



# 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)

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**YEAR C**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

Gospel: *Luke 3: 1-6*

*All flesh shall see the salvation of God.*

Advent calls us to put the brake on, to slow down. Life can become very frenetic. We are trying to make a big impression but God has beaten us to it. Bethlehem's door is ajar, and we are still journeying. Resist the pressure of the commercial interest to concertina everything into one. We need to walk with prayerful steps if we are to welcome the coming King. Being busy is not a virtue. Busyness is not the same as doing



business, not least God's business. So much of our lives can be window dressing rather than time well spent. Mary of Bethany won Jesus' approbation for stilling her soul from the distractions of the day. In last week's gospel, Jesus told us to watch lest we become weighed down by the cares of life. These are not our necessary commitments, but the extra burdens which we inflict upon ourselves when we lose sight of Him. The greatest worship we can offer is our attention, by being responsive to Him, seeking not what we want to do but what he wants to do through us and for us. In this season of expectation, let our preparation be focused on Him. Activism that is not rooted in heaven is role-play in our own stage productions. Dependence upon self rather than God is the primeval act of rebellion. Our readings today realign our priorities. If God has acted for his people in the past, will he not do the same in the future? Our entrance antiphon recalls that *'the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart'*. The kingdom of God is not manufactured by us but comes from above. Baruch reminds us that the city of God doesn't receive its glory from itself. God reveals its truth and beauty to the nations and He guarantees its everlasting wellbeing. He draws the exiles back. He overturns the mighty and elevates the lowly. He provides our shade of protection, not we ourselves. Joy comes, not from our light, but *'by the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from Him'*. In the same vein, the psalmist remembers God's faithfulness throughout history. *'What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad'*. Are we glad? By throwing off our customary obligations, and dethroning God, is our society any healthier? Has our increasing self-dependency over the years brought us happiness and progress? Is it any wonder that true gladness of heart eludes us when we think that we are the authors of our existence? The apostles were in awe of God's power, and knew their weakness. They knew that God had authored their work, that God would sustain it and that He would bring it to completion. St Paul writes in his Letter to the Philippians today, *'I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ'*. Goodness brought to completion is a divine production, worked by Christ for the glory of the Father. This crescendo of God's saving activity escalates with the Advent appearance of John the Baptist in our gospel. John does not manufacture his message. The Word of God comes to him. He is its vehicle for transmission. He is simply the Voice. The larynx is his, but the Word is God's. Reinforcing our need not to rely on ourselves, our prayer over the offerings tells us that *'we have no merits to plead our cause'* while our communion antiphon reminds us that joy comes as a gift from above. *'Behold the joy which comes to you from God'*. Seeking it from anywhere else will be a pale imitation, and will soon deflate us. Wait for the Lord His time is near, wait for the Lord be strong take heart! In his last years of blindness, John Milton pondered on his frustration that the loss of his sight deprived him of doing what he wanted to do for God. His sonnet, *'When I consider how my light is spent'*, ends with these thoughtful words...*'God doth not need either man's work or his own gifts; who best bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state is kingly....they also serve who only stand and wait.'* Another poet, RS Thomas said that *'the meaning is in the waiting'*. When Christ returns, there will be no need of meaning for everything will be obvious.

Fr Julian

## PRAYER & LITURGY

**WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH** Annie Chappell who will be baptised this weekend.



**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.

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

**ANTONIO CANNATELLA** of Rosedale, Sedgeregren died recently. His funeral will be on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30am.**

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

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

**LUCIA SCHILLACI** of Stockfield Avenue 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 Lucia Schillaci, Vicky Forni, Antonio Cannatella, Rosemary Guest and Patricia Dunne, and and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Guerina Keable, Philomena Coleston, Paolo Di Maria, Annie Keogh, Margherita Barone, Onofrio Maniscalco, Henryk Nolewajka, Sheila Turpin, Maria, Domenico & Giovanni Rubino, Nicola & Margherita Barone. *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 22nd 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.

**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:** 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 **8<sup>th</sup>** and **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.

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



**PARISH TRIP TO ST ALBANS ABBEY** will be on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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. **Please note there will be no Exposition or 12 noon Mass on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

**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 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](mailto: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**

**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> prize Tom Smith no 49 and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize 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:** We hope to have the annual magazine ready for sale very soon.

**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.



**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.

**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.



Congratulations to Gary and Franca Messam whose marriage was Convalidated here on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December St Ambrose, Bishop &amp; Dr</b> 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Marina Morris RIP &amp; Esther Lynch RIP</i>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Baruch 5: 1-9 <i>God will show your splendour.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	<b>Ps 126 — What great deeds the Lord worked for us!</b> <i>Indeed, we were glad.</i>
<b>Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Thomas Delaney's intentions</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Nicola &amp; Margherita Barone RIP</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11 <i>Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.</i>
<b>Mon 9<sup>th</sup> December IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Giuseppe Nicastro RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<b>Gospel Accl.</b> Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!  <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 3: 1-6 <i>All flesh shall see the salvation of God.</i>
<b>Tues 10<sup>th</sup> December Our Lady of Loreto</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Paul O'Connell RIP</i> <b>11am Funeral Patricia Dunne RIP</b> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b>  <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>  <b>(YEAR C)</b></p> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> Zephaniah 3: 14-18 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> Philippians 4: 4-7 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 3: 10-18
<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup> December St Damasus I, Pope</b> 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass followed by coffee in the crypt <i>Giuseppe, Maria-Teresa, Gaetano &amp; Francesco Distefano RIP</i> <b>11.30am Funeral Antonio Cannatella RIP</b> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)</b></p> Saturday 10.30 – 11am & 5.30 – 6.15pm Sunday 8.45 – 9am & 10.45 – 11am or ask Fr Julian at any other time.
<b>Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> December Our Lady of Guadalupe</b> 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Sara's intentions</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROSARY</b></p> The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December St Lucy, Virgin &amp; Martyr (abstinence from meat for those aged 14+)</b> <b>NO</b> 11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <b>NO</b> 12 noon Mass 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7pm Mass <i>Caroline Delaney's intentions</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b></p> Any parishioner sick, frail, or going into hospital for major surgery, can ask Fr Julian for the Sacrament of Anointing at any time.
<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>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE</b></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;"><b>Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</b></p>
<b>Sun 15<sup>th</sup> December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9.15am Mass <i>Joy Ighade birthday intentions</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Mary Tirithi RIP anniv</i>	
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	
<b>Tues 10<sup>th</sup></b> 1pm Lunch Club, crypt	<b>Tues 10<sup>th</sup></b> 7.30pm Come & See, crypt
<b>Tues 10<sup>th</sup></b> 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt	<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup></b> 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