



Parish Priest: Fr Philip Knights
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<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/royston/>

Parish Secretary: Sharon O' Toole
The Parish Office is open:

Tues 9:30am - 12:30pm

Wed 9:30am - 12:30pm

Fri 9:30am - 12:30pm

royston@rcdow.org.uk

facebook @roystoncatholic

Coronavirus Guidelines Given that there have been cases now confirmed in schools in Letchworth and Stevenage, and elsewhere in Hertfordshire, London and Essex, and that the NHS has declared a Level 4 incident, we are now implementing the following (Stage 2) precautionary measures in line with advice from the Diocese and Bishops' Conference:

- Please can everyone sanitise their hands as they enter Church for Mass
- Communion will be in one kind and will only be given on the hand
- Any physical "sign of peace" has been suspended
- The holy water stoups have been removed

Further information and a detailed guide are available at <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/advice-regarding-coronavirus/> This information will be updated regularly as circumstances change.

Mass this Sunday: Second Sunday in Lent (A) 8th March 2020

Today's Readings

Genesis 12:1-4 Abraham is called by the Lord to leave his home and travel to a new land where he and his descendants will be blessed.

2 Timothy 1:8-10 St Paul had to bear hardships for the sake of the Gospel, relying on the power of God, and invites us to be willing to do the same.

Matthew 17:1-9 Jesus is transfigured in heavenly glory, along with the prophets Moses and Elijah.

Mass This Week

Saturday 7th 6:30pm
Sunday 8th 9:00am
10:30am

Tuesday 10th 7:30pm

Wednesday 11th 9:15am

Thursday 12th 9:15am

Friday 13th 9:15am

Saturday 14th 11:00am

Intention

Seamus Little (anniversary)
For Our Parishioners
Dennis O'Brien (RIP)

Lent Penitential Service

Lent Weekday Peter Casapiere (RIP)

Lent Weekday Dorothea Teh (Intention)

Lent Weekday Carson Robert Graham (RIP)

First reconciliation

Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:45pm or by appointment

The Sanctuary Lamp burns In Memory of Martin Anderson

Last Week's Offertory This amounted to £356.17
Many thanks for all your generosity. **Text Giving** If you wish to support the parish by giving £5 via your mobile 'phone, just text PARISH ROYST to 70800.

Please note there will **not** be a Mass this Tuesday evening, but we will have our Lent Penitential service at 7:30pm.

Parish Pastoral Council our next meeting will be on Wednesday March 18th at 7:30pm in the Sacristy. Among items for discussion will be to update our 'Culture of Safeguarding', to review our responses to the Coronavirus and to work towards planning for the next five years. Any other items for planning please could they be given to Peter Brazier or Fr Philip by next weekend.

Foodbank A new foodbank is opening in Royston based at Royston Evangelical Church. We have been asked to contribute food to this. It would be really very helpful if we had a volunteer willing to transport any food we collect to the Evangelical Church. If you are willing to do this please let Fr Philip know.

CWL Annual Review Meeting The CWL Annual Review meeting takes place on Monday night in the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm. All members please attend, if possible.

Lent Lunches will be in our Parish centre for the next 4 Wednesdays, 12noon to 1:30pm

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Collection this weekend
CAFOD works with poor communities overseas on our behalf, helping them to tackle poverty and injustice. Last Friday was Family Fast Day, please return your CAFOD envelope this weekend. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2020 This weekend, please take a donation leaflet as you leave Mass. The Appeal contributes to three mission areas of the Church: Marriage and Family Life, Youth and Evangelisation, and Service in Society. The Cardinal has launched a new programme to alleviate food poverty, which affects people in every part of the Diocese. Your gift could help open up schools during the holidays – a time of hunger for many children who depend on the free meals they get at school. At the new school holiday activity clubs, children can have fun, help make a healthy meal to share, and families take home food to help them through this difficult time. You can support this appeal by donating, volunteering and remembering the work in your prayers. Please visit CardinalsLentenAppeal.org.uk for more information. Thank you for your generosity.

Alpha Course We still need people to help (to move furniture, to prepare food, to acts 'hosts' and to be prayerful supporters). If you are interested please let Fr Philip know as soon as possible.. There will be a **training session at 7:30pm on Wednesday April 1st.**

Student Cross This is a *Cri De Coeur*; we have only managed to definitely place 2 of our Pilgrims! Last year we had about 25 Pilgrims and managed to place all of them as we have done in previous years; we are still waiting confirmation of this year's number. As a Parish we are very hospitable and the Pilgrims really do appreciate it. Time is now pressing and I am not around after Thursday 2nd April so must have everyone sorted out by then. If we cannot provide bed and breakfast we may have to accommodate them in the Parish Centre, and after a day's walking carrying the Cross, even if the weather is kind to them, it would not be particularly comfortable. Please do contact me on 07511 009472 or marion.kett@btinternet.com as soon as possible.

The House of Prayer will next meet on Thursday 12th March, 10 till 12, at 52 Cherry Drive.

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10th - 18th March 2020 at **St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead** and at **Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool**. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please write to Novena Director, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT, or email novenamhm@gmail.com

Planned Giving 2020-21 The boxes of envelopes are being prepared for the next financial year. If you would like to start giving by envelope, switch to or start a standing order, or sign up for Gift Aid, please contact Lawrie Fernee (Lfernee@BTInternet.com, 01763 243395), Stella Faulkner or Sharon in the Parish Office.

Cleaning Rota Monday – Jo Friday – Mary & Pat



Second Sunday of Lent

Covenants continue to feature in our Lenten journey. In our Old Testament Reading this week we come before the Covenant of God with Abram (who will be renamed Abraham). Abram is blessed and is promised that he will be a blessing. He sets out into the uncertain future reliant on the promise of God. In our Lent let us take time to recognise and give thanks for the many blessings we each have received and are receiving. And let us resolve to be a blessing for others.