

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 9.00-2.30pm, Tuesday 9.00 -2pm and Thursday 9.00-2.30pm

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.



SUNDAY 19th March 2023, Laetare Sunday

Parish Mass Book Year A Vol 1 page 164 Psalter Week 4

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13

David is anointed king of Israel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 22 response v 1

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5: 8-14

Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.

GOSPEL: John 9: 1-41

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

COLLECT: O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. **Amen.**

19th March 2023 Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A

Lord, I believe!

Before we enter the holy days of the passion and death of the Lord in Holy Week, we celebrate Laetare, or Rejoicing Sunday. The title comes from the opening word of our Mass in the Entrance Antiphon. We are reminded of the joy of the presence of Jesus, the light of our world, and of the love of God shining through our lives. Both Samuel and Psalm 22 speak of the shepherd caring for the flock. Despite David's youth and outward appearance, the Lord sees the strength of his heart and he is anointed king of Israel, enabling him to lead God's people. The Psalm speaks with certainty of relying on the Lord as our shepherd, keeping us safe from harm whatever happens in our life.

Paul reminds the Ephesians and us God's light in us shines out for others when we live 'in complete goodness and right living and truth'. Jesus restores the blind man's sight and he comes into the light. Being able to see for the first time, he recognises Jesus as the Son of Man, becoming the living embodiment of Paul's, 'You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord'. In contrast, the around him remain in the darkness of un-belief, trapped by their unwillingness to see Jesus as he really is. We pray for those who have yet to allow the light of Christ into their lives. May they carry Christ's light to others as we walk beside them, sharing their hardships and sorrows.

POPE'S PRAYER NETWORK, MARCH PRAYER INTENTIONS:

For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering. **Amen.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Wednesday at 7.30pm and Friday after morning Mass. No Stations of the Cross on Wednesday 29th March, due to our Parish Reconciliation service, and . The Mass for the Feast of St Joseph will take place on Monday 20th March.

STM EASTER EGG HUNT

The St Thomas More Parents' Association would like to invite families with young children to their Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 26th March. Three slots are available to go hunting for chocolate eggs, starting from 12noon to 3pm. Craft and activities are also available as well as a Chocolate Tombola! You don't have to have a child at school to take part. Simply go to www.st-Thomas-more-pa.sumupstore.com to book. Tickets are £3 per child.

SISTERS of St PETER CLAVER

Heartfelt Thanks to all who supported the Sisters' appeal on their recent visit. An impressive £939.29 was collected to help the Order's mission. Thank you all for your generosity.

JHN JOB OPPORTUNITY

An opportunity has arisen for invigilators to join our existing team at the Saint John Henry Newman School. The ideal candidate will have strong communication and organisational skills and possibly the ability to act as a scribe and reader. No experience is necessary, as training will be given. Applicants will need to be available for work in the main examination period during May and June. The role is variable hours with pay of £9.50 rising to £10.42 in April 2023. To apply please visit the Teach in Herts website or contact the school directly at 01438 315 643. Alternatively please email admin@jhn.herts.sch.uk – Thank you.

HEALTH & SAFETY VOLUNTEER/S

The parish **urgently** needs a volunteer or volunteers to carry out the mandatory weekly checks required to ensure we comply with H&S standards. The list will be provided by the Diocese and it comprises light checks, smoke detectors etc. A rota could be made if more people sign up, making the job more manageable. Please get in touch with the parish office if you are willing and able to carry out this ministry.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: YOUR HELP NEEDED! PLEASE COME TO MEETINGS ON 22 OR 29 APRIL!

One issue arisen at the parish meetings in January was the revival of our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC).

No such council has met since well before the Covid days. The feeling was that it might be worth reviving the PPC to support the community and spiritual life of all our parishioners, working closely with Fr Jimmy.

Our congregation needs to decide more clearly what a PPC would do. Might it:

- Coordinate and support current groups in the parish – choirs, sacramental preparation, readers etc?
- Coordinate and support parish community meetings – regular coffee mornings, occasional parish events?
- Reach out better to different groups in the parish – young people, sick and elderly, other needy groups or local charities, those who for whatever reason find it difficult to attend mass?
- Support the spiritual needs of parishioners?
- Support a more real engagement with the Westminster diocese?

The Parish meetings felt that the role of a PPC is best decided through one or two consultations with parishioners. There will be meetings for parishioners to attend and give their views, or any parishioner can simply write in with their views to Dan Sinnott [dfsinnott@yahoo.com] or Nick Fishwick [nick.fishwick@hotmail.co.uk].

The first meeting will be at 1045 on Saturday 22 April in the St Hilda Room.

For those unable to get to this meeting there will be another a week later, 1045 on Saturday 29 April in the St Hilda Room. Please do help the parish by attending a meeting or sending in your views.

