

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 3rd December 2023, Advent 1

Parish Mass Book Year B Vol 1 page 82 Psalter Week 1

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64: 1, 3-8

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 79: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19 response v 4

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

GOSPEL: Mark 13: 33-37

Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.

COLLECT: Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

STAY AWAKE! BE READY!

As the Advent season begins the Church's Liturgical Year, our readings focus on the coming of Christ at the end of time and on his coming into our own lives. Isaiah describes the people of Israel, newly returned from exile, and finding the task of rebuilding their land and their lives difficult. They plead with God their Father to come and help them, 'Return, for the sake of your servants', they have done penance, trusting God will return, 'Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down'. Psalm 79 continues the theme, appealing to God, 'the shepherd of Israel', to come to the help of his people. Paul writes to the Corinthians of his gratitude for the graces they have received. Their strong Christian witness and the gifts of the Spirit they have been given will stand them in good stead when the Lord returns on the last day. Jesus uses images familiar to his hearers to warn them to remain alert and awake, as a doorkeeper would, so they won't be caught off guard. We pray to enter this season of Advent trusting the Lord will come, as he came in history at Christmas, as he comes in our hearts if we keep our door open, and as he will come at the end of time. We pray for all those in our world waiting with longing and hope for freedom from oppression and for peace. *Fr Jimmy*

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

For persons with disabilities: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation. *Amen*

RECONCILIATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Instead of a separate Reconciliation service, there will be several opportunities to have your Confession heard before Christmas. On top of the usual times (at the front of the newsletter), Confessions will be heard on Sat 16th December 10-10.45am; 5-5.45pm and Sun 17th December 10.30-11.15am; 12.30-1.15pm. You can also make an appointment with Fr Jimmy if none of these times are suitable.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The leaflet detailing all Christmas services is now available at the back of Church. Please take one as there are a few changes from previous years!

CONCERT FOR KANYIKE

Sue Card and Friends will perform a selection of light classical and seasonal music. Sunday 10th December 3pm in Fortescue Hall. The Kanyike Project is raising funds to improve their Health Centre facilities which is in need of repainting, supplies for the lab, partitioning of wards into male, female and children, new toilet shutters, tiling and flooring. Tickets are £10 (including Christmassy refreshments) available from Sue or Jacquie on 0146267511

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

The Donkey has ears! Thank you Micaela for facilitating the repair.

SAXOPHONE QUARTET CONCERT

Join us on a musical journey through the ages and immerse yourself in the beautiful sound-world of the saxophone. Tickets are £12 adults, £5 child 6-12, 5 and under FREE. www.agbklasova.com for info and to book your ticket.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

The next session will run on 10th December after Family Mass (9.30am) in the St Hilda Room. The session will end at about 1pm. Babies welcome.

SVP VINNIE PACKS APPEAL

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or

by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237 . Thank you so much for your support.

ADVENT RESOURCES

The *Walk With Me* Advent resources are now available to purchase at the back of Church. We have adult booklets and also a number of Children's ones, suitable for children +5. Booklets are £1 each. The *Caritas Giving Calendar* is available free at the back of church free of charge. Food donations can be put in the Food Bank baskets in the porch. *Cafod World Gifts Catalogues* are also available free of charge in the porch. They are ideal to rediscover the true meaning of Christmas giving.

COLLECTION FOR REFUGEE STUDENTS

I am currently teaching English to refugee adults and children at a local hotel. If you have any of the following items floating around at home and no longer needed, could you kindly call Sarah Martinelli on 07751582486. Happy to collect. Erasers, Pencil sharpeners, Pencil cases, Pens and (coloured) pencils, Scientific calculators Jigsaw puzzles for ages 3 upwards, Board games. Thank you for your support.

ROSARY Every Friday at 10am.

RCIA SESSIONS are held on Wednesday at 7.30pm in the St Hilda Room.



