



Parish Priest: Fr Philip Knights
6, Melbourn Road
Royston
Herts SG 8 7DB

philipknights@rcdow.org.uk

01763 243117

<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

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

Mass this Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent (B) 17th December 2023

Today's Readings

Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11 This radiant song of praise reminds us that our experience of human love is a foretaste of the joy promised to those who open their hearts to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 We are reminded that we can trust God to be alive and active in our world and in our lives, come what may.

John 1:6-8. 19-28 The story of John the Baptist reminds us that we also are called to give witness to Jesus and prepare a way for him wherever we are.

Mass This Week

Saturday 16 th	6:30pm	
Sunday 17 th	9:00am	
	10:30am	
Tuesday 19 th	6:00pm	Advent Weekday
Wednesday 20 th	9:15am	Advent Weekday
Thursday 21 st	9:15am	Advent Weekday
Friday 22 nd	9:15am	Advent Weekday

Intentions

Margaret Ginty (anniversary)
For Our Parishioners
Mary Wilson (RIP)
Families
Fr Desmond Baker (RIP)
Fr David Palmer (RIP)
Those Travelling

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for Peace

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be celebrated during exposition (4:30pm this Saturday) or by appointment.

Advent Giving Tree We are again collecting presents for homeless people and others in special need this Christmas. Please note that we will need all gifts to be **in by this Sunday** December 17th in order to distribute by Christmas.

Christmas Volunteers Thank you to all who have already signed up – and signed up so early (*Fr Philip is purring contentedly because of your kind co-operation*). There are still a few spaces which we need to fill for the Christmas masses.

Christmas Flowers There will be a retiring collection after all the Masses this weekend to pay towards the flowers in church for Christmas.

The Westminster Yearbook 2023-2024 has now been published (not quite in time for Advent Sunday but then only God is perfect.) Copies are available in the Sacristy, price £5.00.

SVP Vinnie Packs The SVP are distributing **over 10,000 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237**. Thank you so much for your support.

2025 Jubilee preparation: We have been asked in 2024 to focus on Prayer as we prepare for the Jubilee year. The Diocesan Agency for Evangelisation is offering a **Lent Programme 2024: "We Dare To Say"** This is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions each based on a line from the Lord's Prayer. The course has been specially prepared for the Year of Prayer, see poster for more details. As Ash Wednesday is only nine weeks away, we need to get our resource orders in very soon. Please can you sign up on the sheet in the Sacristy if you would like to part. We must order booklets by the 8th January! So please sign up asap.

Christmas Offering If you are a taxpayer, please use a Gift Aid envelope. There should be a few in each pew.

Crib Offering 2023 Please consider donating at the Crib to support the Catholic Children's Society. The CCS brings God's message of hope and love to disadvantaged children and families. They are helping local families in crisis who are struggling to put food on the table, keep warm and provide a safe home for their children. There are many vulnerable families in need of support and our parish will be donating our Crib Offering to support this important work. You can donate at the Crib or via their website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib Gift Aid envelopes are available in the Sacristy. Thank you for your support.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for December For Persons with Disabilities We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



Christmas 2023

Dec 23rd and Dec 24th. **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Saturday 6:30pm Mass

Sunday 9am Mass (NB no 10:30am Mass)

Dec 24th and 25th **The Nativity of the Lord**

Vigil Mass of Christmas 5 pm (4.30 pm carols) *please note this is the mass at which we can get over-crowded. Whilst we do want to welcome everybody, there is only so much room available in our compact Church. Please prioritise making space for young families at this mass, and if you can please come to one of the three other Christmas masses.*

The Mass of Christmas Night: 9.30 pm (9pm carols),

The Mass of Christmas Dawn Monday 25th: 9am

The Mass of Christmas Day 10.30 am

