

Parish News

This weekend we welcome Fr Desmond Baker to our parish. Fr Des will celebrate 7pm Mass on Saturday and 11.30am Mass on Sunday. We congratulate Fr Des who celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood on 21st Dec 2019.

The Stations of the Cross are an ancient and beautiful part of our Lenten journey and our Lenten prayer. They mark Jesus' final journey through his passion and death.

While we are unable to make the Stations as often as we like in Church this Lent due to the Church being re-decorated, there are lots of resources available to do these as a group, family or individually. Please join us in Church for the Stations after the Church is decorated at 7.30pm on both Monday 30th March and Monday 6th April.

Parish Reconciliation Service takes place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1st April. Gathering as a community seeking the love and mercy of the Lord before entering into the mysteries of Holy Week is a wonderful way to prepare for the Great Week and Easter. Priests will be available to hear confessions.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Journey in Faith The next meeting for RCIA is on Wednesday, 11th March at 7.30pm in the St Hilda Room. Please keep Mutari and Michelle, who will be Baptised at the Easter Vigil, in your prayers.

Lent Faith Sharing Booklets are now available in the Church porch for a donation of £1. Please put the money in the newspaper box. The Children's Lent Calendar is free, please take one.

Sacrament of Confirmation 2020

The next Confirmation session is on Monday 2nd March at 8pm, in the St Hilda Room.

Lenten Alms - Cardinal's Lenten Appeal

Please take a Lenten Alms envelope as you leave Mass. Lenten Alms contributes to three mission areas of the Church: Marriage and Family Life, Youth and Evangelisation, and Service in Society. With your support, the Cardinal has launched a programme focusing on the food poverty affecting people in every part of the Diocese, much of it hidden. Funds will support foodbanks, schools and other initiatives to relieve poverty, helping people back on their feet and able to live independently. The Cardinal is also calling everyone to consider volunteering. Thank you for your generosity. For more details please visit:

CardinalsLentenAppeal.org.uk

Lenten Retreat Online with St. John of the Cross -Dare to Love

www.retreat-online.karmel.at If you would like to follow this in a group after Mass please contact Jane on:
jane.e.snelling@outlook.com

Public Health

The best way of protecting ourselves and each other from the spread of any virus is to maintain good hygiene by washing our hands thoroughly and regularly. Anyone who is feeling unwell, or has cold or flu symptoms, should refrain from taking communion from the Chalice and receive the host only on the hand. The Bishop's Conference of England and Wales recommends receiving communion in the hand only. Alcohol sanitiser is in short supply and we have been unable to source it. Eucharistic Ministers are reminded to wash their hands in the sacristy before and after communion. The advice is, we do not need to suspend the sign of peace or the reception of communion from the chalice.

SASH - Do you remember listening to Uncle Mac's favourites' on the radio? Have you moved to Letchworth to help with your grand children? Do you want to meet mature people? Join or re-join the SASH group this year. Whilst work is being carried out in the church we will meet at 2pm on alternate Wednesdays in the **FORTESCUE HALL**.
March 11 - Celebration of St. Patrick
March 25 - Easter table decoration or bonnet
April 15 - My Easter memory
April 29 - Out to Tea

Settlement Scheme for European Citizens

We have been asked by Cardinal Vincent Nichols to share with you a statement from Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. "All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK are required by the government to apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working and accessing services here. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2021. Details and links to the application process are at: [gov.uk/eusettledstatus](https://www.gov.uk/eusettledstatus) please bring this to the attention of friends, family members and fellow parishioners who may need to apply. Information on assistance for those who may have difficulty applying is available at: [gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme](https://www.gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme) The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all European citizens who have made their homes here. They are a valued part of our parishes, schools and communities" Please note, Irish citizens and anyone else living in the U.K. through the Common Travel Area (CTA) Agreement are not required to apply.

Locrian Chamber Choir with String

Orchestra will perform their Spring Concert here on Sunday 15th March at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 and are available from David's Music telephone **01462 475900**. Tickets will also be available on the door on the evening.

St Vincent de Paul Society – Vinnie Pack Appeal We thank you very much for such a generous response to our "Vinnie Pack" Appeal during Advent. You donated £1,121.83 which will help greatly in providing basic cold weather items for people who are rough sleeping or homeless. Our packs include a thermal hat, gloves, socks and basic toiletries. These small comforts are greatly appreciated by those who need them.

Westminster Youth Ministry is preparing a youth event aimed at those aged 13 -18, The event will be a chance for young people in the diocese to socialise, share a meal, learn more about their faith and be introduced to a deeper level of prayer and adoration. There will also be guest speakers and live music. The event will take place on the Friday 13th March. Based at Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3TP. The Summit will run from 7-9pm, is free and does not require a ticket. Please come along and encourage your friends, family, youth groups to attend. The 22 young people in our parish confirmation group will be attending this event.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament Matrimony Westminster Cathedral Saturday 30th May at 3pm.

The Cardinal will be inviting all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th (and every year over 60th) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2020 to this Mass. If you are celebrating an anniversary please send your details to the Parish Office, no later than 25th March. The details should include husband & wife's name, wedding date, full postal address, email address and telephone number. Thank you.

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	Samuel Robinson
Angela Horne	Mick McGrinder
Christopher Gillham	Anna Harte
Della Stockwell	George Marston
Margaret Haywood	Joe Fernandes
Debbie Giacobelli	Aron Haughton
Nellie O'Brien	Peter Elmers
Sylvia Hills	

Coffee After 9.30 Mass on Sunday

8th March - SVP
 15th March– Youth Group
 22nd March - STM PA

Parish Collection Sunday 2nd March

Envelopes: £288.72; Loose: £526.64;
 Standing Orders:£1,202 ; Total £2017.36

Dates for your diary:

Date	Event/Activity	Time & Place
Saturday 7th March	KSC Quiz Night	7.30pm Fortescue Hall
Tuesday 17th March	St Patrick's Day Coffee after Mass	9.30am in Church The St Hilda Room
Thursday 19th March	St Joseph, Patron of the Diocese Coffee after Mass	9.30am in Church The St Hilda Room
Wednesday 1st April	Parish Reconciliation Service	7.30pm in Church
Sunday 12th April	Easter Sunday	
Sunday 3rd, 10th, 17th May	FHC Masses	9.30am in Church
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

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

Tel: 01438 314643 www.jhn.herts.sch.uk

Safeguarding Officer - Rebecca Clarke 01462 646636 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

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.