

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 22nd December 2024, Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

FIRST READING: Micah 5: 2-5a

From you shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 80 (79): 2a, 3b, 15-16, 18-19 response v 4

Bring us back, O God, let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10: 5-10

Behold, I have come to you to do your will.

GOSPEL: Luke 1: 39-45

Why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

COLLECT: Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son 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.**

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!”

Christ is coming! With their themes of obedience to God’s will and faith in God’s promises, our readings are full of expectant hope. The Prophet Micah foretells the birth of the Messiah. Jesus will come from the small town of Bethlehem, he is the new king who will reunite and rule all the people like a shepherd guarding and guiding his flock. Psalm 80 (79) reminds us to call on God as our shepherd, placing our trust in his power and strength, especially when we struggle and face difficulties. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews highlights the obedience of Jesus to God’s will. In offering himself as a sacrifice, Jesus brings salvation from sin to all who have faith in him. Luke, in his Gospel describes Mary’s visit to her cousin, Elizabeth and their mutual greeting. Jesus is recognized as the Messiah even before his birth. Elizabeth sings Mary’s praise because Mary bears the Lord, and Elizabeth’s own unborn child, John the Baptist, ‘leaps for joy’. As we draw closer to Christmas, we may like to pray: Lord, help us, like Mary, to be humble and obedient to your will. Help us to see your presence in our daily lives. May we recognize and welcome you in every moment of our life. *Fr Jimmy & St Beuno’s Prego*

POPE’S INTENTIONS—December

For pilgrims of hope:

Let us pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming 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 EPIPHANY PARTY

Fr Jimmy invites you to celebrate our parish community at this party from 7pm Friday 3rd January in the Presbytery.

THANK YOU

to all the volunteers without whom the parish could not function. Countless hours of unseen work go into making sure everything runs as it should. Thank you to all parishioners for choosing to worship at our Church and therefore making it their home.

“The house of God is the Church, his marvelous dwelling place, filled with joyful voices giving thanks and praise, filled with all the sounds of festive celebration.” + St. Jerome

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 “Please pray for the repose of the soul of...” Your help and support is very gratefully received and appreciated.

ROSARY FOR PEACE

Every Friday at 10am, after Mass.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Office will be closed from Tuesday 24th December and reopen on Monday 6th January. Emails will be monitored but only urgent queries will be dealt with. I wish all parishioners a very Happy and Blessed Christmas and thank you for the cards, well wishes and presents but especially for the love, support and patience. *Emma*

NEW LECTIONARIES RESOURCES

To help with our reception of the new translation of the Lectionary the Agency for Evangelisation is organizing a short series of talks at Vaughan House in January, February and March, entitled ‘How does the Bible work?’. Encountering the Word of God, Thursday 30th January by Fr Nick King SJ; Writing the Encounters with God, Tuesday 18th February by Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz; Making Available What Was Written, Thursday 13th March by Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz. 6:30pm-8:00pm at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street,

SW1P 1QN BOOKING ESSENTIAL catad-min@rcdow.org.uk or tel. 0207 798 9152

A new Scripture Formation Resource created by staff at the Bishops Conference of England and Wales to accompany the new Lectionary has also been published and will be a useful aid to formation and of readers and catechesis. A copy is attached but it is also available to download at: <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/lectionary/>

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: Wednesday 8th January 2025 9:30am.

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. It can be re-used, you can buy wrapping paper made from

hemp, recycled paper or re-usable cloth material. Use ribbon instead of tape for sealing, so the paper can be easily re-used or recycled. The ribbon can be re-used as well.

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/lsaintheuk>

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 21st to Sun 29th December 2024

Saturday 21st December

6pm: Luigi Rizzo RIP

Sunday 22nd December - Gaudete Sunday

9.30am: People of the Parish

11.30am: Cosimino Rizzo RIP

Monday 23rd December

9.30am: Pat Whyte RIP

Tuesday 24th December

9.30am: Theobald and Shanti Dep RIP

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

5.30pm (Vigil): STM & SJHN schools INT

8.30pm (Mass during the Night): People of the Parish

Wednesday 25th December

10.30am: People of the Parish

Thursday 26th December—St Stephen

10am: Altar Servers INT

Friday 27th December

10am: Bob & Connie Dull RIP

Saturday 28th December

10am: Feeney Family INT

6pm: Mike Dwyer RIP

Sunday 29th December - Holy Family

9.30am: Barney & Peg Palmer RIP

11.30am: People of the Parish

MASS BOOKINGS

Mass bookings are available from February. 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.

RCIA MEETINGS

On Wednesday 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.

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. 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. [Find out who your MP is / mySociety](#)

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:

24 December	Morning Mass 9.30am; Christmas Vigil Mass 5.30pm; Mass During the Night 8.30pm
25th December	Christmas Mass During the Day 10.30am
26th December	Mass for Altar Servers 10am
1st January	Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God– Mass 11am
3rd January	Parish Epiphany Party, Presbytery from 7pm

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) 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.

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

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.