

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 8th December 2024, Second Sunday of Advent

Parish Mass Book Year C Vol 1 page 84 Psalter Week 2

FIRST READING: Baruch 5: 1-9

God will show your splendour.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 126 (125): 1-2b. 2c-3. 4-5.6. R.3

What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we are glad.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1: 3-6; 8-11

Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

GOSPEL: Luke 3: 1-6

All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

COLLECT: Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

We celebrate the many great deeds God has worked as he shares with us his mercy and bountiful love. For our part, we are called to repentance of heart and to live a life of love. Using poetic language, the Prophet Baruch offers a prophetic message of joy and hope. The saving presence of God brings about the transformation of his broken-hearted people and the restoration of Jerusalem. The Gospel speaks of a still more glorious restoration, as John the Baptist, herald of Jesus, appears, calling us to turn again to God. John announces all humanity is to see ‘the salvation of God’, anticipating the preaching of the gospel to all nations. St Paul writes to the Philippians, a church for which he has deep affection. He encourages his new community to grow in their knowledge and love of Christ Jesus, to enable them to live even better, more fruitful lives. The Psalmist remembers the joy of deliverance from exile. He begs God to act again to bring fertility and abundance to his people. During this season of Advent, we seek the true meaning of repentance in preparation for the coming of Jesus. We pray to leave aside anything which hinders and blinds us to God’s love, so we become even more open to a deepening, faith-filled relationship with the Lord. *St Beuno’s Prego & Fr Jimmy*

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

FUNERALS †

We are saddened to announce the passing of three parishioners, **Anthony Burrows and Mary Sutton**. Mary Sutton's Funeral will be held on Tuesday 10th December at 10am. Anthony Burrows Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday 11th December at 11am. Both Funerals will be livestreamed on the Parish YouTube Channel.

May **Mary** and **Anthony** rest in peace and rise in glory. Please keep the families in your prayers at this most difficult time.

WEEKDAY MASS IN ST HILDA ROOM

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

LECTIONARIES – A new edition of the Lectionary, the book which contains the readings which are proclaimed at Mass, will come into use in England and Wales on the First Sunday of Advent 2024. It is a big moment of change as we move away from the now familiar Jerusalem Bible translation to the new English Standard Version – Catholic Edition translation. The new lectionary will use better biblical scholarship and more up-to-date translations to make the Bible more faithful to its original languages To learn more visit www.newlectionary.org

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.

STEVENAGE DEANERY

This Thursday, 12th December, the priests of Stevenage Deanery will be gathering in Letchworth for reflection followed by their Christmas lunch. You would be very welcome to join them in Church from 12 noon, for a quiet time of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, followed by Midday Prayer of the Church and Benediction.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES LEAFLET

A leaflet detailing all services covering the Christmas period is now available at the back of church and on our website. Please be aware that the first batch of printed there is a typo: Sun 19th December, it should be, Thursday 19th December, of course. We won't reprint as it is an unnecessary waste and expense.

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.

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.

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 that the items you buy are green and ethical –workers properly paid, not tested on animals, sustainably sourced, local if possible. 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/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 7th to Sun 15th December 2024

Saturday 7th December

6pm: Michael Madden RIP

Sunday 8th December - Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am: People of the Parish

11.30am: Giovanni Negri RIP

Monday 9th December - Immaculate Conception

9.30am: Shiela Leslie RIP

Tuesday 10th December

10am: Funeral Mass for Mary Sutton RIP

Wednesday 11th December

9.30am: Anthony Burrows RIP

11am: Funeral Service for Anthony Burrows RIP

Thursday 12th December

9.30am: Michael Madden RIP

Friday 13th December

9.30am: Julie Cranston RIP

Saturday 14th December

9.30am: Bob & Connie Dull RIP

6pm: Michael & Breege Kerrane RIP

Sunday 15th December - Gaudete Sunday

9.30am: Denis Marrinan RIP

11.30am: People of the Parish

MASS BOOKINGS

All 2024 Masses have been booked. You are welcome to enquire about 2025 dates. 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.

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.

MASS ST ALBANS ABBEY

For over 40 years there has been a 12 noon RC Mass every Friday in the Anglican St Albans Abbey, followed by prayer at the tomb of St Alban. This Friday, 13th December, Fr Jimmy will preside for the Memorial of St Lucy. The Mass is being offered for the repose of the soul of Mgr. Philip Carroll who died earlier this year. Fr Phil was a priest of Hexham and Newcastle Diocese, a former General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and a friend of some of our parishioners. All are 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.

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.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS

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

Dates for your Diary:

Sat 7th Dec	Christmas Concert for Kanyike, Fortescue Hall, 2pm
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.