

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 and 11.30am; 1pm Mass in Polish. Holy Day

Mass 9.30am & 7pm. Weekday Mass: Monday to Friday 9.30am. Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday

9.10am. Adoration & Confession Thursday 10.00-10.45am; Benediction Thursday 10.45.

Confession Saturday 5.15 to 5.45pm & on request.



SUNDAY 15th December 2024, Gaudete Sunday

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

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3: 14-18a

The Lord will exult over you with loud singing.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Isaiah 12: 2-3. 4b-d. 5-6 response v 6

Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4: 4-7

The Lord is at hand.

GOSPEL: Luke 3: 10-18

And we, what shall we do?

COLLECT: O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enables 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.

'What, then, shall we do?'

This **Gaudete Sunday** begins with a resounding 'Rejoice!', a joyful and energising call for jubilation which echoes throughout our readings. We are full of joy in the Lord because he is very near. Our Advent journeying and anticipation is nearly over as we prepare to celebrate both the coming of the Christ Child into our world and the wonderful promise of the Good News – God is always close at hand. The prophet Zephaniah proclaims a jubilant God already in our midst, a God who saves, strengthens, calms and protects us with love, a God who dances and sings alongside us. This joyful image of God is so fundamental to our Advent hope and longing a responsorial prayer from the prophet Isaiah replaces the Psalm, encouraging us to, 'Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!' Paul's letter to the Philippians opens by encouraging us always to be joyful in the Lord. Through prayers of thanksgiving we will come to know the true peace which rests in Christ Jesus. John the Baptist is grounded in his certain belief of the coming Saviour who brings joy, peace and justice. John dedicated his life to calling people to repentance, so they might be better able to respond and believe in the Good News. John was so rooted in Gospel values many thought he himself was the Christ. We pray this week for the grace to be like John, to proclaim Christ and the joyous Good News to a world desperately in need of it. As a community of prayer, we know we are loved by a joyful God. It is this same joy and love we share with others. *Fr Jimmy & St Beuno's Prego*

POPE'S INTENTIONS—December

For pilgrims of hope:

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Amen

His Holiness new Encyclical Letter, *Dilexit Nos* (trans. He Loved Us), is available to read on the Vatican website www.vatican.va

PARISH MASS BOOKS

As for the Lectionaries, the parish Mass books need to be replaced with the updated translation. Each cycle of books will cost the parish over £1000, the first new cycle, Year C volume 1, starting with Advent. With a donation of £5, you can sponsor a book in memory of a loved one. An inscription will be put in the book "In loving memory of ...". Your help and support is very gratefully received and appreciated.

ROSARY FOR PEACE Every Friday at 10am, after Mass.

LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP GRANT SCHEME

Since 2001 the Listed Places of Worship Grant (LPWGS) has enabled communities which care for our historic churches and other listed places of worship to reclaim VAT on repair works. Thousands of volunteers across the UK care for our churches – sacred spaces where we celebrate all of life's most important moments, but also places which promise beauty, community, and a variety of increasingly essential services such as homeless shelters and food banks.

The grant scheme comes up for renewal in March 2025, and we are calling on people to write to their local MP to alert them to the potential threat of closure of the scheme, and the disastrous impact this would have on historic churches. Without this scheme, many historic and architecturally important buildings will be at risk of closure.

Securing the continuation of the LPWGS will ensure that our churches remain open and accessible for present communities and future generations. We are asking that the government extends the scheme, ensuring a sustainable future for these buildings.

The decision whether to renew the LPWGS

is now with the DCMS which is why representations by MPs direct to Lisa Nandy, the Secretary of State at the DCMS, are vital.

SJHN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

We are delighted to extend an invitation to our senior community members, to join the students of St John Henry Newman School for a Community Christmas Morning on Friday 13th of December 10-11.30am. RSVP Tel: 01438 314 643 or email events@jhn.herts.sch.uk

STM KS2 CAROL CONCERT

The Key Stage 2 children at STM will be bringing lots of festive cheer on Monday 16th December at 6pm with carols and readings in Church.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL—SPACES AVAILABLE

Nursery spaces are available in the current year and Reception spaces are available for the September 2025 intake. Prospective parent have the opportunity to tour the school and see it in action. Call 01462 620670 to book your place. Last tour available: Wed 8th Jan 2025 9:30am.

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION IN WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

Tickets are now on sale for the 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 18 and 19 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.

VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 homeless packs (Vinnie Packs) during the extreme cold weather.. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 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.

HAVE A MERRY, SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS!

The bishops of England and Wales, following the Pope's lead, are encouraging us to change our lifestyles so as to help reverse climate change. Here are some tips for Christmas. Remember the 3 R's – refuse, re-use, recycle.

