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The Parish Office is open:

Tues 9:30am - 12:30pm

Wed 9:30am - 12:30pm

Fri 9:30am - 12:30pm

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Mass this Sunday: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) 14th January 2024

Today's Readings

1 Samuel 3:3-10. 19 God called Samuel and he responded in freedom.

1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20 Anyone who follows the Lord shares his Holy Spirit.

John 1:35-42 Andrew, John and Simon Peter came to learn about Jesus through spending time with him.

Mass This Week

Saturday 13th 6:30pm

Sunday 14th 9:00am

10:30am

Tuesday 16th 6:00pm Weekday

Wednesday 17th 9:15am Weekday

Thursday 18th 9:15am Weekday

Friday 19th 9:15am Weekday

Intentions

Julie Hunt (Intention)

For Our Parishioners

Peace

Mgr John Klyberg (RIP)

Christiane Rose Parry (anniversary)

Fr Robin Whitney (RIP)

Gerard Brazier (anniversary)

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for the intention of Julie Hunt

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be celebrated during exposition (5:30pm Saturday) or by appointment.

Please note that it is our intention to livestream the 9am Sunday Mass and most of the weekday Masses.

Peace Sunday This Sunday has been designated a special day for prayer for peace in world. With so many places at war and facing disruption is important that we do pray for peace in Ukraine, in the Holy Land, and in every place where human flourishing is threatened by violence.

For his theme for the World Day of Peace in 2024, Pope Francis has chosen 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. Whilst this might seem a strangely technical theme, we do need to think about the consequences of the advances in AI for peace and justice.

Read: Pope Francis's message at

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/artificial-intelligence-and-peace/>

Pope Francis also addressed members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See last week on January 8th. He gave them a profound survey of the troubling lack of peace in so many places at this time. His address may be read at:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/events/event.dir.html/content/vaticanevents/en/2024/1/8/corpo-diplomatico.html>

Sunday of the Word of God. Next Sunday has a special focus on our encounter with God and in his mercy through Holy Scripture. We will renew or commission readers at the masses next weekend. Any interested in taking up this ministry are invited to contact Fr Philip.

Week of Prayer For Christian Unity 2024 This year, the major event for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Royston and District will be a social get together. We shall be hosting a "Bring and Share Lunch" on Sunday 21st January in the parish hall from 12 noon.

- Arrive from 12 noon for tea and coffee
- At 12:30pm there will be a brief unity prayer service followed by a shared lunch and the opportunity to talk together, share fellowship and celebrate our shared faith

Please make sure it is in your diary, and do please come along, and bring your friends and family. We kindly request that you bring a savoury or sweet contribution for the "Bring and Share Lunch".

We also need Volunteers to help set up the Parish Centre and to provide refreshments. Please let Fr Philip know if you can help.

Our Parish Pastoral Council will meet in the Sacristy at 7pm on Wednesday 17th January. Amongst items we shall discuss are following up our Parish Planning Day and considering what second collections we shall be supporting this year. The meeting is open to anyone.

The Westminster Yearbook 2023-2024 (containing the 2024 Liturgical Calendar) Copies are now available to purchase for £5 in the sacristy.

World Day Of Prayer This will be on Friday 2nd March 2024 at 2.00pm - 3:00pm(ish) for an hour at The Methodist Church (times to be confirmed). All are welcome. A bit nearer the time we will need some volunteers to do Readings etc - possibly up to 4 or 5 - not sure yet exactly how many but if anyone felt able to please let Marion Kett know. There will be more information coming out in the next few weeks so we will keep everyone appraised.

Telephone Number 07511 009472 or email @marion.kett@btinternet.com.

Many Thanks

Pilgrim Cross - Palm Sunday 24th March 2024

It's that time of the year when we are getting ready to host the Pilgrims carrying the Cross on the Way to Walsingham, so we are looking for some lovely hosts for the evening of Palm Sunday from about 5.00pm until Monday at 8.00am. The Pilgrims always appreciate a warm comfortable bed, a hot meal in the evening and breakfast to restore them for the onward journey on Monday. After dinner, some of the Pilgrims do meet at the Bull for a drink and Hosts are always welcome to join them and it's most definitely not a late night! Last year we were able to host all our Pilgrims and it would be wonderful to be able to open our homes to them again this year. Prior to their visit we are made aware of any dietary needs and, on this occasion, we do know that we have a Pilgrim who has an Assistance Dog. Please contact Marion on 07511 009472 or email @marion.kett@btinternet.com.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for January For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognise the gift of different charisma within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

White Flower Appeal 2024 The Society for the Protection of Unborn children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal **next weekend**. SPUC's vision is for a world where abortion is unthinkable. This year's appeal calls for the Government to end the pills-by-post DIY abortion policy.

As well as ending the lives of precious babies, this policy lacks safeguards against illegal late-term abortions, and puts mothers at physical and psychological risk. 86% of GPs are concerned that this scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion.

Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent crisis.