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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

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<https://www.Instagram.com/roystoncatholic>

### Mass this Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent (B) 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

#### Today's Readings

*Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11* When humanity truly flourishes, the earth flourishes.

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24* Human beings need to pray, like they need to eat and drink.

*John 1:6-8. 19-28* We can say what God is not, we can say what the Christ is not, but it is God who reveals God to us, first in the humanity of Christ and finally in the vision of his Godhead.

#### Mass This Week

Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	
	10:30am	
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Advent Weekday
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	Advent Weekday
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	Advent Weekday
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	Advent Weekday

#### Intention

Steve Conroy (Intention)  
For Our Parishioners  
Mary Burke (RIP)  
Private Intention  
Those in Care Homes  
Those in Hospital  
Key workers

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** by appointment only

**The Sanctuary Lamp** burns for Refugees

**Exposition and Private Prayer** from 5:30pm on Saturday

## Christmas 2020

### Christmas is happening!

However, we are legally and morally obliged to celebrate Christmas this year within the sorts of restrictions we have become accustomed to. It is our legal and moral duty to stay Covid secure and keep one another safe.

- It will be **necessary** to book in before any of the Christmas masses. This can be done online at <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/royston/events> and we will seek to have a laptop available in Church over the next two weekends in order to help those who may find booking in online difficult.

- The Children's Nativity Celebration will be on our YouTube channel and links to this will be on our parish website and Facebook page.
- There will be a Vigil Mass of Christmas at 6pm on Christmas Eve (NB this is **NOT** our usual Children's Mass), The Mass of the Night will be at 9pm. The Mass of Christmas Dawn will be at 9am and the Mass of Christmas Day will be at 10:30am. *Do not come to any of these on spec. Only people who have booked in will be admitted. **Please let everyone know this***
- Please enter the Church via the Sacristy and use the hand sanitiser provided on entering the church and wear a face covering, over nose and mouth, all the time whilst in Church

**Do not come to church if you are feeling unwell.**

**Setting up the Church for Christmas** There will be a work party at 10am on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December to set up everything for Christmas. This will include moving furniture to maximise our safe seating capacity, setting up the crib and decorating the Christmas Tree.

**Offertory** Many thanks for all your generosity. We are still advised against receiving cash or cheques. We have installed contactless giving in the Sacristy. Please, if you can, give electronically via your bank or <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/royston/donate/>

**Volunteers** Thank you to all who have helped keep things going. The combined Advent and Christmas volunteer rota is in the Sacristy and online at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D2vS4wHz9x3NLTqppgHbYkXy-i-WF-rSOGygxWMkijE/edit?usp=sharing> There are still a few gaps which it would much appreciated if we could fill.

**Servers** we always welcome new servers both adults and children. There will be an introduction for new servers at 2pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Please let Fr Philip know if you would like to take part.

**Christmas Tree** We invite people to contribute to our usual "giving tree" initiative. Please note, all gifts must be in by December 20<sup>th</sup>. There is a basket in the Sacristy to receive any decorated wooden baubles and also a few (and getting ever fewer) spare wooden blank baubles available.

**The Parish Office** Sharon will be in the parish office on the usual days and times. However, we are **NOT** open to visitors so please only contact by post, phone or email.

**Fr Philip on retreat** Going away on retreat proved impossible in 2020 so I have booked in to an online retreat from Dec 13th-18th (I had hoped to do this earlier in the year but they were fully booked) This does mean I shall be physically in the parish and offering the usual masses, but not otherwise available except in emergency. Please can you avoid any other 'business' with me during this period.

**The Children's Liturgy Team** is happy to announce that we will be re-starting Children's Liturgy meetings, this time on Zoom. Our first session will be on 13th December at 10:0am. If you would like to register your interest, please email [childrenliturgyroyston@gmail.com](mailto:childrenliturgyroyston@gmail.com). Details on how to join the session will be sent to those who have expressed an interest. We have been missing you all and hopefully see you soon (even if on Zoom)!

**Doorstep Carols** To join in, go to <https://www.doorstepcarols.co.uk/> to print off the words to the carols they have chosen. On 16th December at 6pm, tune into BBC Radio Cambridgeshire (96.0 FM) to hear the carols live and use your song and music sheets to sing and/or play along to the radio accompaniment. If you go outside or onto your doorstep (providing you are not currently self-isolating) you can sing with your neighbours. Please make sure that you are socially distanced!

**Westminster Year Book 2021 (containing the 2021 Liturgical Calendar)** Copies are now available priced at £4.50. If you would like a copy, please see Fr Philip or contact the Parish Office.

**Sycamore Advent Course** Sycamore is offering an Advent Course which can be found at <https://www.sycamore.fm/pathways/b-formation-pathways/advent-course/> Each Sycamore session includes professionally produced videos, testimonies, discussion questions, and online follow-up resources.

**Advent and Christmas resources** I am please to share with you the Advent and Christmas newsletter from the Diocesan Agency for Evangelisation. This includes ideas for the 'domestic Church' such as the Blessing of a Christmas Tree, the Blessing of a Crib, and Grace before Christmas Dinner. This can be found at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/13Xd0\\_67g7jSP1z6kgEGPq38bff73IfEe/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/13Xd0_67g7jSP1z6kgEGPq38bff73IfEe/view?usp=sharing)

**Safeguarding** Keeping everyone safe is a vital part of our Good News. Our Bishops are committed to learning from past errors and moving forward making the wellbeing of all an essential part of our practice. Following the 'Elliot Review' published in November, the Bishops have appointed Carol Lawrence to oversee the immediate implementation of wide-ranging reforms to safeguarding structures and processes in the Church. More information on this may be found at <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/implementing-reforms-to-safeguarding-structures-and-processes-in-the-catholic-church/>

**Christians Against Torture** The newsletter insert contains a list from the CAT annual appeal, inviting us to send a message of greetings and hope to prisoners of conscience. Please consider including one of these prisoners in your Christmas preparations.

**Holy Fathers Prayer Intentions for December: *For a Life of Prayer*** We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.