

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.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 18TH DECEMBER 2022

Parish Mass Book Year A Vol 1 Page 90 Psalter Week 4

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7: 10-14

The maiden is with child.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 23: 1-6 response cf vv 7,10

Let the Lord enter! He is the King of glory.

SECOND READING: Romans 1: 1-7

Jesus Christ, descendant of David, Son of God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1: 18-24

Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.

COLLECT: pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

From The Presbytery Window

Let the Lord enter! He is the King of Glory

Arriving at the climax of Advent, our readings show God asking for our love and our trust. They demonstrate God's faithfulness to us, sending Jesus to save us. Isaiah is sent to comfort King Ahaz who has turned away from God. Isaiah sees through the false humility of Ahaz, but still gives him a sign: a maiden will give birth to a son, Emmanuel, 'God-is-with-us'. This same prophesy is echoed in Matthew's Gospel. Joseph too, faces a difficult situation, but God speaks through an angel in Joseph's dreams, reassuring him his son is a gift of the Holy Spirit destined to be the Saviour. Joseph follows the angel's command, placing his whole trust in God. For us, Jesus is the King of Glory in Psalm 23. The earth and all within it belong to the Lord, all who follow God's ways will receive a blessing. Paul emphasises both the human and divine aspect of Jesus who is both a descendant of David and the Son of God. For Paul, it is Jesus alone who brings us grace and peace. As we continue our Christmas preparations and wait in expectant hope for the Lord's coming, we pray for the grace, like Joseph, we listen with the ear of faith and respond obediently to the Lord's call. We pray especially for peace throughout the world. Just as we welcome Jesus into our own hearts, we ask the Lord's help us embrace and welcome all whom we encounter. *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](#))

FUNERAL

The Funeral Mass for John Ferguson RIP will be held on 9th January 2023 at 12.30pm. The Mass will be livestreamed on the Church YouTube channel.

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 CLOSURE

Please be advised the office will close at 12noon on 19th Dec and will be closed from Fri 23rd December till Thu 5th January.

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW—FREE AUDIO RECORDINGS

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has made available audio recordings of the Matthew's Gospel on which we focus

on in Liturgical Cycle A, the current one. This might be of particular interest to parishioners who have difficulty reading for whatever reason. The birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ according to St Matthew. This four-part audio series features the voices of over 20 Catholics living and working in England and Wales. Contributors hail from more than 10 countries – including Poland, Malta, Burma, Spain, USA and the UK – showing the rich diversity of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. It is a wonderful resource that might bring comfort to those who feel isolated or miss coming to church regularly. [The Gospel According to St Matthew - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk)

CHRISTMAS GIFT BOXES FOR REFUGEES

Herts Welcomes Refugees would like to thank all parishioners who supported this initiative. Your generosity will make a huge difference to lots of people.

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 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.

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](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/southern-dioceses-environment-network-northern-dioceses-environment-group-tickets-41234567890)

MASS INTENTIONS -

Sat 19th to Sun 25th December 2022

Saturday 17th December

6.00pm: Mariano & Maria Schipani RIP

Sunday 18th December

9.30am: Leo Calcasola RIP

11.30am: People of the Parish

Monday 19th December

9.30am: Laurie Symond INT

Tuesday 20th December

9.30am Dorothy Allen RIP

Wednesday 21st December

9.39am: Bob and Connie Dull RIP

Thursday 22nd December

9.30am: Mabel and Jack Mills RIP

Friday 23rd December

9.30am Julie Cranston RIP

Saturday 24th December

9am: Private Intention

5.30pm: Families and Children of the Parish

10.45pm: People of the Parish

Sunday 25th December—Nativity of the Lord

9.30am: People of the Parish

11.30am: Julian Brotherton RIP

MASS BOOKINGS are available from the third week of February. Please note that weekend Masses are available from mid-March. If you are filling in one of the little envelopes for Mass Intentions, please make sure to leave a contact number and to specify who the Mass is offered for. We have received a number of envelopes that only have the name of the donor on them. These have been put down as Private Intentions.

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.

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:

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	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. 9.30am Mass: Enrolment Mass for First Holy Communion Children
Tue 31st Jan	Parish Meeting 8pm, St Hilda Room — all welcome

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.