

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 24th December 2023, Advent 4

Parish Mass Book Year B Vol 1 page 90 Psalter Week 4

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14-16

The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 88: 2-5, 27, 29 response 2

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

SECOND READING: Romans 16: 25-27

The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.

GOSPEL: Luke 1: 26-38

Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.

COLLECT: Pour forth, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CHRISTMAS READINGS, Psalter week 1:

Christmas Vigil Mass: Booklet

Christmas Mass During the Night: Booklet

Christmas Mass At Dawn: parish Mass book p.100

Christmas Mass During the Day: parish Mass book p.102

SUNDAY 31st December 2023, Holy Family

Parish Mass Book Year B Vol 1 page 107 Psalter Week 1

FIRST READING: Genesis 15: 1-6, 21: 1-3

Your heir shall be your flesh and blood.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 104: 1-6, 8-9 response vv.7,8

He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19

The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac.

GOSPEL: Luke 2: 22-40

The child grew, filled with wisdom.

COLLECT: O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. 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.**

POPE'S DECEMBER INTENTIONS

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*

POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II LETTER TO CHILDREN CHRISTMAS 1994

Children around the world eagerly await the coming of Christmas Day and the celebration of Jesus' birthday. While most children are looking forward to unwrapping their presents, there are many Christmas traditions capturing children's imaginations at this time of year. Saint John Paul II recalled the anticipation; "In a few days, we shall celebrate Christmas, the holy day so full of meaning for all children in every family. Christmas is the Feast of a Child, of a Newborn Baby, so it is your Feast Day too! You wait impatiently for it and get ready for it with joy, counting the days and even the hours to the Holy Night of Bethlehem." Instead of focusing on presents, the Pope recalls children's traditions recreating the Nativity scene: "I can almost see you setting up the Crib at home, in the parish, in every corner of the world, recreating the surroundings and atmosphere in which the Saviour was born. Yes, it is true! At Christmas-time, the stable and the manger take the central place in Church, everyone hurries there, to make a spiritual pilgrimage, like the shepherds on the night of Jesus' birth. Dear children, as I write to you I am thinking of many years ago when I was a child. I used to experience the peaceful feelings of Christmas, when the star of Bethlehem shone, I hurried to the Crib together with other boys and girls to relive what happened 2000 years ago in Palestine. We children expressed our joy mostly in song. How beautiful and moving are the Christmas carols, sung around the Crib in the tradition of every people! What deep thoughts they contain and above all what joy and tenderness they express about the Divine Child who came into the world on that Holy Night!" Pope John Paul II points to the beauty of Christmas viewed through the lens of a child. Adults often lose sight of, or forget, the joy of Christmas, in the busyness of other things. May we approach the Crib like a child, gazing fondly at the Christ Child,

sleeping peacefully in the hay.

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 closed on Thu 4th. It will then resume normal hours from the following week.

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.

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

THANK YOU

To all the volunteers and all those who work incessantly to keep the parish going goes the most heartfelt Thank You. Looking after St Hugh is a mammoth task. There are Masses, Benedictions and Adorations to be prepped and celebrated. There are candles to be trimmed and organised; altar cloths to be changed and washed, flowers to be arranged. There are children and adults to be accompanied along their journey of Faith, to be visited at home and embraced by the prayerful tenderness of the Rosary. There are hymns to be sung and Great Amens to be accompanied by the organ. There is the Word of God to be proclaimed by the Readers. There are Masses and Funerals to be streamed so loved ones far away can say a last farewell. There are collections to be taken and money to be counted so the Church can continue to support those in need. There are numbers to be crunched, papers to be pushed, boxes to be ticked and alarms to be checked so everything is kept transparent and everyone is kept safe. Endless tasks, big and small. Please, consider joining this small yet very determined army of volunteers, some of whom feel, as Bilbo Baggins would have it, "like butter spread over too much toast". A small task to you may prevent the proverbial straw from backing another parishioner's back. A massive thank you to Dede and Joe, whose dedication to the parish is exemplar. To all parishioners, a very Happy and Holy Christmas. "Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world." C.S. Lewis - *The Parish Office*

CATHOLIC CHILDREN SOCIETY

Founded in 1859 the Catholic Children's Society is one of the oldest charities supporting disadvantaged children and families of all faiths and none in the UK. We will be collecting money for CCS over the Christmas period. Donation boxes will be by the Crib in the Baptistry.

MASS INTENTIONS -

Sat 23rd to Sun 31st December 2023

Saturday 23rd December

6pm: Ines Antonaci RIP

Sunday 24th December- 4th ADVENT

10.30am: Jack Johnstone RIP

SUN 24TH DECEMBER—NATIVITY OF THE LORD

5.30pm: Families of the Parish

8pm: People of the Parish

MON 25TH DECEMBER -NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9.30am: Steve Weaver RIP

11.30am: People of the Parish

Tuesday 26th December

11am: Altar Servers and their families INT

Wednesday 27th December

10am: Bob & Connie Dull RIP

Thursday 28th December

10am: Mike Dwyer RIP

Friday 29th December

10am: Edward & Anne Sheenan RIP

Saturday 30th December

10am: Ratnavali Dep RIP

6pm: Jack & Mabel Mills RIP

Sunday 31st December- The Holy Family

9.30am: People of the Parish

11.30am: Niall Doran and Family INT

Monday 1st January:

12noon: Carole Makulski RIP

Tuesday 2nd January

9.30am: Brenda Feeney INT

Wednesday 3rd January

9.30am: Esther Connolly INT

Thursday 4th January

9.30am: Laurie Symonds INT

Friday 5th January

9.30am: Bob & Trish Haines INT

Saturday 6th January

9.30am: Patricia Handscombe INT

6pm: Monica & Anastasia Dep RIP

Sunday 7th January - Epiphany of the Lord

9.30am: Pamela Cochran INT

11.30am: People of the Parish

MASS BOOKINGS are available from Mid-

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!

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.

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/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:

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
Sun 31st Dec	Feast of the Holy Family
Mon 1st Jan	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God—Mass 12noon
Thu 4th Jan	Parish Christmas/Epiphany Party, The Presbytery, 7pm
Sun 7th Jan	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
Mon 8th Jan	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
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.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 - 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.