



The Announcer



St Augustine's Catholic Church

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YEAR C

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

12TH JANUARY 2025

Gospel: *Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22*

When Jesus had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened.

In a world of global intercommunication, who controls the transmission and substance of information is a pressing question. While digital media informs a far wider audience than ever before, individual entrepreneurs and high-tech companies are able to channel information as never before, inviting in response, calls for greater control than ever before. Whose voices should be heard above the cacophony of voices? How should we sift information from disinformation? On the information highway what signs should there be and what codes should regulate it? In our first reading, the prophet Isaiah highlights a different voice and a different highway. 'A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord'. Today is the feast of the baptism of the Lord, which commemorates Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan. John said he was simply the Voice preparing the way for Jesus. This was radical. Since the days of the last prophet Malachi, some four hundred years previously, the prophetic voice had been silenced. Now it erupts in the wilderness in the very place where Isaiah had said it would. As prophesied, the highway that John proclaimed, was a superhighway that would not just change the landscape but lead to the revelation of 'the glory of the Lord'. This superhighway was about more than the diffusion of information. It called for action. The nation should repent, turn back to God and align themselves with his will. Confronted with the coming revelation of God's glory, people were presented with their Kairos moment, a crisis of response. To come before God's glory, they needed to prepare themselves. This again was radical. Up to now, the glory of the Lord's presence was localised to the Temple, and experienced only by the few. Yet Isaiah prophesied that all flesh would see God's glory. Not only would all flesh see the glory. That glory would be manifest in the flesh. John was preparing the way for an encounter with Jesus who comes to the waters of the Jordan, not because he needs to be baptised but because he identifies totally with us in our human nature. In the past the chosen people carried the Ark of the Covenant containing the scriptural Word of God over the Jordan so that they could enter the promised land. Now the very Word of God made flesh, is plunged into the waters of baptism to open to all people the Promised Land of God's glory. As our offertory prayers says, he 'willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world'. Jesus' baptism is all about the revelation of his glory. Whereas John baptises with natural water, Jesus will baptise with the Holy Spirit and the fire of heaven. He imparts not just information about God's kingdom, but permits our participation in it. More than that, our entering into the divine presence is a communion with the very glory of God. Through the Spirit we are adopted into God's family. St Paul in our second reading tells us that through Jesus baptising us with the Holy Spirit, we are declared God's heirs, brothers and sisters of Christ. We are swept up into the familial life of the Trinity, made manifest at Jesus' baptism, at the opening of the heavens. The Spirit rests upon him, while the Father affirms his divine sonship, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased'. On the banks of the Jordan, in the wilderness, through the Baptist, the prophetic voice is heard for the first time in four hundred years. Now over the waters of the Jordan the very voice of God is audibly heard, the same divine voice heard over the waters of creation in Genesis. In the Transfiguration this voice from heaven testifies to the voice of the Son. 'This is my Beloved Son listen to Him'. In our age of disinformation and untruthfulness, focused hearing is required if we are to navigate the spiritual spectrum. The only superhighway worth travelling on is the one which enables us to see everything in the light of God's glory. In communion with Jesus we shall discover our true humanity and our true identity as the family of divine love. Discerning the way ahead goes hand in hand with attuning our spiritual ears to God's word, and his open invitation to belong and believe. As our post-communion prayer puts it, 'We humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth.



Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH Louis & Oliver Edwards and Antonio Castiglione who will be baptised this weekend.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will be held from **6-6.45pm on Monday** evening, due to the Confirmation meeting.

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.

FRANCESCO BONDI of Stockfield Avenue died recently. His funeral will be on **Friday 17th January at 12 noon**.

GIOVANNI PECORARO of Eleanor Way died recently. His funeral will be on **Monday 20th January at 11.30am**. There will be no 9.15am Mass that morning.

LESLEY SYKES of Heath Row died recently. Her funeral will be on **Friday 24th January at 12 noon**.

MARIA MESSINA of Fairfield Road 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 Lesley Sykes, Francesco Bondi, Maria Messina and Giovanni Pecoraro and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Connie Murphy, Giovannina Minichiello, Phyllis Lawlor, Antonio Riccardi, Biagio Cicchirillo, Kitty O'Rourke, Paddy Brien, Ian Laydon, Baby William O'Bryan, Kevin O'Bryan and Ann Danaher. *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 held at the 9.15am Mass on **19th 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 14th 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 19th January 2025** at 5pm in the crypt. If you have not yet paid the £8 for the book for the children, can you please drop it off to the presbytery. 

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 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

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal **next weekend**. SPUC exists to radically transform culture so that abortion is not only abolished, but becomes truly unthinkable. To accomplish this mission, the Society is positioning initiatives in politics, education, legislation and culture. Through these efforts, we will restore a respect for the sanctity of human life to our society. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers.



CAFOD: 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? How will the Church be celebrating it? How can I get involved? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be

hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more in this lively start to the Jubilee. Hear highlights of how we're celebrating as a church and how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. With a special appearance by Catholic band Oberfuse. **Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online**. Register here for free: cafod.org.uk/jubilee

SOCIAL & MISCELLANEOUS



PARISH MAGAZINE in full colour, 60 pages is now available to buy 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.

ST AUGUSTINE'S UNDER 5'S 200 CLUB winner for January is number 63, Lucy Pearce. Congratulations!

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 presbytery on **Thursday 30th January at 2pm**.

RETRouvaille has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about the next programme which will be presented on Zoom ...27 February to 2 March email info@retrouvaille.org.uk call or text 0788 7296983 www.retrouvaille.org.uk

BROXBORNE GUIDE FOR OLDER RESIDENTS has useful local contacts and information and is available to collect from the back of church.

CHURCH CLEANING: Elizabeth Nsonwah, Tina Pegna, Sophie & Angelo Lenguito. Thank you for your help.

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

FINANCE

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



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

Liturgy this week	Today's Liturgy
Saturday 11th January 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Mary Wall & Family</i>	1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11 <i>The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Kevin O'Bryan RIP & Baby William O'Bryan</i>	Ps 104 — Bless the Lord, O my soul! My God, how great you are!
Sun 12th January BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Denis Murphy – President Catenians</i>	2nd Reading: Titus 2: 11-14, 3: 4-7 <i>He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.</i>
Mon 13th January St Hilary, Bishop & Dr 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Ester Carol's intentions</i> 6-6.45pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! He who is mightier than I is coming, said John. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Alleluia!
Tues 14th January 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Anne Hogan's intentions</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel: Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22 <i>When Jesus had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened.</i>
Wed 15th January 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15 Mass followed with coffee in the crypt <i>Friends, family & relatives of Mary & Martin McDonagh.</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)</p> 1st Reading: Isaiah 62: 1-5 2nd Reading: Paul 12: 4-11 Gospel: John 2: 1-11
Thurs 16th January 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Fr Chris Eaton's intentions</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<p style="text-align: center;">SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) 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 17th January St Anthony, Abbot (abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Sheila Doyle RIP</i> 6pm 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.
Saturday 18th January Blessed Virgin Mary 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Pietro Dileto RIP anniv</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.
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>For the Parish</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.
Sun 19th January SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15am Mass <i>Kathleen Keane RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Giuseppe Tambuzzo RIP anniv</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 233699</p>
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	

REGULAR EVENTS

Mon 13th 7pm Confirmation, crypt
Tues 14th 1pm Lunch club

Tues 14th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt
Tues 14th 7.30pm Come and See, 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