

## St Hilda's Catholic Church, Stevenage

The Presbytery, 9 Breakspear, Stevenage, Herts, SG2 9SQ

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# How Long, O Lord?

During the past few months, you may have felt like saying, "How long, O Lord, is this pandemic going on for?" Well, it's (slightly) comforting to know that this is a very biblical prayer! We find in the psalms, for example: "How long, O Lord, will you forget me? How long will you hide your face?" (Psalm 11:2). God doesn't always seem to answer, but we know that he has a plan, and we are part of the plan! As we continue to pray for our sick and those who feel isolated or troubled at this time, we take heart, knowing that so many of our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world are praying for a way out of this terrible situation.

Gabrielle Aplin sings in the song *November*: "I always used to love November, but now it always floods with rain" - appropriate words! Despite the gloom of this time of year, we note that November begins with All Saints - as we celebrate our brothers and sisters now in glory - and continues with an emphasis on prayers for our deceased loved ones, especially those who've left us in the past year. Among these is the Catholic artist Stephen Foster, whose work adorns so many churches around the country; his last work (completed after his death by his brother Peter) was the beautiful reredos now installed around the tabernacle of St Joseph's. We give thanks for this gentle, prayerful man who used his considerable artistic talents to give glory to God.

We include all the deceased of our parish and of the world especially in our November Masses:

***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen!***

St Hilda's, Shephall	St Joseph's, Bedwell	Transfiguration, Old Town
<b>Private Individual Prayer:</b>	<b>Private Individual Prayer:</b>	<b>Private Individual Prayer:</b>
Monday 9.00-10.00am	<b>Whole church:</b>	Monday 9.00-10.00am
Tuesday 9.00-10.00am	Sunday 10 am - 12 noon	Friday 9.00-10.00am
Saturday 9.00-10.00am	<b>Porch:</b>	Saturday 5.00-6.00pm
Saturday 6.00-7.00pm	Monday to Saturday (except	Sunday 9.00-10.00am
Sunday 10.00am-12noon	Tuesday): 8.30am - 8pm	
<b>Please wear a face-covering.</b>	<b>Please wear a face-covering and sanitize kneeler and chair when arriving and leaving.</b>	<b>Please wear a face-covering.</b>

A special prayer for those housebound, lonely and anxious.