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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

royston@rcdow.org.uk

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Mass this Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent (C) 12th December 2021

Today's Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-18 The prophet looks forward to a time of joy as he awaits the coming of the Messiah.

Philippians 4:4-7 Trust in Jesus Christ and you will find true happiness.

Luke 3:10-18 John the Baptist announces the coming of the Christ, the Anointed One, and baptism by water and the Holy Spirit.

Mass This Week

Saturday 11th 6:30pm

Sunday 12th 9:00am

10:30am

Tuesday 14th 7:30pm

St John of The Cross

Wednesday 15th 9:15am

Advent Weekday

Thursday 16th 9:15am

Advent Weekday

Friday 17th 9:15am

Advent Weekday

Intention

For Travellers

For Our Parishioners

Theresa Piper (anniversary)

Contemplatives

Refugees

Health Care Workers

Our Keeping of Christmas

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for a private intention

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be celebrated during exposition (usually 5:30pm Saturday, this Saturday 3-6pm) or by appointment.

Christmas Our provisional plan is to be as open as possible, whilst avoiding over-crowding in Church. We are using the online booking-in system for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses to limit numbers at any one Mass.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/royston/events/>

Please book in ahead of time to ensure a space for you and your family. Please also let Fr Philip know by e-mail if you wish to cancel a booking. If you find it difficult to book in online, please see Fr Philip after any Sunday Mass.

We urgently need volunteers to enable these to happen. If you can help please sign up at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p5ovh2DkBNyjkWp1B6xU-aeWbh9_N6gxOIDC_l8ZBQc/edit?usp=sharing

Friday 24th December

Children's Vigil Mass: 5pm Mass (Carol Singing from 4:30pm) **Please note this is very nearly full already.**

Mass of the Night: 10pm Mass (Carol Singing from 9:30pm)

Saturday 25th December

Mass of the Dawn 9am

Mass of the Day 10:30am

Sunday 26th December

Mass of the Holy Family **10am**

Wednesday 29th December: Solemnity of St

Thomas of Canterbury Mass 12 noon

Saturday 1st January Solemnity of Mary Mother of God 12 noon

Sunday 2nd January normal weekend masses.

Latest advice from the Bishops' Conference:

"With respect to the current situation with the omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in our churches:

- That people displaying any symptoms of covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.
- That hand sanitiser is available to those attending the Church.
- That there is a strong recommendation for people to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) during the act of worship.
- That there is good ventilation and air throughput in the building; in this case, because of climatic conditions, it would be important to remind people to wrap up well in church!
- That a positive message encouraging people to get vaccinated and have the booster jab when able is delivered whenever possible.
- That people who are engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick and vulnerable, should take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so.

There is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of transmission is through breath and nasal aerosols, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small indeed. As such, the strict regimes of church cleaning that were recommended at the beginning of the opening of churches for public worship are no longer necessary. General church cleaning is sufficient."

Government Plan B Since the above was sent the wearing of face coverings in places of worship has become mandatory again. This makes little practical difference as we were already requesting/strongly urging face coverings. From December 10th this has become a legally enforced requirement (with some exemptions).

CWL Coffee Morning The CWL will be holding their Christmas coffee morning after both masses on Sunday, and will be serving coffee, tea and mince pies. The Christmas raffle will be drawn in the hall after the 10:30am Mass.

Royston Foodbank are requesting: mince pies, Christmas puddings, Christmas cakes, stollen, shortbread biscuits, tinned/boxed chocolate biscuits, packeted stuffing, packeted bread sauce, longlife milk, tinned meat, especially tinned ham.

Safe in Faith Counselling Network Launched to help those experiencing domestic abuse.

Safe in Faith is creating a network of professionals such as counsellors and psychotherapists, who come from a Faith background and want to develop their skills to offer counselling that can reflect a survivor's spiritual beliefs. Alongside this is a programme of training for clergy and religious sisters within the Catholic Church. Eventually there will be a directory of counsellors and pastoral workers who can support victims of domestic abuse.

Read the full story on the Caritas website here <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/launch-of-new-safe-in-faith-counselling-network-1279.php>

If you know someone who might be interested in joining the network or receiving training please contact safeinfaith@rcdow.org.uk

There are useful links on this page for anyone experiencing domestic abuse and needing help <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/useful-links.php>

And a useful booklet on responding to domestic abuse from the National Board of Catholic Women

here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U29ZeNc1EO_EB55APf_Ja60uF2adMtp/view

Christmas Voices from the Holy Land- Online

Zoom sessions 8-9pm Thursday 16th, 23rd

December and Tuesday 4th January 2022

Register at <mailto:annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk> to receive the Zoom link.

Paper copies at £9.99 may be ordered from <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/shop/advent-book-2021>

Digital copies at £7.99 from https://issuu.com/fhloffice/docs/cv_complete_digital?fr=sM2EzYTQzNjYxMDE

'The New Testament for the Perplexed' – series of 5 online talks by Fr John Deehan Thursday 13th, 20th, 27th January, 3rd and 10th February, 7.00pm.

Please book by Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-god-who-speaks-the-new-testament-for-the-perplexed-tickets-221344626737> or contact Anna at annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk

Holy Fathers Prayer Intentions for December

For Catechists Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.