**CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT JOSEPH**

**23 ST JOHN’S STREET, HERTFORD SG14 1RX**

[**https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hertford**](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hertford) **Email:** **hertford@rcdow.org.uk** **Tel: 01992 582109**

**Parish Priest: Monsignor Séamus O’Boyle**

**DATE: 10 December**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**The page numbers for the prayers for this Sunday’s Mass are at the front of The Parish Mass Book. Please note that there is a Loop system in the Church.**

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*View from the Presbytery 8.xii.2023*

It is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception as I write this – so I wish all our parishioners a very happy Feast Day of the principal patron of the Parish and, coincidentally, of the Diocese! The children from St Joseph’s School have been in the Church all morning rehearsing for their Advent Service on Wednesday of next week. They sounded in very good voice – it was nice to hear the music drifting into the Presbytery. They’re obviously singing some old favourites as well as some new ones – I am sure I heard a calypso-style song being sung with great gusto! This classic Advent hymn is in the line-up:

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came, His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame: ‘All hail,’ said he ‘thou lowly maiden Mary, Most highly favoured lady.’ Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.*

*"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name." “Most highly favoured lady.” Gloria!*

Today is Trish Newland the Parish Secretary’s last working day. I am sure she has been of help to many of you over the last eight years and will be greatly missed. As I mentioned the other week, Trish has reluctantly decided to leave because of a change in her circumstances – she lives a fair way North of here and is soon to become a grandmother for the second time. We wish her all the best. There is a coloured leaflet with the times of the Christmas Masses for you to take away this weekend. The Crib is being put up on Monday evening at 7 o’clock. If you can spare some time to assist with that, I am told that it should not take too long!

*Fr Séamus*

**POPE’S INTENTION FOR DECEMBER**

For persons with disabilities We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

**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. John O’Neill 01438 314333 at the Lister hospital. The staff on the wards can also contact the Chaplain.

**ROSARY GROUP:**  Come and join us in thechurch hall on **Tuesday evenings** at 7pm for recital of the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

**THE SVP** are distributing **over 10,000 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 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**. Thank you so much for your support

**NEW YEAR’S PARTY** will be in the church hall on 1st January after the 11am Mass. If you would like to come please bring a plate of food if possible. There will be a list at the back of the church for you to put your name down so that we will have an idea of numbers.

**THE CRIB WILL BE PUT UP on Monday 11th December** from about 7.00pm. If there are any volunteers who might like to help, then please come along.

**ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE**

from Friends of St Joseph (school PTA) who are again teaming up with Festive Trees, who are based near Watton at Stone. Forms can be found at the back of the church.

**THE LOBSTER POT LUNCH:** Friday 15th December at 12.45pm in the church hall.

Please call Sue on 07711 584 517.

**CHRISTMAS STOCK STILL AVAILABLE IS NOW IN THE REPOSITORY:** Please put your money in the wall box at the back of the church.

**A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION IN WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL** Tickets are now on sale for our annual Christmas concerts which celebrate the mystery of Christ’s Incarnation in carols and readings performed by the world-famous Westminster Cathedral Choir, orchestra, and celebrity readers, on **19 and 20 December** at 7.30pm. We encourage everybody to purchase tickets quickly before these popular events are sold out. Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Gift Shop or directly from Ticketmaster; go to [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/) and type in Westminster Cathedral when prompted.

**IN THE NEW YEAR** we will needmore cleaners, flower arrangers, weekday money counters. If you can help please contact Mrs. Walker on 07711584517 and she will put you in touch with the relevant person.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday:**

**6pm:** People of the Parish

**Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent**

**8.30am:** Elizabeth Hope (RIP)

**10.30am:** George Robert Emmett (RIP)

**Monday**

**10.00am:** Graham Johnston (RIP)

**Tuesday**

**12.15pm:** Nora Hardiman (Ints)

**Wednesday:**

**10.00am:** Margaret & John McLoughlin (RIP)

**Thursday: CHURCH CLOSED**

**Friday: NO MASS**

**Saturday**

**6.00pm:** Antonio Maiorano (RIP)

**Confessions:**

**Saturday: 5.15pm -5.45pm**

**PRAYERS ASKED FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** Elizabeth Barnes, Ursula Partner, Jan Kracinski, Stephen Carey, Norene Hristov, Paul Cox, Malcolm Gilbert, Enzo Andrean, Miriam Matthews, Ruth Featherstone, Stephen Judd, Mary Ward, John Sweeney, Pam Gates, Juliet Davis, Phyllis Read, Jo Black, Robbie Robinson, Fr Terry, Angela White, Manuel Lopez.

**COLLECTION:** Many thanks for your contributions: **Last Weekend: £557.65**

Thank you for being such a wonderful parish to work for. I have absolutely loved my time with you.

Merry Christmas to you all. Trish