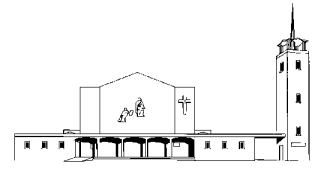




# The Announcer



## St Augustine's Catholic Church

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

**Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies**

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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](mailto:hoddesdong@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)  
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**YEAR C**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**15<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2024**

Gospel: *Luke 3: 10-18*

*And we, what shall we do?*

Who could have imagined such scenes of jubilation on the streets of Damascus after the collapse of the Assad regime. A brutal dictatorship was brought down in a matter of weeks and without much bloodshed. Whether it lasts or not, the sense of

freedom after years of repression and darkness is palpable. The regime had waged war on its own people, so it is not surprising that similar scenes of celebration are often seen with the coming of peace after war. Exiles are returning home and families being reunited. This ferment of joy gives us a glimpse of what the prophecy of Zephaniah must have meant for the Jews when he prophesies the people being set free from the clutches of evil. The context is very different, though similarly, the people of Judah had suffered ruthless kings, who in their case, had undermined the covenantal relationship between God and his people, by promoting their own interests over the justice and righteousness of God. In the earlier chapters of Zephaniah judgment is given against such rulers and their accomplices, but in today's reading we have the promise that God will act to free those who have remained faithful to him from the clutches of such evil. Isaiah similarly (in our psalm) speaks of the salvation of people from evil, and the restoration of the kingdom after the return of exiles. Driving this liberation is not armed insurgency, as in modern Syria, but the divine activity of heaven. In both Zephaniah and Isaiah, God assumes the throne as the true ruler of the kingdom. 'Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel' cries Isaiah, while Zephaniah proclaims 'The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst', repeated again, 'The Lord your God is in your midst'. We can see how such passages came to be seen as prophecies of the future establishment of the messianic kingdom. In today's gospel, like last week, we see John the Baptist preparing the ground for the coming of Jesus who as the Messiah inaugurates that kingdom. Such was the electrifying effect of John's wilderness ministry, that some thought that he was the Messiah, but as John pointed out last week, he was merely preparing the way for Jesus. In contrast the One coming after John is mightier than he and his sandals John is unworthy to untie. John baptises with water, but Jesus will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire. In Jesus' first coming the messianic kingdom had already broken through and with his return at the end of time, the messianic kingdom will be seen in all its glory and brought to completion. In the meantime, the Church, like John, proclaims the good news to the people. If the necessary response was urgent then, it is even more urgent now. We are called to repentance and active faith. The Holy Spirit today convicts people who have responded to the good news, placed their belief in Christ and embraced the values of the kingdom. On the banks of the Jordan, then, as now, lives are turned upside down and inside out. Those who responded to John's message realised that they needed to act in preparation for the coming of the Messiah, just as we seek to respond to the call to repent and prepare ourselves before Jesus' second coming. 'What shall we do?' they asked John. 'What shall we do?' 'What shall I do?' Whatever we do should be done in a spirit of joy. Unless we are untrue to ourselves and God, we can rejoice because the Saviour is coming again. Today is Gaudete Sunday, taken from the latin of the first word of the entrance antiphon, 'Rejoice!' It reminds us that joy must be a hall mark of our Christian faith. St Paul, in today's epistle, calls us to live not just prayerfully and rationally, but also joyfully. 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice'. It is a major theme in our Old Testament passages today as well. 'With joy you will draw water from the springs of salvation' says Isaiah, while Zephaniah exhorts the people to 'rejoice and exult with all your heart'. Such rejoicing from God's people is echoed by God himself rejoicing over the people he has saved 'with gladness' and exulting over them 'with loud singing'. Could you believe that God sings aloud over the people he loves? In response, those who know that their joy and salvation is in God alone will always rejoice. May the Lord release praise in our hearts and lives. 'Open my lips O Lord and my lips shall proclaim your praise', sings the psalmist. Isaiah proclaims, 'Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!' 'Sing to the Lord for he has wrought wonders...shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Sion'. The Lord is coming soon. May he not find us miserly mouthed. If we want to be in heaven then we need to get used to singing a new song. Rejoice!



Fr Julian

## PRAYER & LITURGY

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

**LUCIA SCHILLACI** of Stockfield Avenue died recently. Her funeral will be on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December** at 12 noon at Woollensbrook.

**JUDITH MARSHALL** of Paternoster House Care Home died recently. Her funeral will be held on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 11am** at Parndon Wood.

