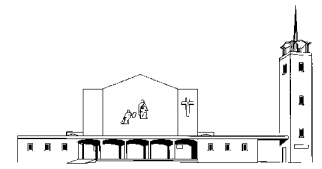




The Announcer



St Augustine's Catholic Church

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

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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 C

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

29TH DEC 2024

Gospel: Luke 2: 41-52

Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the teachers.

'When Christ took flesh through the Blessed Virgin Mary, he made his home with us. Let us now pray that he will enter this home and bless it with his presence. May he always be here among you; may he nurture your love for each other, share in your joys, comfort you in your sorrows. Inspired by his teachings and example, seek to make your new home above all else a dwelling place of love, diffusing far and wide the goodness of Christ'. These wonderful words come from a set prayer which we priests use when blessing new homes. At the turn of another year, and as we make our resolutions, may we welcome Christ into all that which is nearest and dearest to us, not just our homes but our families as well. The Church recognises the family as a domestic church. Through the authentic witness of its reciprocal and sacrificial love, the family, sanctified by our Christ's presence, is able to diffuse 'far and wide the goodness of Christ'. Such authenticity has little to do with material wealth but everything to do with heart disposition. St John reminds us that where love is, God is living. Money cannot buy love. Experience on our travels teaches us that in general, the poorer the family, the greater is the welcome they give to strangers. What a family might lack in material possessions, they possess in abundance when it comes to showing practical love in the hospitality, generosity and in the social bonds which knit and resource them together. Today the Church invites us to contemplate the simplicity of the Holy Family as a model for all families. That simplicity is not about the perfection of its functionality. If anything, the Holy Family, like so many families today is dysfunctional. It is the quality of its familial love centred on Christ which is worthy of our contemplation. Our collect today asks that we 'may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so in the joy of your house delight one day in eternal rewards.' In speaking of the joy of the Father's house, we recall the spacious many rooms that Jesus, just before his death, invited his disciples to take comfort in. Our readings today talk also about God's other house, or rather God's house on earth, the earthly Temple at Jerusalem, which was a shadow of that true house of heaven. For the Jews this is where they felt closest to God. *'Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord'. 'How lovely is your dwelling place'. The psalmist's soul longs and yearns for its courts. The Temple was a holy place, consecrated and set apart for God's purposes. Those who inhabited it infused something of its sanctity. It was with that vision that Hannah gifted Samuel, her long awaited son, once weaned, to the Temple at Shiloh, the predecessor of the Temple at Jerusalem. 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the Lord and dwell there for ever'. The chosen people regularly went up to the Temple for the obligatory feasts. One such visit, to the annual Passover, is the subject of today's gospel. After having left the Temple and started journeying back, Mary and Joseph find that Jesus has stayed behind in the Temple. His reply to them is telling, 'Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house'? Jesus would visit his Father's house many times in the years ahead. It was the place which was his by right more than any who worked or visited it, but those who controlled it would eventually bar him and others from it. For Jesus it was not just his Father's house, but 'my house'. Did you not know that 'my house shall be a house of prayer for all nations', he would say when cleansing it of the money-changers? Although he acknowledged its holiness, Jesus made it clear that he himself transcended it. That temple would be destroyed but his own body could not. What was material was provisional and only pointed to the greater reality of his own identity. His followers would be the living stones of a heavenly temple, and they, by inviting God to set up home within their lives would themselves become a living temple. 'Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God in him', St John tells us in his epistle. As the family of the Church, whether as the wider family of believers or as the domestic family at home, we are called to the sanctification of the life of the world. This is very much at the heart of this Jubilee Year, which Pope Francis inaugurated on Christmas Eve. May we seek to diffuse far and wide the goodness of Christ. May mercy and indulgence flow. May we open our door to welcome and take the good news out, for we have found that Christ is the door of the year, as every year.*



Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

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. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCB website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib.

MASS on Monday will be at 8am and there will be no evening Exposition.



NEW YEARS EVE: There will be no 9.15am Mass on New Year's Eve, but there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 11pm with Mass at 11.30pm.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS will be on **Friday 3rd January** at 7pm in the evening, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6pm.

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

VICKY FORNI of Holne Chase, Roydon died recently. Her funeral will be on **Wednesday 8th January at 11am**. There will be no 9.15am Mass that day. *May they rest in peace.*

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently including Albert Willmer, Judith Marshall and Vicky Forni and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Giuseppa Busciglio, Jo Smith, Roy Peacock, Thomas Murphy, Alfonso Carubba, Patrick Sheridan, Antonia Orsini, Francesco Soldano, Joseph Stollenwerk, Antonietta Cacciatore, Calogero Amico, Americo Guacu, Patrick McNaughton and Mariana Palombelli. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*



POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY is for the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is

necessary to build a better world, might always be respected

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.

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 the **12th January 2025**.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY will be resume at the 9.15am Mass on **5th January 2025**.

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

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE will be held on **Sunday 26th January** at St Augustine's Broxbourne, at 7pm on behalf of Churches Together in Hoddesdon. All are welcome.

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 7th 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 held in the crypt on **Monday 13th January at 7pm**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The next meeting will be on **Sunday 5th January 2025** at 5pm in the crypt.



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 22nd 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

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 **18th/19th January 2025**.



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.

TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB & WARM SPACES will resume again on the **7th January 2025** in the crypt.

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.

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: Michele & Pelle De Luca & Sophie & Angelo Lenguito & 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.

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the
Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen



Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Saturday 28th December THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Martyrs 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Decd members of Beary Family</i>	1st Reading: Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28 <i>Samuel, as long as he lives, is lent to the Lord.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Decd members of Murphy & Galligan Families</i>	Ps 84 — Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.
Sun 29th Dec HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 9.15am Mass <i>Mary & John Hanley & Family intentions</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	2nd Reading: John 3: 1-2, 21-24 <i>We are called children of God; and so we are.</i>
Mon 30th December SIXTH DAY IN OCTAVE OF NATIVITY OF THE LORD 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Marianne Dorman's intentions</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! Open your hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son. Alleluia! Gospel: Luke 2: 41-52 <i>Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the teachers.</i>
Tues 31st December SEVENTH DAY IN OCTAVE OF NATIVITY OF THE LORD NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament NO 9.15am Mass 11.00pm Vigil Adoration 11.30pm Mass <i>Pauline Siracusa</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (YEAR C)</p> 1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6 2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6 Gospel: Mathew 2: 1-12
Wed 1st January SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15 Mass <i>Shani Geewarghese RIP</i> 8-9pm 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 2nd January Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Mark Heffernen RIP</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 3rd January Most Holy Name of Jesus (abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7pm Mass <i>Francesco Borrelli 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 4th January St Elizabeth Ann Seaton 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Pasquale Ricotta 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. Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Kathleen Fitzpatrick RIP</i>	
Sun 5th January EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 9.15am Mass <i>Caroline Smith RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	

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