

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

Email: letchworth@rcdow.org.uk Website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/letchworth>

Parish Office Opening Hours: Monday 9.00-2.30pm, Tuesday 9.00 -2pm and Thursday

9.00-2.30pm The Parish telephone is currently OUT OF ORDER email only please

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 & Con-

fession Wednesday 10.00-10.45am; Benediction Thursday 10.45. Confession Saturday 5.15 to 5.45pm &

on request.



SUNDAY 14TH December 2025

GAUDETE SUNDAY

PSALTER WEEK 2; PARISH MASS BOOK YEAR A VOL 1 PAGE 88

WEEKDAY MASSES ARE HELD IN ST HILDA

THE DESERT SHALL REJOICE, AND BLOSSOM ABUNDANTLY

God's Word on this Gaudete, Rejoicing Sunday are full of hopeful joy in anticipation of Christ's arrival. This will bring an end to all sorrow and mourning because through Christ will come salvation and new life, as our Psalm expresses. St James calls us to be ready for this arrival. The Lord is near but to perceive the signs of his coming requires from us both patience and openness of eyes and ears. On this Third Sunday of Advent and during the week, let us imitate the desert coming to bloom. By eagerly receiving the Lord's life-giving and transformational grace, we will have the strength and courage to blossom abundantly in all the areas of our life. As Pilgrims of Hope towards the close of this Jubilee Year, we pray we may be bringers of joy, life and consolation to those who are feeling bowed down by the burdens of life. *Prego & Fr Jimmy*

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS

December 2025: For Christians in areas of conflict.

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope. *Amen*

These intentions were set by our late Pontiff on 31st December 2023, originally in Spanish. Pope Leo left the intentions as they were, as a mark of respect and also because it is customary for the newly elected Pontiff to finish the work started by his predecessor. The same goes for Apostolic Exhortations and any other work the dying (or retiring, in the case of Benedict) Pope isn't able to finish. It is finished by the new Pope. Leo's intentions, set in Italian on 1st July 2025, will run from January 2026 onwards. *Emma*

CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

Please speak to Fr Jimmy after Mass.

WALK WITH ME: Advent booklets are available. Suggested donation £1.50, this can be placed in the "Papers" section of the box in the porch. Thank you.

WELCOME

If you are new to our parish, please pop along to a coffee morning after Sunday Mass and meet some fellow parishioners. We are a friendly bunch and are always glad to see new faces. New parishioner's forms are available at the back of church.

RCIA NEWS

At the 9.30am Gaudete Sunday Mass, we will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, when Katherine and David will express publicly their desire to follow the way of Jesus and be baptised into the Catholic Church. We will also celebrate the Rite of Welcome for those Christians who are asking to be received into the Roman Catholic Church. Please pray for Hannah, Debbie, KC, Rebecca, Louise, Helen, Michael and Caitlin as we accept their intention and welcome them into our parish community.

FUNERAL NOTICE

With sadness, we announce the passing of Francesco 'Frank' Menga. The Funeral will take place on Wednesday 17th December at 10.30am. Please keep the family in your prayers at this difficult time. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY MASS

Parents of children (up to Year 2 included) who would like to take part in the Christmas procession on Christmas Eve, please get in touch with the office or let the Children's Liturgy Team know.

ADVENT CRIB APPEAL

Each year many parishes very kindly donate their Crib Offering to support the work of the Catholic Children's Society. This enables us to provide vital support for disadvantaged children and families. Thank you for helping disadvantaged children and families this Christmas. Donations can be made directly using this link: [Donate - Catholic Childrens Society](#) or you can use one of the envelopes available in our church.

CHRISTMAS POSTERS

KEEP CHRIST INTO CHRISTMAS posters are available at the back of church. Please take one and display it in your window. It is HIS birthday!

You can download the poster here: [KSC-](#)

[Christmas-Poster2020.pdf](#)

GARDEN HOUSE HOSPICE

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December a second collection in aid of our local hospice will be taken at the end of Mass. Please consider supporting this worthy cause.

CONFIRMATION CATECHISTS URGENTLY NEEDED

Please help the parish by joining Jon in the running of our Confirmation programme. Sessions are due to start in January. Contact the office to know more about the role.

STM CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Parents Association at our primary school have organised a Christmas raffle. There are some truly impressive prizes: Woburn Safari Park family Ticket; Laser tag vouchers; Willows Activity Park Tickets; Family Photography Package; The Grapevine voucher; Cultivo lounge voucher; Cut&Blow Dry at Dead Swanky and many other prizes. Please visit: <https://go.rallyup.com/christmas-2025/Campaign/Details> A QR code is available on the poster in the porch.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT FOR KANYIKE

Come and get a bit of festive cheer while raising much needed funds for the Kanyike Project on Saturday 13th December. The concert starts at 2pm at church, Refreshments in St Hilda. Tickets are £10 each. Contact Sue and Jacquie for info.