**VICKY FORNI** of Holne Chase, Roydon died recently. Details of her funeral will follow in due course. *May they rest in peace.*

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently including Albert Willmer, Judith Marshall, Lucia Schillaci, Vicky Forni, Rosemary Guest and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Adelina Ciralo, Georgina Nottle, Norman Waite, Giuseppe Leto, Angela Smith, Calogero Tagliarini, Bridget Gorry, Maureen Harris, Edward McManus, Vincenzo Silenti, Albert Warden and Livio Fattore. *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 16<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30am and 7.30pm.**

**PARISH CAROL SERVICE** will be held on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6pm** with adult and children choirs.

**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. The Italian Mass will be at 3.30pm on Christmas Eve.

**CRIB APPEAL:** Our Crib offerings are donated to the Catholic Children's Society. The Society provides a range of services to help disadvantaged children and families including mental health support, early years education and emergency grants for families in crisis.

**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.



**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.

**MASS:** On **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** at 9.15am there will be Mass with both schools in church. All are welcome to attend.

**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 **22<sup>nd</sup> December** at the 9.15am Mass.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** will be held at the 9.15am Mass on **15<sup>th</sup> December.**

**PRAYER GROUP** will not be meeting in January, but will resume again on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February** at 7.30pm in the crypt and will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month.



**VIGIL EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** will take place from **11pm-11.30pm on New Year's Eve, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December** and then Mass will follow at 11.30pm. There will be no 9.15am Mass that morning.

### 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 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 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 the Advent Penitential Service on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm** in church.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** The next meeting will be on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 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.



**BAPTISM COURSE:** The next course will be held on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 7.15pm** 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.



The **SVP** are distributing over 10,000 homeless packs during the extreme cold weather. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 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 8237.

**SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:** The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal on **18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> January 2025**.

**SCHOOLS**

**ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S 200 CLUB** winners for December are 1<sup>st</sup> prize Judith Hutchings no 90, 2<sup>nd</sup> price Tom Smith no 49 and 3<sup>rd</sup> price Maureen Kirkby no 27. Congratulations!

**SCHOOL CAROL SERVICES:** St Cross will be holding their Carol Service on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm in church**. St Augustine's School will be holding their Carol Service on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm in church**. There will therefore be no evening Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on both evenings.

**SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS**

**PARISH MAGAZINE** in full colour, 60 pages is now available to buy after all Masses this weekend. You

can also purchase it from the presbytery during the week. The price is £5 to cover the cost of printing.



**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.

**WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS 2025** are now available to buy for £5.50 from the back of church. Please place your money in the newspaper box.



**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.

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

**SCAM EMAILS:** We have been warned by the Diocese that there are scam emails targeting parishioners. They impersonate the Parish Priest, often using a similar email name. They typically request the recipient to purchase Amazon or other gift cards as gifts for the priest. Never purchase gift cards for the parish priest based on an email request. Please do contact the parish office if you receive a suspicious email.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** Please do not leave Christmas cards for parishioners at the back of church. We have found from past years that they are not collected. Thank you.

**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:

<b>Account Name:</b>	<b>WRCDT Hoddesdon</b>
<b>Sort Code:</b>	<b>40-05-20</b>
<b>Account Number:</b>	<b>31264370</b>

**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
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December St John of the Cross, Priest</b> 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>In honour of St Lucia</i>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Zephaniah 3: 14-18a <i>The Lord will exult over you with loud singing.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<b>Ps 12 — Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.</b>
<b>Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Dec THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Joy Ighade birthday intentions</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Mary Tirithi RIP anniv</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Philippians 4: 4-7 <i>The Lord is at hand.</i>
<b>Mon 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Dante &amp; Feni Necchi-Ghiri RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel Accl.</b> Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia!
<b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Filomena Lenguito RIP</i> <b>11am Funeral Rosemary Guest RIP</b> <b>NO</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 3: 10-18 <i>And we, what shall we do?</i>
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> December</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass followed by coffee in the crypt <i>Christopher Whelehan RIP</i> <b>NO</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)</b></p>
<b>Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> December</b> 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Maureen Murphy RIP</i> <b>NO</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Micah 5: 2 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Hebrews 10: 5-10 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 1: 39-45
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>(abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</b> 9.15am Mass in church with both schools 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Thanksgiving Nsonwah Family</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 10.30 – 11am &amp; 5.30 – 6.15pm            Sunday 8.45 – 9am &amp; 10.45 – 11am            or ask Fr Julian at any other time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROSARY</b></p> <p>The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.</p>
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December St Peter Canisius</b> 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Jean Walsh RIP</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b></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> <b>Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Fr Philip' intentions</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Decd members of O'Connor Family</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b></p> <p>Catholics must approach their parish priest at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</b></p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	
<b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup></b> 1pm Lunch Club, crypt	
<b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup></b> 2.30pm Warm Spaces, 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 parrochiani 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