

ST HUGH OF LINCOLN RC CHURCH

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

Parish Priest: Fr Jimmy Garvey. Parish Administrator: Emma Dunsire: 01462 510015

Email: letchworth@rcdow.org.uk Website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/letchworth>

Parish Office: Monday 9-2.30pm, Tuesday 9-2pm and Thursday 9am-2.30pm

Mass Times: Sunday (Sat 6pm) 9.30am & 11.30am. Holy Day Mass 9.30am & 7.30pm.

Weekday Mass: Monday to Saturday 9.30am. Morning Prayer: Monday to Saturday 9.10am.

Adoration & Confession Wednesday & Saturday 10.00-10.30am. Confession Saturday 5.15 to 5.45pm & on request.



GAUDETE SUNDAY, 11TH DECEMBER 2022

Parish Mass Book Year A Vol 1 Page 88 Psalter Week 3

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10

God himself is coming to save you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 145: 6-10 response of Isaiah 35:4

Come, Lord, and save us.

SECOND READING: James 5: 7-10

Do not lose heart for the Lord's coming will be soon.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11: 2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?

COLLECT: O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.

From The Presbytery Window

Rejoice, the Lord is Near!

On this 'Gaudete' Sunday, the liturgy begins with an invitation to 'rejoice!' Just as in the darkness of midwinter we long for light, so in the darkness of a world suffering the consequences of war and human greed, we long for the transforming light of Christ. But all around us are prophetic signs of God's love at work, bringing us hope in darkness and reminding us of the joyful life we are called to live. Our readings encourage us to listen and see the prophetic voices and signs of our times. Isaiah acclaims a joyful vision of Christ's coming. Dimmed eyes will be opened; the lame will leap for joy and we can have courage because the Lord is near. Psalm 71 shares a vision of the Lord overcoming our human hardship, bringing justice and healing to the world. Paul's letter to the Romans encourages us, counselling us to be watchful and patient, the Lord is close at hand. The Gospel describes a meeting between Jesus and the followers of the imprisoned John. Jesus answers their questions by referring to both the prophecies of Isaiah and our Psalm. John is a prophet of their time and Jesus encourages John's disciples not to lose faith. Jesus himself is the one of whom the ancient prophets spoke. As followers of Christ, we take courage and prayerfully support one another to be patient and faithful to the liberating message of the Good News. We belong to a loving community, longing for and trusting in, the light of Christ, even in the midst of long winter nights and during these challenging times. *Fr Jimmy*

POPE'S PRAYER NETWORK, DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTIONS:

For volunteer not-for-profit organizations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international co-operation. Amen. (The Pope's video message [For volunteer not-for-profit organizations – The Pope Video 12 – December 2022 - YouTube](#))

FUNERALS

A Memorial Mass will be offered for the repose of the soul of Brenda Kedge on Monday 12th December at 9.30am.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Lucy O'Neill and John Ferguson, may they rest in peace and rise in glory. Details of John's Funeral will be given in due course.

Sr JOAN's MEMORIAL MASS

A Memorial Mass for Sr Joan will be held at St Francis College Chapel on 17th December at 10.30am. Parishioners are invited to attend.

ST Hugh's TODDLERS' GROUP

Our Baby & Toddler Playgroup is on every Thursday (term-time). Free play with a variety of toys (dolls area, train track, building blocks, role play area, slides, ride-ons etc). A healthy snack is served at 10.30am and the session finishes with singing and movement from 11.15 to 11.30. Volunteers are always needed and welcome. If you attend morning Mass, why not pop in for a warm brew and maybe read a story to the little ones?

FEED UP, WARM UP

With the Cost of Living Crisis raging, we have received several requests for help. Our Parish is responding with the means we have at our disposal and we are collaborating with several other outlets in an effort to reach all those who are vulnerable. You are aware of our long established collaboration with the amazing Food Bank. Recently, we also turned to another local charity for back-up. Feed Up, Warm Up are a very pro-active group. This is what their website has to say: "We're Feed Up Warm Up, a homeless charity in Hertfordshire. What we do is provide a safe, welcoming space, one evening a week, where guests can pop by to enjoy a hot meal and a chat, hear some live music, and find practical and emotional help. We also do homeless outreach, sending teams into our community to offer direct support where it's needed most, right across Hertfordshire." If you need help or if you are in the position of offering help, please email contact@feedupwarmup.co.uk. Feed Up, Warm Up is supported by Caritas Westminster.

The office will close at 12noon on 19th Dec.

CHRISTMAS GIFT BOXES FOR REFUGEES

Herts Welcomes Refugees would like your help filling Gift boxes for refugees in our area. Instructions on what to fill the boxes with can be found on the parish website or at the back of church on our noticeboard. Boxes are required for children but also adults. Please drop off your donations at the parish office or church by 16th December so they can then be passed on. We thank Frank Nuttall for coordinating this wonderful initiative.

MORNING PRAYERS

Every morning, Mon– Sat, at 9.10am, a group of parishioners meet before the daily Mass to say Morning Prayers. It is a wonderful opportunity to start the day refreshed and uplifted. Everyone is welcome to join.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE

The government asked families in the UK to open their homes to Ukrainian refugees for a minimum of 6 months. Many UK families generously hosted for this amount of time. The BAAAU (Baldock and Ashwell Action Aid-Ukraine) are now looking for new homes in this area. If you are interested in hosting or know someone who might be interested please contact: Aygulka at paygulechka21@gmail.com, Vivienne Reed 07815308124 or Clare Davis 07816061416

MOTHER'S PRAYERS

Mother's Prayers group is held every Monday morning after 9.30am Mass in St Hilda Room. Tea and coffee available. All mothers and grandmothers are welcome.

