



Parish Priest: Fr Philip Knights
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Parish Secretary: Sharon O' Toole

Parish Office is open:

Tues 9:30am – 12:30pm

Wed 9:30am – 12:30pm

Fri 9:30am – 12:30pm

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Mass this Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent (C) 16th December 2018

Today's Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-18 The prophet tells the people of Israel to rejoice for the Lord will save them and be in their midst.

Philippians 4:4-7 Paul tells his congregation to rejoice always for the Lord is at hand.

Luke 3:10-18 In the face of the coming judgement, John the Baptist explains how his questioners must behave.

Mass this week

Saturday 15th 6:30pm

Sunday 16th 9:00am

10:30am *Link Mass*

Tuesday 18th 7:30pm

Advent Weekday

Wednesday 19th 9:15am

Advent Weekday

Thursday 20th 9:15am

Advet Weekday

Friday 21st 9:15am

St Peter Canisius

Intention

Anne Sarno (anniv)

For Our Parishioners

Peter & Margaret Murray (RIP)

The Breedy Family (Intention)

Fred Bristow (RIP)

Fr Michael Lambert (RIP)

Stephen Nolan (anniv)

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday 3pm to 6pm this weekend , 5:45pm on 22nd December or by appointment

The Sanctuary Lamp burns In Thanksgiving for The Blessed Sacrament

Last Week's Offertory This amounted to £484.39
Many thanks for all your generosity. We also receive approx £600 each week in bank standing orders from parishioners. **Text Giving** If you wish to support the parish by giving £5 via your mobile 'phone, just text PARISH ROYST to 70800.

Christmas Music and Musicians Thank you to all who have so generously helped. We could still do with more musicians and signers at all the Christmas Masses, Please let Fr Philip know if you are available and we can share our plans to help you practise.

The Giving Tree Thank you for your generosity. Please note that we cannot accept any more gifts after this weekend.

Rosary We meet at 9:15am on Tuesday mornings in the Church for a group recitation of the Rosary. All welcome.

The House of Prayer meets on Thursday mornings, 10 till 12, at 52 Cherry Drive. New members most welcome.

Help Needed Please could Servers, Sacristans, Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist kindly volunteer for the Mass you will attend? There is a sign-up sheet on the church noticeboard or one in the Sacristy for servers. We continue to have a shortage of sacristans, readers, Eucharistic ministers and cleaners. We could also do with more people joining our team who prepare our weekly intercessions. If you would be interested in joining any of these rotas or would like to know more information, please contact Fr Philip. We also still need a wider pool of counters, especially those able to help on a Monday morning. Please see Fr Philip if you can help.

CWL Christmas Raffle Many thanks for all your support for our Christmas Raffle and recent coffee morning. A total of £197 was made on the sale of raffle tickets. Congratulations to the winners, who have now all been notified. We have made a total of £1,020 this past year, which has all been given to chaities, so very many thanks for your continued support.

Westminster Year Book 2019 The Diocese apologises for the later arrival of the yearbook. However, they are now available for £4.50 each.

The Justice and Peace Group will again be supporting the Action by Christians Against Torture (ACAT) Christmas card campaign. The cards and letters you write do make a difference to prisoners separated and isolated. They bring hope and encouragement in the knowledge that someone knows and cares and that they are being upheld in prayer. These appeals do make a difference, prisoners are freed and conditions are improved. ACAT was formed in 1984 by the British Council of Churches and numbers Cardinal Vincent Nicholls and Archbishop Desmond Tutu amongst its patrons. ACAT's aim is to work, as Christians, for the abolition of torture worldwide.

Simbang Gabi - Filipino Holy Night Masses The Stevenage Filipino Community invite you to a series of Holy Night Masses, at St Joseph's Church, Stevenage, starting Saturday 15th December to 23rd December, 8pm. This series of Holy Night Masses is a traditional Filipino event called 'Simbang Gabi' or 'Misa de Gallo'. It is a devotional practice celebrated during Advent. After each Mass there will be traditional Filipino foods and fellowship. Most Masses will be celebrated by visiting Filipino priests. Masses will be vibrant, reverent and lively - do come and join them and celebrate Advent in a Filipino way. All welcome!

CAFOD World Gifts Christmas is coming! But how

can you choose unusual charity presents for your friends and family? Which ethical gifts can make a difference to children living in poverty? CAFOD World Gifts (<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>) make the perfect gift solution. Why not pick a perfect Stocking filler like the Romero cross, Divine chocolate coins (now in dark chocolate too). The Happy queen bee and Emergency water gifts also make great Secret Santa presents. These ethical presents all include a donation to CAFOD that can be used wherever it is needed most. Catalogues can be found at the back of church.

Coin Collection: The school and church will be jointly fundraising to help with the celebrations of the Church Centenary and the school's 50 years. We hope to create a large outline of both the Church and the School, then fill them in with coins; these can be either UK or overseas coins. There is a bucket at the back of church to collect your donations. Thank you!

Parish Safeguarding Representative Tim Shepherd has been appointed our new Parish Safeguarding Representative.

Church Cleaning The Christmas Church clean will take place on Thursday 20th December at 10am. If you have some time to spare, your help would be greatly appreciated. All welcome.

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

Monday 24th December

The Children's Vigil Mass 5pm
(preceded by Carol Singing from 4:30pm)
Please note that this is arranged for children and their families. If you are not bringing young children please come to one of the other Christmas Masses.

The Mass of the Night 9:30pm
(preceded by carol Singing from 9pm)

Christmas Day

Tuesday 25th December

Mass of the Dawn 9am

Mass of the Day 10:30am

