

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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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.

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Divine Psalter: Week 2
9th December 2018

- 8th Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday**
4.30-4.45: Confessions
5.00: Special Intention for Sr Joan Smyth,
Ivan Horsnall & Nancy Donovan
- 9th Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent**
9.00: Special Intention for the Hogan Family
- 10th Monday: Advent feria**
9.30: Mass
10:00-11:00: Confessions
- 12th Wednesday: Advent feria**
9.30: Service of the Word
- 14th Friday: St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor**
9.30: Mass
- 15th Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday**
4.30-4.45: Confessions
5.00: Mass
- 16th Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent**
9.00: Special Intention for the McCarthy Family

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**Sunday Reading Cycle: Year C**  
**Weekday Readings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent**  
**2<sup>nd</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**

**Tuesday 8:45-11:30am, Wednesday 8:45-12noon &  
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...**

**Second Sunday of Advent Year C 2018 - Background on  
the Gospel Reading**

*The Gospel reading invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform. In today's Gospel reading, John the Baptist is presented as the figure who bridges the time before Christ and prepares the way for Christ's own ministry. In today's Gospel we also note Luke's attention to political and historical detail. Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.*

**SACRISTANS:-**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> : Volunteer needed  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> : Stephanie Elliott  
Cleaning Rota : Simon Williams & Tara Hallett  
Please see Cleaning Instructions on cleaning cupboard door  
Linen for December : Anita Davies

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

Wednesday 7:00pm, Thursday & Friday 9:15am

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

Monday & Tuesday 9:30am & Thursday 8:00pm

**FUNERAL FOR FR MICHAEL LAMBERT RIP FORMER PARISH PRIEST OF OUR LADY'S CHURCH, HITCHIN**

The Reception of Fr Michael's body will take place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 4:30pm followed by Mass at 5:00pm. The Requiem Mass takes place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 11:00am in Our Lady's Church, Nightingale Road, Hitchin followed by burial at 1:00pm in St John's cemetery.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

Please take a copy of the special leaflet giving full details of Christmas Services and Confessions for the three combined Stevenage Parishes.

Please take a Christmas Poster provided by the Knights of St Columba.

**Please note Confessions will take place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 10-11am instead of Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December.**

**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.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME**

Children meet on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 9:30am in Church.

**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.**

**PARISH CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER**

We will be providing a Christmas Dinner for those in need. Please see the poster on the back wall near the Sacristy of items required and to offer your help for the event.

**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.

**SIMBANG GABI - FILIPINO HOLY NIGHT MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S BEDWELL**

The Stevenage Filipino Community invite you to a series of Holy Night Masses, at St Joseph's Church, Bedwell, starting Saturday 15th December to 23rd December, 8pm. The Holy Night Masses is a traditional Filipino event called 'Simbang Gabi' or 'Misa de Gallo'. It is a devotional practice celebrated during Advent. After each Mass there will be traditional Filipino foods and fellowship. Most Masses will be celebrated by visiting Filipino priests. Masses will be vibrant, reverent and lively - do come and join them and celebrate Advent in a Filipino way. **All welcome.**

**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.**

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER**

**Evangelisation: In the Service of the Transmission of Faith** That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.