

# ST HUGH OF LINCOLN RC CHURCH

Parish House: 84 Pixmore Way, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 3TP

Tel: 01462 510015 Email: [letchworth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:letchworth@rcdow.org.uk) Parish Priest: Fr Jimmy Garvey

Administrator: Aimee Barnes Website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/letchworth>

Parish Office open: Monday to Thursday 9.30am—12 noon (Closed Fridays)

Mass Times: Sunday (Sat 7pm) 8am, 9.30am & 11.30am. Holy Day Mass 9.30am &

7.30pm. Weekday Mass Mon-Thurs 9.30am. Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion Fri 9.30am. Morning Prayer Mon-Fri 9.10am. Confessions: Thursday & Saturday 10.00-10.30; Sat 6.15 to 6.45; & on request.



## 15th December 2019

### 3rd Sunday of Advent The Parish Mass Book Year A Volume 1 Psalter Week 3

#### **First Reading:** *Isaiah 35:1-6.10*

The prophet looks forward to a day when those who are blind will see, those who are deaf will hear and those who are lame will “leap like a deer”

#### **Second Reading:** *James 5:7-10*

Be patient, says the writer, take the example of a farmer waiting for the crop to ripen. Impatience will not hasten the Lord's return.

#### **Gospel:** *Matthew 11:2-11*

In prison and nearing death, John sends messengers to ask who Jesus is; Jesus replies John must read the signs for himself.

**Reflection** John the Baptist again takes centre stage but in a different mood from last week. In prison, he wants to know if Jesus is the one they are awaiting. Jesus' answer is enigmatic. John is told to read the signs for himself.

**Parish Mass Book:** 88 : Eucharistic Prayer III 28; **9.30 Mass** Children's Eucharistic Prayer.

**Mass During the Night (Midnight Mass)** Please note this Mass is being brought forward from 11.30 to 10.45pm on Christmas Eve to make it more convenient for parishioners to attend. We thank Fr Cezary and the Polish Community for moving their Mass to 9.00pm to accommodate this.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Journey in Faith** This Sunday, December 15th, at the 11.30 Mass, we will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, a liturgical rite for those preparing to become catechumens, when they will publicly express their desire to follow Jesus as Catholic Christians. We will also celebrate the Rite of Welcome for those inquiring to become Roman Catholics. Together, we pray for them as we accept their intention and welcome them into our parish community.

The next RCIA meeting is on Wednesday 18th December in the St Hilda Room at 7.30pm.

**Candle Offerings** can be placed in the stand by the statue of Mary in the Lady Chapel or in the wooden box as you exit the inner doors of the Church. Thank you.

**Celebration of Cardinal Vincent Nichols' Golden Jubilee of Ordination** Cardinal Vincent will celebrate his Golden Jubilee Mass at 10:30am this Saturday, 21st December in Westminster Cathedral. All are welcome to attend.

**Celebration of Fr Desmond Baker's Golden Jubilee of Ordination** Fr Des was an assistant priest in our parish in the 1980's and is returning to celebrate 11.30am Mass next Sunday, 22nd December. We invite you to join Fr Des to mark his 50 years of ministry as a priest. Following Mass there will be a reception in the St Hilda Room to which everyone is invited.

**The Parish Advent Reconciliation Service** is on Wednesday 18th December at 7.30pm. Priests will be available for Confession in preparation for the celebration of the Birth of the Lord. All are welcome to attend.

**The Parish Christmas Party** is on Friday 20th December from 7pm in the Parish House. Refreshments will be provided and all parishioners are invited to attend.

**The Parish Office** will close on Christmas Eve and reopen on Monday 6th January.

### **Journey Through Advent**

The Walk With Me daily meditation booklet, priced £1 each and the Children's Advent & Christmas Calendars for 2109 are available in the church porch. Please put money for the booklets in the newspaper box.

**The Westminster Year Book** is now available in the church porch priced £4.50. Please put the money in the newspaper box, or drop it into the parish house.

### **Sacrament of Confirmation 2020**

The Confirmation programme will begin in January 2020 and Candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 7th June 2020 at 9.30am Mass.

**The Kanyike Supper Concert** is this Sunday, 15th December from 5.45pm in Fortescue Hall. Tickets priced £10 are now available on **01462 675117** for this enjoyable evening which includes a two course meal, entertainment and a chance to meet Fr Kakuba. Thank you for your support of the Kanyike Project.

### **Family Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - Tuesday 24th December at 5.30pm**

It has become our tradition at the Christmas Eve Family Mass to invite the younger children to come dressed as shepherds and angels. There will be some space on mats at the front of the church for them to sit if they wish so they can see and hear this special Mass. Some of the children's liturgy catechists will be on hand to "shepherd" the flock! Some of the front pews will be reserved for older children and readers. First Holy Communion Catechists will be present to support the children. Obviously space at the front will be limited..

**Christmas Celebration at Westminster Cathedral** will be held on Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th December at 7:30pm. Join us for a candlelit evening of festive readings, congregational carols and superb music provided by our world-famous choir and cathedral orchestra. Tickets priced £10 are available from ***ticketmaster.co.uk***

**The Catholic Children's Society** work with poor and vulnerable families and children throughout our Diocese. As in previous years, any offerings you make at the Crib will be sent to support them. The Crib will remain in the Baptistery of the Church until 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, to emphasise the infancy and childhood of Jesus.

