

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 4th February 2024, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Mass Book Year B Vol 1 page 134 Vigil Psalter Week 1

FIRST READING: Job 7: 1-4, 6-7

Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 94: 1-2,6-9 response v. 9

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23

I should be punished if I did not preach the Gospel

GOSPEL: Mark 1: 29-39

He cured many who were suffering from disease of one kind or another.

COLLECT: Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. 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.**

He heals the broken hearted, he binds up all their wounds.

Our readings invite us to look more deeply into the experience of human suffering. Only through Christ can our pain and despair be transformed. Just like the suffering people in the Gospel, we all long for Christ. It is through prayer our yearning will be fulfilled. Job expresses total despair at the great loss he has experienced; he seems overwhelmed by the frailty of life. The suffering in our world today makes it easier to relate to his sentiments. Psalm 146 is like an antidote to the howls of loss Job exclaims. It speaks of healing for broken hearts and minds, of wounds being bound and tended by our loving God whose wisdom extends across a universe he knows and loves intimately. Paul explains how his own experience of Christ and the Gospel impels him to share the Good News with others. He feels he is like a slave to the Gospel and is happy to accept this role. The early days of Jesus's healing ministry in Galilee are portrayed in the Gospel. After praying with the community in the synagogue, Jesus responds with compassion to the sick and suffering who are brought to him. He begins his days in prayerful solitude and is drawn by a desire to bring his Good News to as many people as possible.

We pray for the grace to respond with wisdom and compassion to the suffering and to the needs of our time. May we centre our lives in prayer and by the grace of God be determined, like St Paul, to bring Good News to our broken and hurting world.

POPE'S FEBRUARY INTENTIONS

For the terminally ill: We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment. Amen.

WEEKDAY MORNING MASS IS SAID IN THE ST HILDA ROOM DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

NO MORNING MASS on Saturday until Lent.

FUNERAL NOTICE

With sadness, we announce the passing of John Littlewood, may he rest in peace and rise in glory. The Funeral Mass will be on Tue 6th February at 11am.

CATHEDRAL MASS FOR ANOINTING OF THE SICK On Saturday 10th February 2024, 2.30pm, *Cardinal Vincent* will celebrate the Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes here at the Cathedral, during which anointing of the sick will be offered. Booking essential. If you require assistance booking a ticket, contact the parish office. **To book use this link:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mass-of-the-sick-with-anointing-celebrated-by-cardinal-vincent-nichols-tickets-793054586617?aff=oddtcreator>

YEAR OF PRAYER RESOURCES

Fr Daniel Humphreys, Jubilee Co-ordinator has kindly forwarded the following resources for parishioners to use during this Year of Prayer. [The Year of Prayer - Sycamore](#) : Five sessions about Christian prayer and the adventure of the spiritual life. For those who are just beginning, and also for those who have been praying a long time!

[Ways of Praying - YouTube](#) : videos on prayer (originally from the Covid times but also with resources produced since then) .

[The Father Wants To Heal You – A Retreat with the Lord’s Prayer](#) (*Veritas, 2022*)

This timely book by Fr Nigel Woollen, parish priest in Stevenage, takes us by the hand and invites us on a personal journey through the Lord’s Prayer to discover the depth and healing power of God’s love for us, while at the same time reminding us through the first word, Our, that we say this prayer together as a community. Written in an easily accessible and enjoyable format, *The Father Wants to Heal You* reinforces the significance of the Lord’s Prayer and uncovers and explores the deeper meanings it contains. How many times have you said this prayer quickly without contemplating the beauty within it? You won’t say the Lord’s Prayer in the same way again.

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

BAPTISM SESSION

The next Baptism session is on Sunday 11th February. The following will be on 9th June.

WE DARE TO SAY PRAYER GROUP

Lenten reflection which follows the Diocesan Resource, *We Dare to Say*. Every Thursday of Lent, after morning Mass in the St Hilda Room.

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT AT ST HUGH’S PLAYGROUP

The cost of living crisis has hit most households and many suffer in silence. Our parish has partnered up with Citizens Advice to organise a Drop-in session at our playgroup on Thu 15th February, 9.30am-11am. An officer will be at hand to answer questions about boosting income & reducing costs; comparing best buys; government support; debt; energy efficiency; scam awareness; budgeting and more. No need to book, just turn up at Fortescue Hall on the day.