Nick

ANNUAL MASS FOR MATRIMONY

"I am delighted to be able to invite married couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating particular anniversaries during the course of 2023 to join me in the Cathedral once again for a Thanksgiving Mass for Matrimony. This year it will take place on Saturday 13th May at 2:30pm. This occasion is one where joy, gratitude and also the deep emotions of a shared journey are celebrated." *Cardinal Vincent Nichols*

If you are celebrating a significant anniversary and would like to take part, please get in touch with the office by Tuesday 28th March.

SASH (Seniors at St. Hugh)

If you have recently retired or moved to our Parish, or used to attend the group before Covid, or for any other reason, then why not give us a try? The SASH group meets each Thursday at 2.30pm in the St Hilda Room. Sash Spring Programme 2023: 23rd March St. Paul - a remarkable Saint; 13th April: My favourite recipe - with a sample; 27th April: My memories of Queen Elizabeth's Coronation.

LENTEN TAIZÉ PRAYERS in Notre Dame de France (French Church, 5 Leicester Place WC2H 7BX) at 19:30 on **25th March 2023**. A time of prayer with Taizé chants, scripture and silence in the heart of London. All are welcome!

MASS INTENTIONS -

Sat 18th to Sun 26th March 2023

Saturday 18th March

6pm: Luigi Rizzo RIP

Sunday 19th March, 2nd Sunday of Lent

9.30am: People of the Parish

11.30am: Martha Meynert RIP

Monday 20th March—St Joseph

9.30am: Maurice Boughton RIP

Tuesday 21st March

9.30am : Kathleen Burkhart RIP

Wednesday 22nd March

7.30am: People of the parish

Thursday 23rd March

9.30am Private Intention (in thanksgiving)

Friday 24th March

9.30am : Peter Ellmers RIP

Saturday 25th March, Annunciation of the Lord

9.30am: John Ferguson RIP

6pm: People of the Parish

Sunday 26th March, Fifth Sunday of Lent :

9.30am: Mick McGrinder RIP

11.30am: Jean Wake RIP

MASS BOOKINGS are available from the second week of May, weekend Masses from mid-June. If you are filling in a Mass Intention envelope please make sure to leave a contact number and to specify for whom the Mass is offered.

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES SUPPORT

Caritas Social Action Network, in partner-

ship with St John of God Hospitaller Services, are matching Ukrainian people displaced by the brutal war in their country with people in the Catholic community willing to host them in their homes for six months. If you have room in your home and in your heart to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by war, then we'd love to hear from you. Please visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk> for more information.

MARRIAGE PRAPARATION COURSE

At Hitchin Parish on Saturday 22nd April 10am to 4pm. Fee: £75 per couple.

To register please go to:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/sacramental-prep/marriage/> and contact Robert Hitchcock, Sacramental Coordinator at Our Lady's.

FORTESCUE HALL

Hall hire fees: Monday - Friday: parishioner £17 per hour; external organisations £20 per hour. Saturday or Sunday daytime only: parishioner, £20 per hour; external organisations £25 per hour. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to make a booking.

MORNING PRAYER

Every morning at 9.10am, Monday – Saturday, parishioners meet before Mass for Morning Prayer. Everyone is welcome to join.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

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

ST HUGH OF LINCOLN TODDLER

GROUP takes place on Thursdays from 9.30 -11.30am, term-time only, in Fortescue Hall. All parents/grand-parents/carers are welcome.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Come and celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation on **Saturday 25th March in Walsingham** to pray for the sanctity of life. Coach fare £30. with special rates for families. Please contact Rosemary Roscoe rosemary.roscoe@gmail.com or mobile 07723 546642 or Margaret Leahy on 01727 763832 or margleahy@gmail.com.

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

Nora Ivers	Pat Davies
Richard Parker	Anne Hudson
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	Rosie Child
Philomena Johnson	Sarah Moore
Andrew Browne	Willie Hudson

Easy Giving: To make giving to your parish easier there is a Contactless Machine in the Church porch or you may give via our parish website; www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/letchworth Thank you for your generosity.

Standing Order: Making your offering to the Church by Standing Order is simple and enables the Finance Committee with Fr Jimmy to plan parish finances accurately. Please contact the Parish Office 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

Candle Donations For candle donations: please use the Holy Souls box in the Church Porch for the time being.

Collection Total February: £10,443.23 Thank you for your continued generosity.

Dates for your Diary:

Mon 20th Mar	Solemnity of St Joseph
Sat 25th Mar	Solemnity of The Annunciation of the Lord
Sun 26th Mar	Easter Egg Hunt at STM
Wed 29th Mar	Parish Reconciliation Service at 7.30pm
2nd April	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. Mass at 9.30am and at 11.15am (please congregate at Fortescue Hall, we will then process from there to church)
HOLY WEEK	Please refer to the Leaflet
Sat 22nd Apr	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 10.45am
Sat 29th Apr	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 10.45am

Our Catholic Schools

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

Tel: 01462 620670 www.strejmi.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.