

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 17th December 2023, Advent 3, Gaudete Sunday

Parish Mass Book Year B Vol 1 page 87 Psalter Week 3

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 1: 46-50, 53-54 response 61: 10

My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

May you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

There stands among you—unknown to you—the one who is coming after me.

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. 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.**

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AGAIN, I SAY, REJOICE. INDEED, THE LORD IS NEAR.

Our readings on this Gaudete, or Rejoicing Sunday, are full of encouragement as they resonate with joyful hope as we draw near to the birth of Jesus, Saviour of the world. God's Son is coming to live amongst us. Isaiah, Mary and John the Baptist all bear joyful witness to what God has done and will do for his people. Isaiah announces the coming of the anointed one, a cause for great rejoicing. He will bring freedom, healing and good news to the people of Israel. Images of clothing bodies and growing seeds celebrate God's activity in the world and in our lives. Mary's Magnificat from Luke 1:46-50, takes the place of the Psalm and is a joyful song of praise to God, her Saviour who is rich in mercy. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians is the first New Testament document to be written. He encourages the new early Church community to be guided by the Holy Spirit in all they say and do. The Church is to give thanks for all things to God and pray constantly. Paul urges happiness always, because Christ is faithful to his promise and will not fail us. Listening to Paul's words, the Word of God, we are inspired and encouraged too. John the Baptist is, like last week, the focus of the Gospel. He bears witness, testifying to the true identity of 'the light' who is Jesus himself. John answers the priests' questions about his own identity and ministry, then announces Jesus the Saviour they seek, is already amongst them, in their midst, though unknown to them. As we continue preparing for Christmas, on many different and often conflicting levels, we rejoice Jesus is already in our hearts and lives, praying we may receive the grace needed to announce his message and presence through our attitudes, actions and words this week. *Jimmy (Fr)*

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. Please note *next Sunday morning there will be one service only at 10.30am.*

ST HUGH OF LINCOLN CHRISTMAS/ EPIPHANY PARISH PARTY

Fr Jimmy would like to invite parishioner to the Presbytery on Thu 4th January from 7pm for drinks and nibbles.

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.

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

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

Phoenix Road, London NW1 1TA . For info and to book your place email: bookings.fcjcentre@fcjhouse-somerstown.co.uk

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION IN WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

Tickets are now on sale for our 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. Please support our Cathedral if you can.

OFFICE CLOSURE OVER CHRISTMAS

The Office will be closed from Thu 21st till 2nd January. The first week of the year, the Office will be open Tue 2nd and wed 3rd Jan and close on Thu 4th. It will then resume normal hours from the following week.

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS

The Diocesan directory is now available to purchase from the parish Office. It contains contact details for all departments, parishes, charities, catholic schools etc connected to our Diocese. Directories are £5.

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>

CONCERT FOR KANYIKE

A heartfelt thank you to all who supported this lovely initiative.

BAPTISM SESSION

The next Baptism session is on Sunday 11th February. If you wish your child to be Baptised, please attend the session before the Baptism itself.

MASS INTENTIONS -

Sat 16th to Sun 24th December 2023

Saturday 16th December

6pm: Luigi Rizzo RIP

Sunday 17th December- 3rd Advent

9.30am: People of the Parish

11.30am: Maria Costanza & Camilla Lopez INT

Monday 18th December

9.30am: Richard Mathurin RIP

Tuesday 19th December

9.30am: Hugh Doran RIP

Wednesday 20th December

9.30am: Fr Des Baker RIP

Thursday 21st December

9.30am: Bob & Connie Dull RIP

Friday 22nd December

10.30am: Funeral Mass Chinwe Okoro RIP

Saturday 23rd December

9.30am: Patrick Whyte RIP

6pm: Ines Antonaci RIP

Sunday 24th December- 4th ADVENT

10.30am: Jack Johnstone RIP

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

SASH: meetings will resume in 2024. Please look out for an update on the programme in subsequent newsletters.

ROSARY Every Friday at 10am.

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.

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.

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

WALSINGHAM 2024 ACCOMMODATION

BOOKINGS Our accommodation will be open from 1st March 2024 through to mid December 2024. Please book early to secure your preferred dates. If you'd like to book please call us on 01328 820217, email reservations@walsingham.org.uk or book online at www.walsingham.org.uk/accommodation. Please quote "Shrine eNews" when making a reservation. Thank you!

CATHOLIC CHILDREN SOCIETY

Founded in 1859 the Catholic Children's Society is one of the oldest charities supporting disadvantaged children and families in the UK. *Our vision* is a world where every child and family facing disadvantage get the support they need to achieve their potential, creating a better society for all. *Our mission* is to bring hope and positive change to children and families. Through complementary and creative early intervention services we seek to build resilience and improve children's life chances. *We work with families of all faiths and none* and in partnership with diverse communities. Our work is informed by *Catholic Social Teaching* and the core values of integrity, compassion, inclusion and partnership. By being true to these values we promote the common good, helping disadvantaged families to participate fully in society and achieve their potential. We treat everyone with dignity, kindness and respect. We make special efforts to support those who are economically and socially disadvantaged. We provide inclusive services and want our beneficiaries and staff to reflect the rich diversity of the communities we serve. We empower families to harness their potential and make positive, lasting changes in their lives by working collaboratively and in partnership. **We will be collecting money for CCS over the Christmas period. Donation boxes will be by the Crib in the Baptistry.**

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 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:

Sun 17th Dec	Gaudete Sunday
Tue 19th Dec	STM KS2 Carol Concert 6pm
Tue 19th & Wed 20th	A Christmas Celebration in Westminster Cathedral, Carol concert at 7.30pm, booking essential.
Sun 24th Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent: one morning service at 10.30am
Sun 24th Dec	Christmas Mass for Families: 5.30pm Christmas Mass During the Night: 8pm
Thu 4th Jan	Parish Christmas/Epiphany Party, The Presbytery, 7pm
Sun 28th Jan	Confirmation Enrolment Mass, 9.30am
Sun 11th Feb	Baptism Preparation Session, St Hilda Room after 9.30am Mass

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 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.