WEEKDAY MASS IN ST HILDA ROOM

In an effort to save on the cost of utilities, weekday Masses are now celebrated in the St Hilda Room.

CATHOLIC ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

9th January 2023, 12.45-2.00pm: Joint Meeting of the Southern Dioceses Environment Network & Northern Dioceses Environment Group. Open to all Catholics and our friends.

Register with Eventbrite [Southern Dioceses Environment Network & Northern Dioceses Environment Group Tickets, Mon 9 Jan 2023 at 12:45 | Eventbrite](#)

MASS INTENTIONS -

Sat 10th to Sun 18th December 2022

Saturday 10th December

6.00pm: Vincenzo & Immacolata Forte RIP

Sunday 11th December

9.30am: Maria & Pietro Pallini RIP

11.30am: People of the Parish

Monday 12th December

9.30am: Memorial Mass Brenda Kedge RIP

Tuesday 13th December

9.30am Michael Madden RIP

Wednesday 14th December

9am: Bob & Connie Dull RIP

7.30pm Reconciliation Service

Thursday 15th December

9.30am: Peter & Jess McQuillan RIP

Friday 16th December

9.30am Seamus Sheenan RIP

Saturday 17th December

9.30: Matthew Brotherton INT

6.00pm: Mariano & Maria Schipani RIP

Sunday 18th December

9.30am: Leo Calcasola RIP

11.30am: People of the Parish

MASS BOOKINGS are available from the second week of February. Please note that weekend Masses are available from mid-March.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS

The Diocesan Year Book is now available from the Office. It has parish, clergy and school directories, contact details for the Curia (divided by department), the Liturgical Calendar for the Year and much more. The Year book costs £5.

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES SUPPORT

Reset's resources and tool kits for people wishing to host Ukrainian refugees: <https://resetuk.org/toolkits/homes-for-ukraine/useful-links> *Caritas Westminster Refugee Response*, : <https://www.caritasvs.org.uk/refugee-response.php>

Ukrainian Eparchy's financial appeal:

<https://www.ucc-gb.com/post/helpukraine-emergency-appeal> CAFOD:<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Ukraine-Humanitarian-Appeal>

SASH (Seniors at St. Hugh)

SASH meetings:

22nd December - Family tips for Christmas, plus Carols and mince pies.

If you have recently retired, or moved to this Parish or used to attend the group before the dreaded Covid, or for any other reason, then why not give us a try? The SASH group meets on Thu at 2.30pm in the St Hilda's Room.

MASS TIME CHANGE

On Saturday 24th December, morning Mass will start at 9am.

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Wed 14th December at 7.30pm.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

Give a gift of hope this Christmas. You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a catalogue in church. World Gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Christmas Celebration The annual Christmas Celebration concerts at Westminster Cathedral will take place this year on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st December. For tickets, visit www.westminstercathedral.org.uk.

SVP Awareness The SVP offer a range of free online taster sessions including : 'care leavers', 'end of life companionship', 'social justice', 'holiday camps', and 'support for refugees and migrants'. For further information visit www.svp.org.uk/discover. If you are aware of a need, please contact them at request@svp.org.uk.

PARISH MEETING

We look forward to seeing you at the next Parish Meeting on 31st January 2023 at 8pm.

FORTESCUE HALL

Our hall is now available to be hired. Our new rates are: Mon- Fri Parishioner: £17; Organisation:£20. Saturday/Sunday daytime only: Parishioner: £20; Organisation: £25

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

Nora Ivers	Pat Davies
Richard Parker	Barry Brown
Stephen Prohaska	Angela Horne
Aron Haughton	Anthony Horne
Anna Harte	George Marston
Joe Fernandes	Elizabeth McKenna
Margaret Haywood	Debbie Giacobelli
Toby Hughes	Brenda Feeney
Mary Wallace	Philomena Johnson
Reg Rolph	Mick McGrinder
Rosie Child	Andrew Browne
Anne Hudson	Willie Hudson
Sarah Moore	

Easy Giving: To make giving to your parish easier there is a Contactless Machine in the Church porch or via our parish website;

www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/letchworth

Thank you.

Standing Order: Making your offering to the Church by Standing Order is simple and enables the Finance Committee with Fr Jimmy to plan the parish finances accurately. Please contact the Parish House if you would like information about giving by Standing Order.

Planned Giving: Parishioners who are part of our Planned Giving Scheme can collect their box of envelopes from the Church

Collection November 2022: the total collection for the month of November is £6971.7, including standing orders and in church donations. Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

Dates for your diary:

Wed 14th Dec	Parish Reconciliation Service 7.30pm
Sat 31st Dec	Mass at 10am and Vigil Mass at 6pm
Fri 6th Jan	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Holy Day of obligation. Mass at 9.30am, 6.15pm (in Polish) and 7.30pm
Sun 8th Jan	Feats of the Baptism of the Lord
Tue 31st Jan	Parish Meeting 8pm, St Hilda Room

Our Catholic Schools

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

Tel: 01462 620670 www.strcjmi.herts.sch.uk

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

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

Safeguarding Officer - Rebecca Clarke 01462 646636 letchworthsg@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.