MASS INTENTIONS -

Sat 2nd to Sun 10th December 2023

Saturday 2nd December

6pm: Ines & Leonardo Antonaci RIP

Sunday 3rd December- 1st Advent

9.30am: People of the Parish

11.30am: Nora Comiskey RIP

Monday 4th December

9.30am: Oliver Pykerman RIP

Tuesday 5th December

9.30am: Catherine & Kenneth Lowthian RIP

Wednesday 6th December

9.30am: Adele Driscoll RIP

Thursday 7th December

9.30am: Fr Jimmy Garvey INT

Friday 8th December

9.30am: Julie Cranston RIP

Saturday 9th December

9.30am: Joseph Konrath RIP

6pm: Ines & Leonardo Antonaci RIP

Sunday 10th December- 2nd ADVENT

9.30am: People of the Parish

11.30am: Michael Madden RIP

MASS BOOKINGS are available from January. When booking a Mass, please let the office know if you are able to Gift Aid.

MASS CHANGES IN NOVEMBER: No

Mass on 2nd December (9.30am).

SASH: Our very special group for all mature people continues the Autumn programme on alternate Thursdays. If you lost contact with us because of Covid, or other illness, bereavement or grieving, or if you are new to this Parish, you might like to meet up with us and join our activities. Meetings will be held **in St. Hilda's Room at 2.30 pm: 14th Dec** we will share our Christmas memories. Looking forward to seeing you - Patsy & Cliff 01462 620397

MOTHER'S PRAYERS

This lovely group is held every Monday morning after 9.30am Mass in St Hilda Room. Tea and coffee available. All mothers and grandmothers are welcome. In case of a Funeral Monday, the group will be held on the Tuesday.

CATHOLIC MEDITATION GROUP

Our group meets on Tuesdays at 5pm for an hour in St Hilda's room. Meetings consist of a short reading, followed by meditation and

conclude with a time of reflection and discussion. All welcome.

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH: YOUNG ADULT ADVENT RETREAT Come and take time aside with other young adults aged 18-35 this Advent. Saturday 16th Dec 2023, 10:30am-2:30pm at the FCJ Spirituality Centre, 32 Phoenix Road, London NW1 1TA (a short walk from London's Euston station). The retreat will be facilitated by Sr Anouska Robinson-Biggin fcJ (The Faithful Companions of Jesus) Cost: By Donation. For info and to book your place email: bookings.fcjcentre@fcjhouse-somerstown.co.uk

THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE, London is holding a Divine Mercy Advent Reflection at St Saviour's Roman Catholic Church Lewisham on Saturday 9 December 2023 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm led by the Marian Fathers. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

THRIVING OR CLOSING?

"Will my parish still be here in 10 years?" Be part of the Catholic Parish Summit conversation. Join Bishop David Oakley and Fr. James Mallon on Thursday, 7th December for this online event. Sign up today at www.catholicparishsummit.com/webinars

WINTERSHALL NATIVITY STORY

Experience the Christmas story 14th -18th December Discover the true meaning of Christmas with an unforgettable event for all the family. It's a Nativity like no other, placing you in the middle of an immersive theatre experience. Stand with the shepherds, walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey, journey with Roman soldiers and enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold. To book tickets go to: <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/nativity-journey-0>

GIFT AID If you haven't already, please consider filling in a Gift Aid Declaration to make your donations go further. Forms are available in the porch. Thank you.

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
George Marston	Philomena Johnson
Joe Fernandes	Elizabeth McKenna
Margaret Haywood	Debbie Giacobelli
Willie Hudson	Brenda Feeney
Mary Wallace	Rosie Child
Harper Draper	Hannah Draper

Easy Giving: We are in the process of fixing the Contactless Machine in the Church porch. In the meantime, you may give via our parish website; www.pariah.rcdow.org.uk/lethworth . If you are in a position to Gift Aid your donations, please email the office to complete a declaration. Gift Aid allows us to claim some money back at no extra cost to you. 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.

Collection Total October: £7,592.67, inclusive of Sunday collections, planned giving and standing orders. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Candle Donations: the new poor boxes have been installed.

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 3rd Dec	First Sunday of Advent
Sun 3rd Dec	Saxophone Quartet Concert, 4pm in our Church
Fri 8th Dec	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
Sun 10th Dec	FHC Enrolment Mass 9.30am
Sun 10th Dec	Baptism Preparation Session, St Hilda Room, after 9.30am Mass
Sun 10th Dec	Concert for Kanyike—3pm, Fortescue Hall. Refreshments afterwards.
Fri 15th Dec	Christmas Celebration for Seniors & Older Adults at St John Henry Newman School, 10-11.30am

Our Catholic Schools

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

Tel: 01462 620670 www.strcjmj.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 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.