

Church of the Transfiguration of Our Lord in Old Town, Stevenage



Parish Priest of THE COMBINED STEVENAGE PARISHES: **Fr Michael Doherty, SDS**,
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Fr Brian McMahon Resident at St Joseph's, Bedwell Tel: 351243 Mobile: 0753 476 4940
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Email: stevenageoldtown@rcdow.org.uk

Web address: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stevenagetransfiguration>
Lister Hospital: The Catholic Chaplain can be contacted on 01438 285138
(24/7 urgent need 01438 314333) via text message 0788 418 7463
Archbishop's Safeguarding Service Co-ordinator: Confidential phone numbers:
01582 712245 or 07814 879129
Parish Safeguarding Representative: John Sloan 01438 226857 / 0790 013 8371 and
email address john@sloan.me.uk.

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Divine Psalter: Week 1
2nd December 2018

- 1st Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday**
4.30-4.45: Confessions
5.00: Special Intention for Chris & Janet
- 2nd Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent**
9.00: Special Intention for the Hughes Family
Annie Burnside RIP
- 3rd Monday: Advent feria**
9.30: Rico Bobadilla RIP
- 5th Wednesday: Advent feria**
9.30: Service of the Word
- 7th Friday: St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor**
9.30: Special Intention for the Mattimoe Family
John Marioni RIP
- 8th Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday**
4.30-4.45: Confessions
5.00: Special Intention for Sr Joan Smyth
- 9th Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent**
9.00: Special Intention for the Hogan Family

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**Sunday Reading Cycle: Year C**  
**Weekday Readings: 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
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We remember those who are sick in hospital, those undergoing treatment, or convalescing:

*Peter Stones, Johanna Gillan,
Joe Coughlin, Noel Holton, Eileen Greasby, Jane Earl,
Betty Cox, Christopher Skipper, Marisa Jackson,
Andrew Cameron and Family, Richard Smithers,
Jeanette Jackson, Monica Brown, John Lewis,
Kathy Dickenson and Michael Jones.*
May the Lord grant them healing and strength.
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**Parish Secretary in the office next week**

**Friday 8:45-1:00pm**

**If your enquiry is urgent please email the Secretary**

**[stevenageoldtown@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stevenageoldtown@rcdow.org.uk)**

**(email accessed daily)**



**JO BOYCE AND FRIENDS  
AN ADVENT & CHRISTMAS  
CONCERT**

Performing in St Joseph's  
Church on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>  
December at 6:30pm.**  
Tickets on sale after all  
Masses. **£8.00 each.**

*Please take a flyer from the back of the Church.  
The group performed on Songs of Praise, you can listen  
to a selection of their music on youtube.  
Click on the link below.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSYVdlxfpUY>

**Fr Brian writes... First Sunday of Advent, Year C.**  
**Background on the Gospel Reading** Jesus teaches his disciples to be vigilant so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes in glory. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. Today we hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances. Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but the reality is that the poor of His time found strength and consolation in his teachings. Remember, the Lord hears the cry of the poor and will bring justice for them. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us in the Eucharist to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world. Come, Lord Jesus – Come!

**ADVENT REFLECTION LED BY SR ANNE**

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 11:00am-12noon at The Church of The Transfiguration. **All welcome.**

**SACRISTANS:-**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> : Volunteer needed  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> : Donna Holton  
Cleaning Rota : Sara Shepherd & Barbara O'Boy  
Please see Cleaning Instructions on cleaning cupboard door  
Linen for December : Anita Davies

**WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S NEXT WEEK**

Wednesday 7:00pm & Friday 9:15am

**WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST HILDA'S NEXT WEEK**

Monday & Tuesday 9:30am

**READERS**

Please take new Mass Book Year C Volume 1 from the Sacristy and return any other Mass Books.

**BIBLE GROUP**

The Bible Study Group meet every Sunday at 5.30pm in St Joseph's presbytery. **All welcome.**

**THE FEAST DAY MASS OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

Takes place on Wednesday 12th December at 7.30 pm at The Holy Child & St Joseph Catholic Church, home to the Shrine of the Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Midland Road, Bedford MK40 1HU. You are asked if possible to arrive at 7:00 pm. Please contact John or Frances Dove on (01438) 220393.

**THE BIG GIVE**

The Passage is raising funds until 12 noon Tues 4th December to support its work with homeless people this winter. **Double your Donation, Double your impact.** This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020 75921856

[andrew.h@passage.org.uk](mailto:andrew.h@passage.org.uk)

**CLEANING ROTA**

New Rota now available from the Sacristy.

**DECEMBER ROTA**

For Readers and Eucharistic Ministers available from the wall beside the tabernacle.

**HOLY TRINITY/CHRIST THE KING PARISH**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH -13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

As in previous years, we have been warmly invited to join the Holy Trinity/Christ the King congregations at their Christmas Lunch at the Novotel Hotel, Stevenage. For further details please contact Alan Bruce on 01438 351506.

**CHRISTMAS ITEMS ON SALE**

On top of the Organ.

**MY DAY BY DAY ADVENT BOOKLETS £1.00**

**ADVENT EXTRA £2.50.**

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT CHRIST THE KING ON SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 4:00-5:15PM (Approx)**

Entrance and refreshments free. **All welcome.**

**CAFOD WORLD GIFTS CATALOGUE BOOKLETS**

Stuck for a Christmas present? CAFOD World Gifts offers a great alternative for friends or family who don't need anything, but might appreciate a gift which helps poor communities. Booklets are available from the back of the Church.

**MAIN SCHOOL APPLICATIONS FOR 2019/2020**

Applications for the two Catholic schools in Stevenage are now open for September 2019. Please visit the schools' websites for more details. **Application deadline 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

**CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE - SCHOOL ADMISSION**

Updated Policy regarding the 'Priests Reference', known as the 'Certificate of Catholic Practice.' If you will have a child applying for nursery/primary or secondary Catholic school in the future, **it is essential that you take a copy.** You will find a copy on top of the Organ next to the Mass Registration sign in sheets. Please let other parents know - especially those who may not come to church regularly - or not at all! If you require a **Certificate of Catholic Practice for Primary School Admission** please complete the Certificate of Catholicity form and also the top part of the Certificate of Catholic Practice Form. Forms are available from the Sacristy. Please place your completed form in an envelope with your child's name on the front.

**MASS REGISTRATION**

All children from **Pre-School Age to Year 6** should sign in for Mass. **The sign-in sheets can be found on top of the organ.** It is **IMPORTANT** that you write your child's name on the sheet each time you attend Mass with your child. This will help Fr Michael/Fr Brian complete the Certificate of Catholic Practice forms for School Admissions.

**Please only sign if your child is with you at Mass.**

**CLERK TO GOVERNORS AT**

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The School is seeking a Clerk to Governors to support an ambitious Governing Body overseeing a rapidly developing school under the dynamic headship of Mr Jon White. Experience of being a Clerk is not necessary, training will be provided. More important is your commitment, flexibility and capability. You will be highly organised and able to work to deadlines; able to organise meetings and communicate effectively; produce minutes and keep good records; have sound ICT skills including being able to use MS Word. **Flexible working of 200 hours approx pa Salary H9 = £16 per hour.**

Please contact the Chair of Governors, John Sloan, at [chair@stvincent.herts.sch.uk](mailto:chair@stvincent.herts.sch.uk) or via the school on 01438 729555. For an application pack please contact Sally Lorimer, School Business Manager [finance@stvincent.herts.sch.uk](mailto:finance@stvincent.herts.sch.uk)

**Closing date 10<sup>th</sup> December.**