**The Salvation Army** are opening their doors on Christmas Day to people who will be alone this Christmas. Volunteers are needed to help with various jobs on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. If you have some spare time please contact Wendy on **01462 677263**

**Caritas Westminster** have lunched an Advent Giving Calendar. The calendar gives suggestions of items which can be donated each day to the local foodbank, in time for Christmas. The Advent Giving Calendar is an opportunity for the whole parish to continue to be involved in social action through support of our local Foodbank and people in need. The calendar also provides families dealing with food poverty with information about where they can access help when they are struggling. Please support this initiative by taking a calendar from the Church porch. There is further information on the back of the calendar and at [www.caritaswestminster](http://www.caritaswestminster)

**SVP Foodbank—Vinnie Packs** contain cold weather items for people who are rough sleepers and homeless. They include a thermal hat, gloves, socks and some basic toiletries. The National SVP have bought sufficient stock to provide 10,000 packs to people around the country who are homeless and forced to spend their days on the streets this winter. Our Letchworth Conference of the SVP have acquired enough Vinnie Packs to distribute to people in our town who rough sleep through the Letchworth Foodbank. Each pack costs £3.50 to put together. We invite you to assist us with the cost of these packs and to Gift Aid your donation if appropriate. If you have taken a Gift Aid envelope home please return it as soon as you can. Please be as generous as possible. Thank you.

### **Funeral Announcement**

The Funeral Mass for the late Marian Reade will be at 10.30am on Wednesday 18th December, followed by Committal at North Herts Crematorium.

The Funeral Mass for the late Ann Alderman will be at 10.00am on Thursday 19th December followed by Committal at Arlesey Cemetery.

Please keep the Reade and Alderman families in your prayers.

### **Foodbank Christmas Opening Hours**

The Foodbank will be open on Tuesday 24th, Friday 27th and Tuesday 31st December.

**STM Parents Association (PA)** would like to say a huge thank you to all of the congregation for the amazing support you gave to the STM Artisan Christmas Market. We are very grateful and we hope you had a great time. We raised over £1,700 which is a great result!. The STM PA hope to purchase an outdoor sound system for the school. Thank you from the Parents Association and the children of St Thomas More. Emma & Becky, STM PA co-chairs.

**Entertaining Children at Mass** If any parishioners have religious picture books they no longer need and would like to donate them to the church, please contact the parish office. We would like to keep a box in the porch for families to borrow during Mass.

**CAFOD** World Gifts catalogues are in the porch. You can find lots of gifts ideas whilst supporting a worth while cause. Please take one.

**Donations** Thank you to the parishioners who have donated vestments in the different liturgical colours for use in our church and to the family who gave £1,000 in memory of their parents.

**We pray for all those who are sick and those suffering in any way including:**

Lucia Camisa	George Powell
Elizabeth McKenna	Ken Freeman
Stephen Prohaska	Mary Wallace
Eileen McCarthy	Brian Palmer
Philomena Johnson	Pat Nevitt
Angela Horne	Roy Rostron
Christopher Gillham	Anna Harte
Della Stockwell	George Marston
Margaret Haywood	Joe Fernandes
Debbie Giacobelli	Aron Haughton
Nellie O'Brien	Sylvia Hills
Samuel Robinson	

**Parish Collections**

**Sunday 8th December**

Envelopes: £279.52; Loose: £359.18;  
Standing Orders: £948.35; Total £1,587.05

Sick & Retired Priest Fund - £1,840.06

SVP - £941.33

Thank you for your generosity to our Parish and to the various second collections.

**Coffee After 9.30 Mass on Sunday**

15th December - FHC

22nd December - Prayer Group

**Dates for your diary:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event/Activity</b>	<b>Time &amp; Place</b>
Sunday 15th Dec	Kanyike Supper Concert	6pm Fortescue Hall
Wednesday 18th Dec	Parish Reconciliation Service	7.30pm Church
Friday 20th Dec	Parish Christmas Party	7pm The Parish House
Tuesday 24th Dec	Mass During the Night (Midnight Mass)	10.45pm Church
Saturday 7th March	KSC Quiz Night	Fortescue Hall
Sunday 7th June	Sacrament of Confirmation	9.30am Church

**Our Catholic Schools**

**St Thomas More RC Primary School**, Highfield, Letchworth, Herts, SG6 3QB

Tel: 01462 620670    [www.strejmi.herts.sch.uk](http://www.strejmi.herts.sch.uk)

**The John Henry Newman RC Secondary School**, Hitchin Road, Stevenage.

Tel: 01438 314643    [www.jhn.herts.sch.uk](http://www.jhn.herts.sch.uk)

**Safeguarding Officer** - Rebecca Clarke 01462 646636 [lethworthsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:lethworthsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**Lister Hospital RC Team:** Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7) Urgent need: 01438 314 333

Via text message: 07884 187463 Email: [chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net](mailto:chaplaincy.enhtr@nhs.net)

Please remember Catholic patients can only be visited by the Catholic Chaplain, or a priest, if they, or a relative, contact the Chaplaincy or nursing staff.