CALLING ALL SENIORS!

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School would like to invite seniors and older parishioners to join in the school's Christmas celebrations by coming to watch our Nativity Play performed by Year 1 and Year 2 pupils. It will be held on Monday 15th December in the school hall (Highfield, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3QB). Mince pies and hot drinks will be served at 1pm followed by the performance at 1.30pm - 2pm. Please do come and join in the Christmas fun and help our children prepare for Christmas! To note, this is the dress rehearsal of the play so families of the pupils involved will be invited by school to a separate performance.

VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie

Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of socks, flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheet and pen. 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 13th December to Sun 21st December 2025

Saturday 13th December

6pm: Vincenzo & Immacolata Forte RIP

Sunday 14th December—Gaudete Sunday

9.30am: People of the parish

11.30am: Bob & Connie Dull RIP

Monday 15th December

9.30am: Peter & Jess McQuillan RIP

Tuesday 16th December

9.30am: Marie Tobin RIP

Wednesday 17th December

10.30am: Funeral Mass Frank Menga RIP

Thursday 18th December

9.30am: Mabel & Jack Mills RIP

Friday 19th December

9.30am: Julie Cranston RIP

Saturday 20th December

9.30am: Fr Desmond Baker RIP

6pm: Luigi Rizzo RIP

Sunday 21st December—Advent 4

9.30am: People of the parish

11.30am: Bob & Connie Dull RIP

MASS BOOKINGS

All remaining Masses for 2025 have now been booked. Thank you for your understanding.

REPOSITORY

Mass Cards, cards celebrating the sacraments, new babies and other occasions are located in the St Hilda Room. Prices vary, please check the dividers and leave money in the honesty box.

ROSARY FOR PEACE:

Every Friday at 10am, after Mass

CHRISTIAN 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.

TODDLER PLAYGROUP: Every Thursday, term-time from 9.45am till 11am.

SASH GROUP

A friendly group for seniors to chat and spend time in company. Next meeting on 10th December 2025 at 2pm 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.

ECUMENICAL MARIAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Christians of different denominations hoping for unity in Christ meet every two years for four days of spiritual ecumenism. We learn from one another's Liturgies. To mark the 1700th anniversary of the great Council of Nicaea, the Ecumenical Marian Pilgrimage Trust are holding a four day retreat in Walsingham, from 10-14 March 2026. The full cost is £345 (incl. £60 accommodation deposit), or £60 for non-residents. A coach transfer from Kings Lynn and return is an additional £40. Further details of speakers, events and booking:

www.ecumenicalmarianpilgrimage.org.uk

A MESSAGE FOR ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN BORN BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2022 – AUGUST 2023

St Thomas More RC Primary School is currently accepting applications for Nursery places for the next academic year. The school welcomes applications from all families: Catholics, Christian, other faiths or no faith. The application process for Nursery places closes on Friday 6th March 2026. Applications should be made directly to the school. Nursery application packs can be downloaded from the school website at:

www.stmlethworth.co.uk Please ensure that all associated documents are contained within the completed submission. If you need any further help or have any queries about the above, please contact the School Office on 01462 620670 or email admin@stmlethworth.co.uk. Thank you.

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

Nora Ivers	Liz McCaul
Richard Parker	Dolores Connolly
Angela Horne	Rita Fletcher
Aron Haughton	Anthony Horne
George Marston	Philomena Johnson
Joe Fernandes	Margaret Haywood
Willie Hudson	Lynne Parker
Mary Wallace	Charles McCann
Phil Garvey-McGovern	Bob Pitman
Eric Bunson	Kristina Ullrich
Pauline Doran	Anne Moran
Battista	Maureen Breslin
Cathy McKenna	Mary O'Connor
Audrey Donnelly	Carol O'Brien
Gina Trasatti	Sienna
Harper Draper	

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.

Collection Total November: £8,516.94
This is inclusive of standing orders, contactless and collections. Thanks to your Gift Aid, the parish was able to claim an additional £12721.15 Thank you for your continued generosity.

THE LETCHWORTH FOODBANK : Tins of Ham; Tins of Salmon; Christmas Cakes, all sorts; Selection Boxes; Boxes of Chocolates; Small & Medium Christmas Cakes; Crackers for Cheese; Crisps; Nuts; Mince Pies; Bags for Life. No expired items please.

Dates for your Diary:

13th December	Concert For Kanyike 2pm at church
14th December	STM Christmas Market 10am to 2pm Fortescue Hall
15th December	Opus Dei Retreat for Men, St Hilda Room from 6.30pm

Our Catholic Schools

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

Tel: 01462 620670 www.strcjmi.herts.sch.uk

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

Tel: 01438 314643 www.jhn.herts.sch.uk

Safeguarding Officer

Kate Hewitson: 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.