PRESENTS: Don't buy unnecessary presents. Each year the UK spends about £700 million on unwanted presents. Find out what people need before you buy. Offer home-baked treats. Arrange a spending limit with family and friends. Check the items you buy are green and ethical – workers properly paid, not tested on animals, sustainably sourced, local. Lists of ethical companies can be found by looking online.

WRAPPING PAPER: In Britain every Xmas we throw away 226,800 miles of wrapping paper. There is no need to throw it away. It can be re-used many times. And you can buy wrapping paper made from hemp, or from recycled paper. How about using attractive and re-usable cloth material instead of paper? Use ribbon instead of tape for sealing, so that the paper can be more easily re-used or recycled. The ribbon can be re-used as well, as can the bows.

MEALS: You've probably seen headlines like "Tackling the world's most urgent problem: meat" (United Nations Environment Programme). Growing animals for food involves destruction and pollution of the land, forests, waters and atmosphere, and takes resources from the poorest people. Include some vegan meals over the Xmas period. Vegan meal recipes can be found online and there are plenty of vegan ready meals in the shops.

FOR MORE IDEAS visit <https://sites.google.com/laudatosimovement.org/laintheuk>

Let's use Christmas time to move closer to God by thinking about how we can care for His creation. Have a healthy, holy, wholesome, green Christmas!
From the Laudato Si' Animators

THANK YOU

Many thanks to all those who supported the Concert for Kanyike last Saturday. It was a jolly occasion and an whopping £445 was raised, especially impressive considering the weather! Thank you to Sue and Jacquie for organising and for the wonderful music throughout the year.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 14th to Sun 22nd December 2024

Saturday 14th December

6pm: Michael & Breege Kerrane RIP

Sunday 15th December - Gaudete Sunday

9.30am: Denis Marrinan RIP

11.30am: People of the Parish

Monday 16th December

9.30am: Peter & Jess McQuillan RIP

Tuesday 17th December

9.30am: Barbara Byrne RIP

Wednesday 18th December

9.30am: Fr Desmond Baker RIP

Thursday 19th December

9.30am: Mabel & Jack Mills RIP

Friday 20th December

9.30am: Julie Cranston RIP

Saturday 21st December

9.30am: Bob & Connie Dull RIP

6pm: Luigi Rizzo RIP

Sunday 22nd December - 4th Sunday in Advent

9.30am: People of the Parish

11.30am: Cosimino Rizzo RIP

MASS BOOKINGS

Mass bookings are available from the end of January. Please consider Gift-aiding.

REPOSITORY

Cards for various occasions- located in the St Hilda Room. Prices vary, please check the dividers and leave money in the honesty box.

SASH GROUP

A friendly group for seniors to chat and spend time in company. Please come and join us every other Thursday at 2pm in St Hilda Room. Refreshments available. The next meeting is on 4th December.

RCIA MEETINGS on Wed at 7pm in St Hilda Room.

MOTHER'S PRAYERS

This lovely prayer group for mothers of all ages is held every Monday morning after 9.30am Mass in St Hilda Room. It isn't a playgroup, but a chance to socialise and pray together for mothers and grandmothers. Tea and coffee available.

CATHOLIC MEDITATION GROUP

On Tuesday 5-6pm, St Hilda room. Meetings consist of a short reading, followed by meditation and conclude with a time of reflection and discussion. All welcome.

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

Nora Ivers	Andrea Boncristiani
Richard Parker	Anne Hudson
Stephen Prohaszka	Angela Horne
Aron Haughton	Anthony Horne
George Marston	Philomena Johnson
Joe Fernandes	Margaret Haywood
Willie Hudson	Kay McKenna
Mary Wallace	Rosie Child
Harper Draper	Hannah Draper
Charles McCann	Phil Garvey-McGovern
Bob Pitman	Eric Bunson
Kristina Ullrich	James & Josie McElroy
Pauline Doran	Anne Moran
Elena Trasatti	

Collection Total November: £ 6,850.03 .
These are inclusive of standing orders, contactless and collections. Thank you for your continued generosity.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS

Now available at the back of church for £1 each booklet.

Dates for your Diary:

Sun 15th Dec	FHC Enrolment Mass 9.30am
Tue 24 Dec	Morning Mass 9.30am; Christmas Vigil Mass 5.30pm; Mass During the Night 8.30pm
Wed 25th Dec	Christmas Mass During the Day 10.30am
Thu 26th Dec	Mass for Altar Servers 10am

Our Catholic Schools

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

Tel: 01462 620670 www.strejmi.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) 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.

Easy Giving: Via the Contactless machine in the porch or 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.

FOODBANK DONATIONS LIST:

Small, medium and large packets of Festive Biscuits
Individual size Christmas Puddings;
Large Christmas Cakes; Pringles; UHT fruit juice ; Tea bags 40/80's ; Tinned fruit
Thank you for your continued support.

WEEKDAY MASS IN ST HILDA ROOM

Weekend, Feast and school masses will be held in Church as normal.