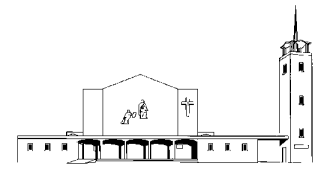




The Announcer



St Augustine's Catholic Church

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

Parish Priest: Fr Julian Davies

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

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

5TH JANUARY 2025

Gospel: *Matthew 2: 1-12*

We have come from the east to worship the king.

The shortest day has been and the hours of sunlight are increasing. More importantly at the start of this new year, may we welcome the light which banishes our inner darkness. Our collect today prays, 'May the splendour of your majesty, O Lord... shed its light upon our hearts, that we may pass through the shadows of the world and reach the brightness of our eternal home'. There are many



shadows of the world, but we do not need to fear them for they have no eternal reality. Shadows exist only because light pre-exists. When the light shines ever brighter, the shadows are also brought into darker relief. This is as true of the shadows of our spiritual lives, as of the natural world. Ultimately, they disappear before the light. In the Nicene Creed we talk of Jesus as Light from Light. In the prologue of St John (read on Christmas Day but also fittingly the last gospel reading of the year), the apostle reminds us that Jesus, the eternal Light has come into the world, and his light can never be extinguished. His light is the light of men. Whatever light we possess, comes from him, since he is the eternal light, the pre-existing Word through which everything was made. Our dim light, found in feeble frames, is a mere reflection of the reality of his Light. We were made for the light, but our natural instinct, because of our sin, is to draw back. Yet to welcome Jesus' light, to embrace it, is to come out from the shadows, to name the darkness in our lives and to enter into the light of eternal day. When the light has been glimpsed, who would want to draw back into the shadows or darkness? Once perceived that light starts to generate the spiritual photosynthesis of our transformation and renewal. God does not blind us with his light. He wants us to see that following the light is in our interest and actually for what we yearn. If we love the darkness instead of the light, then we are covering up evil. Some will not come into the light for fear of exposure. 'But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God'. Epiphany which we celebrate today, is known as the Festival of Light, especially in Eastern Christianity. Epiphany means making manifest, or showing forth the light, in other words revealing Jesus to the world. Often in the early Church the festival embraced the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan and his first miracle at Cana, both of which were manifestations of his identity to the world. We can see also how Epiphany came to be associated with receiving the light of Christ at baptism which is why our Orthodox brothers and sisters will plunge themselves into icy waters. As someone who has had a few cold showers recently due to a heating break down, I thoroughly recommend it as a wakeup call! Pre-eminently however today we celebrate the manifestation of Jesus as the Messiah to the Gentile world. Isaiah prophesied (our first reading) that though darkness covers the earth, 'and thick darkness the people', nations would be drawn to the light, and 'kings to the brightness of your rising'. His prophecy today concludes with the nations bringing gold and frankincense. It is easy to see how when the magi appeared carrying their precious gifts and searching for the new born king, this passage would be seen as finding its fulfilment in the birth of the Messiah. Whatever light the magi possessed, their religious aspirations enabled them to search for Christ. In modern terms their beliefs sound esoteric. In fact, they speak powerfully to the spiritual searching of today. Religious desire finds its fulfilment only where it can be fulfilled, in the manger of its Creator. God has set eternity in our midst according to Ecclesiastes. We are religious animals, searching what is greater beyond ourselves. This religious quest is essential to being human. In denying this, the secular brigade deny true humanism. Religion of itself is ambivalent, but wherever it is aligned with the truth and open to revelation, it becomes single-minded in its purpose. We see such single-mindedness in the magi. In submitting their partial knowledge to a journey of faith, the magi undertook what all seeking the truth, must undertake. Only the revealed Word can reveal the truth. It is to be found in the most unlikely place. All that is created, stars included, inevitably point to Him and confirm the truth of his identity. As we journey into this new year, may we know whom we are looking for and moving towards, and, even if we haven't seen him, may we fall down like the magi and worship Him and Him alone.

Fr Julian

PRAYER & LITURGY

MASS on Tuesday will be with both primary schools at 9.15am in church.

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.

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 Barbara Woodbridge, James Needham, Rose Beeson, Anne Parsons, Kevin O'Bryan, Vincenzo Martorana, Alderzia Crimauodo,, Leo Lee-Lozone, Cornelius Van Hage, Onofrio Maniscalco, Filippa Gaiteri, Mary O'Donovan, Marion Miller, John Griffin, Vincenzo Papa, Vincenza Provenzano, Giuseppe Chiazza, Vincenzo Segameglio, Kathleen Fitzpatrick and Caroline Smith. *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. 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 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 from the presbytery during the week. The price is £5 to cover the cost of printing.

LUNCH CLUB & WARM SPACES will both resume on Tuesday 7th January 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.

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 New Year in the presbytery.



RETROUVAILLE: Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped because it only makes it worse? 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

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 4th January St Elizabeth Ann Seton 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Pasquale Ricotta RIP</i>	1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6 <i>The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.</i>
4.00pm Italian Mass* 6.30pm Mass <i>Kathleen Fitzpatrick RIP</i>	Ps 72 — All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.
Sun 5th January EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 9.15am Mass <i>Caroline Smith RIP</i> 11.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i>	2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6 <i>It has now been revealed that the Gentiles are fellow heirs of the promise.</i>
Mon 6th January 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass <i>Luciana Rosalia RIP & Martino Vincenza RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gospel Accl. Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship the Lord. Alleluia! Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12 <i>We have come from the east to worship the king.</i>
Tues 7th January St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.15am Mass with both schools in church <i>Marion Miller RIP</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	NEXT WEEK'S READINGS BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR C)
Wed 8th January 8.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament NO 9.15 Mass 11am Funeral Vicky Forni RIP 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11 2nd Reading: Paul 2: 11-14, 3: 4-7 Gospel: Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22
Thurs 9th January 7.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8am Mass <i>Patrick Griffin & Family</i> NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	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.
Friday 10th January St Gregory of Nyssa (abstinence from meat for those aged 14+) 11am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament/11.50 Benediction 12 noon Mass <i>Thomas Griffin & Family</i> 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	ROSARY The Rosary is often prayed in the Lady Chapel after weekday Mass and Saturday 10am Mass.
Saturday 11th January 9.30am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass <i>Mary Wall & Family</i>	SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK 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>Kevin O'Bryan RIP & Baby William O'Bryan</i> Sun 12th January THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9.15am Mass <i>For the Parish</i> 11.15am Mass <i>Denis Murphy - President Catenian</i>	SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE 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
* Vigil Mass of Sunday	
REGULAR EVENTS	
Tues 7th 1pm Lunch club	Tues 7th 2.30pm Warm Spaces, crypt Tues 7th 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 parroccchiani 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