SASH—LEADER REQUIRED

We are still looking for a volunteer to run this most valued group. Please contact the office if you wish to take on this fantastic role. Meetings will resume we have a new Lead.

ESCORTED TOUR TO KNOCK & CO

MAYO, 10th March 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights’ in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

SAFE IN FAITH TRAINING

Domestic abuse affects one in four women and one in six men in the UK during their lifetime. There are people affected by domestic abuse in every parish. If someone approaches you for support, do you know how to respond safely? Safe in Faith offers domestic abuse awareness training to priests, deacons, religious sisters and pastoral workers.

Read more here: <https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/event/safe-in-faith-training-for-faith-leaders-1-2/>

Training takes place online over four sessions, all of which are to be attended. All take place from 2:30pm to 5:00pm. Monday 11 March, Tuesday 9 April, Tuesday 7 May, Tuesday 4 June Register your interest by emailing safeinfaith@rcdow.org.uk

ADVICE ON ENERGY BILLS

National Energy Action's Warm and Safe Homes (WASH) Advice Service is a free support service providing advice and help to householders in England and Wales on their energy bills and keeping warm and safe in their home. They can also help with benefits advice and income maximisation. Information and advice are available via their website, <https://www.nea.org.uk/get-help/> and their dedicated helpline 0800 304 7159 (BSL interpreters available).

MASS INTENTIONS -

Sat 3rd February to Sun 11th February 2024

Saturday 3rd February

6pm: Jess & Peter McQuillan RIP

Sunday 4th February - Ordinary Time

9.30am: Iris Pompey RIP

11.30am: People of the Parish

Monday 5th February

9.30am: Kearny Family INT

Tuesday 6th February

11am: Funeral Mass John Littlewood RIP

Wednesday 7th February

9.30am: Doyle Family INT

Thursday 8th February

9.30am: John & Ann O'Donnell RIP

Friday 9th February

9.30am: Frances Cleary RIP

Saturday 10th February

9.30am: No Mass

6pm: Leonardo & Ines Antonaci, Ross Nittolo RIP

Sunday 11th February - Ordinary Time

9.30am: People of the Parish

11.30am: Grace Lenora-Rajapakse RIP

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

ROSARY for Peace 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.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Please let the office know if you require donation envelopes for the next financial year.

CARITAS ST JOSEPH'S FAMILY FORUM

This is for anyone interested in discussing issues relating to the inclusion of people with learning disabilities. Our next event is Monday 4 March when Bernice Hardy, Co-founder of Wave (we are all valued equally) will share the story its work to encourage more inclusive worship and social places in the heart of our communities. You can find the details here: <https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/event/family-forum-talk-caritas-st-josephs/>

ACT ON POVERTY WEBINAR

1 February, 7.00pm: hosted by CAFOD in conjunction with SVP, Christian Aid, Church Action on Poverty and JPIT. Hear stories of struggle and hope from the UK and around the world and be inspired to take action ahead of the coming General Election. Register to join the webinar: Act on Poverty

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

ONLINE SYMPOSIUM

1 February, 2.00pm: 'Christians in the Holy Land – finding hope and resilience for the future.' Speakers: Revd Dr Munther Isaac, Senior Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church, Bethlehem – the first to put the Baby Jesus in the 'rubble' of his Christmas crib and Revd Dr Fadi Diab, Rector of St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ramallah, and St Peter's Episcopal Church in Birzeit. Register for free

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 January: £7,025.44 inclusive of standing orders and collections. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Candle Donations: the new poor boxes have been installed.

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 4th Feb	Special Collection for the work of the Latin Patriarch in Gaza
Sun 11th Feb	Baptism Preparation Session, St Hilda Room after 9.30am Mass
Wed 14th Feb	Ash Wednesday, services at 9.30am and 7.30pm
Sat 17th Feb	First Reconciliation for First Holy Communion Programme, 11.30am
Fri 23rd Feb	CAFOD Family Fast Day
Fri 1st Mar	World day of Prayer ecumenical service at St Hugh of Lincoln (more details to follow)

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 - Rebecca Clarke (retiring), Kate Hewitson (in training) 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