

# 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](mailto: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 7th January 2024, Epiphany of the Lord**

**Parish Mass Book Year B Vol 1 page 115 Vigil and readings) 118 for prayers 9.30am and 11.30am; Psalter Week 2, Psalter Week 3 from Monday 8th Jan**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Above you the glory of the Lord appears.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 71: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13 response cf v.11

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.

GOSPEL: Mathew 2: 1-12

We saw his star and have come to do him homage.

COLLECT: O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. 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.**

### **EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

The Magi bearing gifts have followed the star that appeared as a mysterious sign in the night sky. They travelled from the East over mountain and desert. In their longing to understand the meaning of this twinkling light, they persevered on their hard journey through very long, cold nights and short days. Tiredness and weariness must have been part of their wintry journey.

They enter the house of the Holy Family where they see the Child with his mother Mary and his protector Joseph. Their house has the welcome and warmth of a home that is full of love. They offer gifts to the innocent and fragile child who is utterly dependent on his mother and St Joseph, they pay homage to a new king. They see both a baby and a king. They recognise him as their God. T.S. Eliot writes in his poem *The Journey of the Magi* about their homeward journey:

We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,  
With an alien people clutching their gods.  
I should be glad of another death.

They know their world has been changed and they no longer fit into it the same way. They begin to find the meaning of the Messiah who will save his people in the Jewish Scriptures. All the people have been sent a redeemer who will free them from their sins. He has been born in poverty in Bethlehem. As we affirm the Feast of the Epiphany, we affirm our belief in Jesus Christ, true God, true man, light of the nations.

## POPE'S JANUARY INTENTIONS

Let us pray that the Spirit help us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church. *Amen*

## YEAR OF PRAYER – 2024

The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme is “Pilgrims of Hope”, and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

After the year devoted to reflecting on the documents and studying the fruits of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Francis has proposed that 2024 should be marked as a year dedicated to prayer. In preparation for the Jubilee, dioceses are invited to promote initiatives to remind people of the centrality of both individual prayer and community prayer. One idea might be for “pilgrimages of prayer” to be organised at a diocesan level – these would be effectively courses or ‘schools of prayer’ with monthly or weekly meetings, presided over by the local bishops, but open to the entire People of God. In addition, to help mark this year more fruitfully, the Dicastery for Evangelisation will publish a series of “Prayer Notebooks”, with material taken from the many forms of prayer to be found in the rich Catholic tradition.

1. PRAYER TODAY: A CHALLENGE TO OVERCOME by Angelo Comastri prefaced by Pope Francis; 2. PRAYING WITH THE PSALMS by Gianfranco Ravasi; 3. THE PRAYER OF JESUS by Juan Lopez Vergara; 4. PRAYING WITH SAINTS AND SINNERS by Paul Brendan Murray; 5. PARABLES ON PRAYER by Antonio Pitta; 6. THE CHURCH IN PRAYER By *a monk*; 7. THE PRAYER OF MARY AND THE SAINTS by Catherine Aubin; 8. THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US: THE "OUR FATHER" by Ugo Vanni.

These resources are intended for any faithful who wishes to prepare for the Jubilee. If you want to join one of the existing prayer groups or are interested in forming a new one, please get in touch with the parish office so we can make one of parish rooms available for

meetings.

The *Pontifical Bull of Indiction* is expected to be published, as per tradition, on Ascension the year before the Jubilee. For the 2025 Jubilee, publication is expected on 9th May 2024.

For more information about the Jubilee 2025 please head to the website [The Year of Jubilee 2025 - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://TheYearofJubilee2025-CatholicBishopsConference.cbcew.org.uk)

## JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the  
Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both  
humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

*Amen*

## *Franciscus*

## ANNUAL LEAVE

Fr Jimmy will be on annual Leave from Monday 8th January to Thursday 18th January inclusive. Please contact the parish office or see Fr Stephen after Mass for any queries.

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

## 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 are still collecting money for CCS. Please support the

work of this wonderful charity if you can. Donation boxes will be by the Crib in the Baptistry.

## **MASS INTENTIONS -**

*Sat 6th to Sun 14th January 2024*

Saturday 6th January

6pm: Monica & Anastasia Dep RIP

**Sunday 7th January- Epiphany of the Lord**

9.30am: Pamela Cochran INT

11.30am: People of the Parish

**Monday 8th January: Baptism of the Lord**

9.30am: Richard Mathurin RIP

Tuesday 9th January

9.30am: Andrew Browne INT

Wednesday 10th January

9.30am: Patricia Handscombe INT

Thursday 11th January

9.30am: Tony&Eileen Geraghty Keating Coleman RIP

Friday 12th January

9.30am: Cayden Kirby RIP

Saturday 13th January

9.30am: No Mass

6pm: Leonard & Ines Antonaci and Ross Nittolo RIP

**Sunday 14th January - Peace Sunday, Ordinary Time**

9.30am: People of the Parish

11.30am: Monica & Anastasia Dep RIP

**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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **PEACE SUNDAY 2024**

Peace Sunday 2024 this year falls on 14th January. Bishop Malcolm McMahon, President of Pax Christi England & Wales writes: "The theme for Peace Sunday is Pope Francis' theme for the World Day of Peace - 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. I am sure you will agree that it is a highly relevant theme as Governments across the world, including our own, wrestle with the ethics and consequences of significant and potentially dangerous developments in technology. Pope Francis' overriding concern is that artificial intelligence should be used in the service of humanity and the protection of our common home and not to further injustice and inequality or to fuel division and violent conflict."

## **LENTEN RESOURCE**

**"We Dare To Say"** is a five-week course. It takes us on a journey through the Lord's Prayer, and has been specially prepared for the Year of Prayer, the penultimate year of preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025, *Pilgrims of Hope*. **We Dare To Say** has been a collaborative endeavour between Martin Foster from the Catholic Bishops' Conference, Dr Mark Nash from the Archdiocese of Southwark, and myself. We hope it will lead to a deeper understanding of those words which the Lord gave us as the pattern of all prayer, a sure foundation to our praise and petitions." *Fr Chris Vipers*, Director of the Agency for Evangelisation. Please let the office know if you would like a copy of the booklet as orders have to be in as soon as possible.

**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](http://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 December:** the total will be available next week. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**Candle Donations:** the new poor boxes have been installed.

**Dates for your Diary:**

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
Wed 14th Feb	Ash Wednesday, Mass 9.30am and 7.30pm
Sat 17th Feb	First Reconciliation for First Holy Communion Programme, 11.30am

**Our Catholic Schools**

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

Tel: 01462 620670    [www.strcjmi.herts.sch.uk](http://www.strcjmi.herts.sch.uk)

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

Tel: 01438 314643    [www.jhn.herts.sch.uk](http://www.jhn.herts.sch.uk)

**Safeguarding Officer** - to be appointed [letchworthsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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.