

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

6, Melbourn Road The Parish Office is open:

Royston Tues 9:30am - 12:30pm

Herts SG 8 7DB Wed 9:30am - 12:30pm *Not open this Friday*

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**Mass this Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent (B) 20th December 2020**

**Today’s Readings**

*2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16* David is getting ready for his next big project. Having overcome his enemies, he wonders if he now needs to build a house for the ark of God. God, however, has different ideas of greatness.

*Romans 16:25-27* In his letter to the Romans, Paul explains that the mystery which has puzzled generations of seekers of truth has now been resolved. The wisdom of God has been revealed in the person of Jesus.

*Luke 1:26-38* We see two sides of Mary’s character. She is a meek and humble servant of the Lord but she is also a strong and courageous young woman, able to ask sensible questions, even of an angel, the messenger of God.

**Mass This Week -*please note some changes to our usual pattern* *Intention***

Saturday 19th 6:30pm Maura Hutchins (RIP)

Sunday 20th 9:00am For Our Parishioners

10:30am

Tuesday 22nd **9:15am** Advent Weekday For People of Royston

***Please note the necessity of booking in beforehand for the Christmas Masses***

Thursday 24th 6:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass For families

 9:00pm Christmas Mass of The Night For Heath Care Workers

***We intend to record this mass and post it on our YouTube channel. It should be available by 11pm- cyberspace permitting!***

Friday 25th 9:00am Mass of Christmas Dawn For the lonely

***We intend to livestream this mass on our facebook page***

 10:30am Mass of Christmas Day For refugees

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** by appointment only **The Sanctuary Lamp** burns for a Private Intention

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

**Christmas 2020 is happening!**

However, we are legally and morally obliged to celebrate Christmas this year within Covid secure restrictions. It is our duty to keep one another safe. It will be **necessary** to book in before any of the Christmas masses. **The Christmas Eve Masses are already fully booked!** At the time of writing there are still spaces for the Christmas Day morning masses and throughout the Christmas Octave until January 1st. Please note there is no Christmas obligation this year and if you can spread out your Christmas communions over the Octave that would be very helpful. *Every Day of the Eight Days is a celebration of Christmas Day.*

The booking-in page is at <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/royston/events> and we will seek to have a laptop available in Church over the weekend. The Children’s Nativity Celebration will be on our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdZIJ9nc7L8fV8RJ0xafoEQ>) and links will be on our parish website and Facebook page. We will try to make available other Christmas masses on these portals. *Do not come to any Christmas Mass on spec. Only people who have booked in will be admitted. Please let everyone know this****.* Please do not come to Church if you are unwell.**

**Last Call for Nativity Pictures** Thank you to those who have already sent in pictures on the theme of the Nativity for our Children’s celebration. The service will be compiled on Tuesday afternoon, so please could any more pictures please be in by Tuesday at Noon. This call is primarily for our young artists but any adults who wish to contribute are very welcome too!

**Setting up the Church for Christmas** There will be a work party at 10am on Tuesday 22nd 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/1D2vS4wHz9x3NLTqppqHbYkXy-i-WF-rSOGygxWMkjyE/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 22nd December. Please let Fr Philip know if you would like to take part. There is sign up sheet for servers over Christmas in the Sacristy. Please indicate your availability here or e-mail Fr Philip. (NB servers will need to have booked in to any masses they are participating in.)

**The Parish Office** Sharon will be in the parish office 22nd and 23rd December. However, we are **NOT** open to visitors so please only contact by post, phone or email.

**The Children's Liturgy Team** has restarted their Children's Liturgy meetings, this time on Zoom. If you would like to register your interest, please email childrenliturgyroyston@gmail.com. We have been missing you all and hopefully see you soon (even if on Zoom)!

**Christmas Wreaths** Thank you to everyone who took part in and helped to make the Christmas Wreath Making workshop on 12 December such a fun event. Particular thanks go to Pat Grote for running the workshop, the Price family for their technical expertise, Gemma Usher for the amazing posters and to Jane Knights. The workshop raised £290 for the parish. You can see some of the fantastic wreaths that were made on the parish Facebook page. Thank you all again for your support.

**Christmas Tree** Thank you to those who have contributed to the *Giving Tree*. The closing time for gifts is 11:30am on Sunday 20thDecember.

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.

**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.

**Journey through the Christmas Octave** The Agency for Evangelisation has put together resources which provide a guided celebration of the Christmas Octave, from 25th December to 1st January. Find the links for each day at <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/news/every-day-is-christmas---a-journey-through-the-christmas-octave2020/>

**Journeying with the Bible** Now online, the series of talks presented by Fr Javier Ruis-Ortiz PhD and Sr Monica Cardona STL will look at the story of Jesus according to Mark, Matthew and Luke on 12th January from 7pm to 8.30pm. Register at catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

**Sunday of the Word of God** In anticipation of the Sunday of the Word of God on 24th January 2021, the Agency for Evangelisation has put together resources which can be found at <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/evangelisation/the-godwho-speaks/sunday-of-the-word-of-god-2021/>

**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/>

**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.