

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 21ST December 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PSALTER WEEK 4; PARISH MASS BOOK YEAR A VOL 1 PAGE 90

WEEKDAY MASSES ARE HELD IN ST HILDA

LET THE EARTH BE OPENED AND BRING FORTH A SAVIOUR!

Advent, a time of waiting in joyful expectation, is drawing to a close. Our readings reveal our excitement as the time to welcome our Saviour is drawing near. In his prophecy, Isaiah is weary of the kings of Israel and foretells the child who is to be born of a virgin and named 'God with us'. Psalm 24 speaks of the all-powerful God, who created the earth. Those who follow him will receive blessings from the One who comes to save us. Paul proclaims Jesus descended from David in the flesh, but Son of God in the power of the Spirit and in his resurrection. Jesus repeats Isaiah's prophecy in the Gospel. It's through Joseph's trust in God, and by his obedience, God's plan is fulfilled with the birth of Jesus, Son of Mary and Son of God. As Pilgrims of Hope, we rejoice in this season of hope and the coming of the Light of the World. As the Jubilee Year draws to a close, we might consider how, despite the often tragic state of our world, we can still place our trust in Jesus Christ our Saviour. *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.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY MASS

Children (up to Year 2 included) are invited to take part in the procession at the opening of the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve (5.30pm). Children are welcome to wear their nativity costumes. Please drop off in the Hilda room at 5.15pm so children can line up and be given a figurine or a flame candle to carry.

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](#)

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.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT FOR KANYIKE

Thank you to all who supported this wonderful initiative. An amazing £450 was raised. This amount will be doubled by the Big Give campaign, providing the Kanyike Project much needed funds to update and maintain the St Michael's Health centre, to train women to make soap, to bring sanitation and literacy to this part of Uganda. The project sets small and achievable goals so it is particularly satisfying to see them achieved and the

lives of the villagers improved in very tangible ways. If you would like to keep up to date with what goes on, please visit www.kanyikeproject.org.uk. Thank you for your generosity so far.

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.

OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note the office is closed from Monday 22nd December and will reopen on Thursday 8th January for annual leave.

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.

THE SURPRISE

Watch The Surprise, a wonderful play by Catholic author GK Chesterton this Christmas. Monday 22nd December 3pm online www.ewtn.co.uk or on Sky586. For GK Chesterton Prayers see: www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk

SASH GROUP

A friendly group for seniors to chat and

spend time in company. Next meeting on January 2026 at 2pm in St Hilda Room.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 20th December to Sun 28th December 2025

Saturday 20th December

6pm: Luigi Rizzo RIP

Sunday 21st December—Advent 4

9.30am: People of the parish

11.30am: Bob & Connie Dull RIP

Monday 22nd December

9.30am: Fr Desmond Baker RIP

Tuesday 23rd December

9.30am: Pat Whyte RIP

Wednesday 24th December

9.30am: Holy Souls

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

5.30pm: People of the parish

8.30pm: People of the parish

Thursday 25th December

10.30am: People of the parish

Friday 26th December—St Stephen

10am: Altar Servers INT

Saturday 27th December

10am: Bob & Connie Dull RIP

6pm: Mike Dwyer RIP

Sunday 28th December—Holy Family

9.30am: People of the parish

11.30am: Dermot and Theresa Doyle 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.

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

STEVENAGE PARISH

Following consultation with the Council of Priests in accordance with Canon 515 §2, and conscious of the views expressed by the priests of the local Deanery and the lay faithful of the above named parishes, I, Vincent Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, have determined that the spiritual welfare and pastoral needs of the faithful of the parish of Bedwell, the faithful of the parish of Old Town, and the faithful of the parish of Shephall will be better served by merging these three parishes into one new parish.

Therefore, I hereby decree that the parish of Bedwell, the parish of Old Town and the parish of Shephall are united to form a new parish. [...]

The name of the new parish shall be called 'Stevenage'. The territorial boundaries of the new parish shall be the combined boundaries of the former parishes Bedwell, Old Town and Shephall.

In accordance with Canon 524, I appoint Reverend Michael Doherty SDS as the parish priest of the new parish of Stevenage, and Reverend Robert Smialek as Assistant Priest in accordance with Canon 524.

This Decree shall be effective from 1 January 2026, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and shall be communicated to the parishioners of Bedwell, Old Town and Shephall. This decree shall be published on the diocesan website.

Cardinal Vincent Gerard Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

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	Margaret Murphy
John Moylan	

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:

Christmas Masses	24th December 5.30pm & 8.30pm 25th December 10.30am
St Stephen's Day, 26th December	Mass at 10am
Monday 5th January 2026	Confirmation Parents' Meeting, 7pm, St Hilda Room

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.