung many times. No love, no glory. St Paul reminds us in his epistle today, 'May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you'. May that encourage us all at the turning of another Church year.



Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Charlie Upson who will be baptised this weekend.

EXPOSTION will take place from 6-6.45pm on **Monday** evening due to the Confirmation meeting.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS will take place on **Friday 6th December** at 7pm.



POPE'S INTENTION FOR DECEMBER is for pilgrims of hope. Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

LUIGI CALVINO of Bevil Court died recently. His funeral will be on **Monday 2nd December at 11am.**

ONOFRIO DILETO of Ware Road, Hoddesdon died recently. His funeral will be on **Tuesday 3rd December at 9.15am.**

FRANCESCA COMPARETTO of Beyers Prospect died recently. Her funeral will be on **Wednesday 4th December at 11.30am.**

PATRICIA DUNNE formerly of Hoddesdon died recently. Her funeral will be on **Tuesday 10th December at 11am.**

ROSEMARY GUEST of St Laurence Drive, Broxbourne died recently. Her funeral will be held on **Tuesday 17th December at 11am.**

May they rest in peace.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Rosemary Guest, Onofrio Dileto, Patricia Dunne, Francesca Comparetto and Luigi Calvino and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Vincenzina D'Ambrosio, Janet Denton, Antonio Terranova, Rosario Lo Monaco, Catherine Salmon, Marina Scrivener, Pamela Taylor, Gaetano Distefano, Elena Mazza, Francesco Distefano, Roger Cookson, Gerarda Lanza, Majorie Gaynor, Mary Brent, Constantina Infantino, Kathleen Pewter, Pius Ogbodu, James Pearce, Filomena Sorce, Biagio Sorce, Calogera Bertolone and Salvatore Scozzano. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

ADVENT

RECONCILIATION BEFORE CHRISTMAS: Our Parish Penitential Services will be on **Monday 16th December at 11.30am and 7.30pm.**

PARISH CAROL SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 22nd December at 6pm** with adult and children choirs. If you can help, please sign your name on the blue board at the back of church.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: There will be a children's Nativity Mass at 5pm on **Christmas Eve** and children can dress as a shepherd or angel. 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 available to buy from the table at back of church for £2.95. Please pay your money into the newspaper box.

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

MASS BOOKS: Due to the new lectionary, the readings will now be printed and available from the blue trays in the porch beside the newsletters which will be in the red trays. **New Sunday Missals are available to buy from the repository for £19.95.**



CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Gabby Hanley will be running the Children's Choir at the 9.15am Mass on Sunday mornings. The children choir will be on **8th and 22nd December** at the 9.15am Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY will be held at the 9.15am Mass on **1st & 15th December.**

PRAYER GROUP will be meeting on **Thursday 5th December** at 7.30pm in the crypt and will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month.



PARISH TRIP TO ST ALBANS ABBEY will be on **Friday 13th December.** The coach will leave the church at 9am and leave St Albans at 3pm. We will have Mass at the Abbey at 12 noon. The price of the coach is £13 per person. Can you please drop your money into the presbytery to confirm your place. There are now only 3 spaces left on the coach. **Please note there will be no Exposition or 12 noon Mass on Friday 13th, but Mass will be at 7pm with Exposition at 6pm.**

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

COME AND SEE will continue on **Tuesday 3rd December at 7.30pm** for all who want to learn more about becoming a Catholic, or if you missed one of the Sacraments or if you simply want to renew your faith.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2025:

The next meeting will be on **Monday 2nd December from 7-8pm** in the crypt. A letter has now been emailed to parents with dates for next year. If you have not received it, please contact the presbytery.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The next meeting will be on **Sunday 1st December**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2026:

If your child is in year 2 and is interested in making their First Holy Communion in 2026, please do contact the presbytery to register your interest.

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

ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL will be holding Open Days for prospective parents for children applying for a place in nursery or reception for September 2025. The dates are: **Monday 2nd December at 10am** and **Wednesday 4th December at 2pm**. To book a viewing, please contact 463549.

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S are looking for enthusiastic early years practitioners. Applicants need to be qualified to level 3 in Early Years Childcare and Education or equivalent. For further information please email staugustinesunder5s@hotmail.co.uk or call on 01992 460614. Apply with covering letter and CV to St Augustine's Under 5s Charlton Close Hoddesdon EN11 8DR. **CLOSING DATE Friday 13th December 2024**

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS

PARISH MAGAZINE: We hope to have the annual magazine ready for sale very soon.

FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS will be served in the crypt after all Masses **this weekend**.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' COLLECTION raised £710.35. Thank you to everyone who donated.

CHURCH CLEANERS: Two more cleaners are needed to join the Thursday morning group for one hour per month. If you can help, please contact the presbytery.



LIGHTS FOR UKRAINE: The Rotary Club of Sandy are collecting used and unused Christmas candles. With the help of charity partners, the candles will be transported to Ukraine this winter. Once there, the candles will provide light and heat during the frequent power cuts. Part used candles are also welcome as volunteers are melting them to make new ones. Please bring the candles to the presbytery so that we can arrange for them to be collected.



WARE CHORAL SOCIETY will be performing English Carols on **Saturday 7th December, 7.30pm** at The Drill Hall, Ware. Tickets £15 from Theresa Casbard 07742022223 or Anne Byrne 467097.



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: If you've experienced a bereavement please feel welcome to come to the parish support group. We are not a counselling service, but can always point people in that direction, if it is necessary. The next meeting will be on held in the New Year in the presbytery.



BROXBOURNE COMMUNITY CHOIR & ST AUGUSTINE'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR will be presenting "Christmas Around the World" on **Sat 7th December at 3pm** at Christ Church Ware. Adults £10 and children under 16 free. Tickets from Gabby 07875221543.



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

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

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

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
Saturday 30th Nov SAINT ANDREW, Apostle 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>	1st Reading: Jeremiah 33: 14-16 <i>I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	Ps 25 — To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
Sun 1st Dec FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>Pius Ogbodu RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Francesco Distefano RIP</i>	2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3: 12-4:2 <i>May the Lord establish your hearts for the coming of Christ.</i>
Mon 2nd December 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Stephen Cusack RIP</i> 11am Funeral Luigi Calvino RIP 6-6.45pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation. Alleluia! Gospel: Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36 <i>Your redemption is drawing near.</i>
Tues 3rd December St Francis Xavier, Priest 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Funeral Onofrio Dileto RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)</p> 1st Reading: Baruch 5: 1-9 2nd Reading: Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11 Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6
Wed 4th December St Barbara, Martyr 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass followed by coffee in the crypt <i>Gaetano Distefano RIP</i> 11.30am Funeral Francesca Comparetto RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</p> Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.45 – 9am & 10.45 – 11am or ask Fr Julian at any other time.
Thurs 5th December 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Kathleen & John Stokes intentions</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY</p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Friday 6th December St Nicholas, Bishop (abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 12 noon Mass <i>Thomas & Lena Byrne RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7pm Mass <i>Mario Lusardi RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</p> Any parishioner sick, frail, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.
Saturday 7th December St Ambrose, Bishop & Dr 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Marina Morris RIP & Esther Lynch RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</p> Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
Sun 8th December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.15am Mass <i>Thomas Delaney's intentions</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Nicola & Margherita Barone RIP</i>	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Mon 2nd 7pm Confirmation, crypt Tues 3rd 1pm Lunch Club, crypt Tues 3rd 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	Tues 3rd 7.30pm Come & See, crypt Wed 4th 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 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