

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 10th December 2023, Advent 2

Parish Mass Book Year B Vol 1 page 85 Psalter Week 2

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

Prepare a way for the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 84: 9-14 response v 8

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3: 8-14

We are waiting for the new heavens and new heart..

GOSPEL: Mark 1: 1-8

Make his paths straight.

COLLECT: Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his community. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

'PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD!'

Advent is a sacred time of longing and preparation for the Lord; a time for waking up to listen to the Spirit calling deep within us.

The words of Isaiah (First Reading) bring consolation for a people desperate for peace. As we make a straight path to welcome the Lord into our lives, he gathers us up into his arms like a shepherd tenderly holding his lambs.

Our world is thirsting for this peace now, the deep peace that only Christ can bring. The Psalm is a prayer that speaks to the longing and yearning that is within us all. Christ is not slow to respond to our desire for this peace. Peter's letter (Second Reading) to the early Christian community teaches that the Lord wants no one to be lost: he desires for all to be gathered unto himself. Since we do not know the time of the Lord's return, our prayerful preparations will draw us nearer to the peace that he promises. The Gospel of Mark, which we will follow throughout this coming year, begins the revelation of the Good News with that same call of the prophet Isaiah: 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. John the Baptist, a voice crying in the wilderness, calls us to repentance and renewal. He baptises with water, but tells of the time when we will be made new by the Holy Spirit. Let us continue our Advent journey together, praying for this same spirit of renewal and preparation. Let us pray too for peace in our hearts, in our communities and especially in the Holy Land.

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*

FUNERAL: sadly, our parishioner Chinwe Juliana Okoro has passed away. Her Funeral will be held on Fri 22nd at 10.30am. Please keep her and her lovely family in your prayers.

RECONCILIATION FOR 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.

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

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 Children's ones (+5). Booklets are £1. The *Caritas Giving Calendar* is available at the back of church free of charge. Food donations can be put in

the Food Bank baskets. *Cafod World Gifts Catalogues* are also available free of charge in the porch. *The Knights of St Columba Christmas Poster* is now available, thanks to Alex, in the porch. Lovely and bright, it would look great displayed in your window.

COLLECTION FOR REFUGEE STUDENTS

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.

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION IN WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

Tickets are now on sale for our annual Christmas concerts which celebrate the mystery of Christ's Incarnation in carols and readings performed by the world-famous Westminster Cathedral Choir, orchestra, and celebrity readers, on 19 and 20 December at 7.30pm. We encourage everybody to purchase tickets quickly before these popular events are sold out. Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Gift Shop or directly from Ticketmaster; go to www.ticketmaster.co.uk and type in Westminster Cathedral when prompted.

THE SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN SCHOOL

Our students would like to invite you to our
Seniors and Older Adults
Christmas
CELEBRATION

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER

10am - 11.30am
Morning refreshments and festive cakes. Seasonal music and entertainment

RSVP to Mrs A Berwick
Tel: 01438 314 643
or email BerwickA@jhn.herts.sch.uk

Please let us know of any dietary requirements and mobility issues

MASS INTENTIONS -

Sat 9th to Sun 17th December 2023

Saturday 9th December

6pm: Ines & Leonardo Antonaci RIP

Sunday 10th December- 2nd Advent

9.30am: People of the Parish

11.30am: Michael Madden RIP

Monday 11th December

9.30am: Fr Tim O'Connor RIP

Tuesday 12th December

9.30am: Monica & Anastasia Dep RIP

Wednesday 13th December

9.30am: Michael Madden RIP

Thursday 14th December

9.30am: Bob & Connie Dull RIP

Friday 15th December

9.30am: Jess & Peter McQuillan RIP

Saturday 16th December

9.30am: Monica & Anastasia Dep RIP

6pm: Luigi Rizzo RIP

Sunday 17th December- 3rd ADVENT

9.30am: People of the Parish

11.30am: Maria Costanza & Camilla Lopez INT

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

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

ROSARY Every Friday at 10am.

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

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

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>

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.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE.

The Oratory, Brompton Road, London, SW7 2RP, 13 December, 7 – 8pm. Celebrate Christ's coming with uplifting traditional music by The Schola Cantorum of the London Oratory School, conducted by Charles Cole with organ and brass ensemble. Free. Collection taken for ACN's work with persecuted Christians. [Aid to the Church in Need | Christmas Carol Service + Festive Reception 2023 \(acnuk.org\)](https://www.acnuk.org/aid-to-the-church-in-need-christmas-carol-service-festive-reception-2023)

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE (JRS) ADVENT SERVICE. Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, 114 Mount St, London, W1K 3AH, 15 December, 7pm JRS Website Also livestreamed: [Livestream — Farm Street Church](https://www.livestream.com/farmstreetchurch)

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS will be available mid-December.

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

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|------------------|-------------------|
| 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/letchworth . 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 November: £7,121.24 , 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:

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|---------------------|---|
| 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 |
| Sun 17th Dec | Gaudete Sunday |
| Tue 19th & Wed 20th | A Christmas Celebration in Westminster Cathedral, Carol concert at 7.30pm, booking essential. |

Our Catholic Schools

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

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

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

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

Safeguarding Officer - to be appointed 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.