



St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Church

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'GAUDETE' SUNDAY - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 15TH DECEMBER 2019

The Christmas tree is thanks to an English monk St Boniface, who went to proclaim the Gospel in Germany during the 8th century. He encountered people practising pagan sacrifices in front of a mighty oak tree to their god Thor. With courage St Boniface seized his axe and felled the tree in order to stop them worshipping a false idol. The pagans thought their god would respond by striking him down by lightning, but it did not happen. By this action they saw the Triune God at work; a miracle from the fallen oak, a fir tree grew. The fir tree became a symbol of Christ, and His presence among and a way to teach the faith. St Boniface showed the people that the tree was holy, that it was in honour of the Baby Jesus and His promise of eternal life. St Boniface asked the people to take evergreens from the forest and bring them into their homes as a means to decorate them, the tree was also surrounded with gifts that symbolised love and kindness. St Boniface was martyred at the age of 75 but his gift of the tree continues today.

As the years passed the fir tree was decorated, including apples to remind us of the tree of knowledge at the time of creation. The apples later became glass baubles. Also, small white wafers were placed on it that represented the Holy Eucharist. Decorations were made from hay, also small pieces of pastry were cut into the shapes of stars, angels, hearts, flowers and bells. In the shapes of men, birds and other animals, made from gingerbread, with nuts and other fruits, with gold leaf, paper decorations and small candles, and stars and even later electric light. Be aware of using black or other symbols that have nothing to do with the faith. Keep the Christmas tree simple and use it for the Glory of God. Pope Benedict Emeritus wrote about the tree he says "its journey from a dark forest to the brilliance of decorative lights represents every Christian, called to share the message that the light of the world has become man. In the forest, the trees are close together and each one of them contributes to making the forest a shadowy, sometimes dark place, but here," he continued, "chosen from among this multitude, the tree that you offered (at the Vatican) us is today lit up and covered with brilliant decorations that are like so many marvellous fruits and graces. Leaving aside its dark garments for a brilliant explosion, it has been transfigured, becoming a beacon of light that is not it's own, but rather gives testimony to the true light that comes to this world." He also compared the tree's destiny with that of the shepherds, who "keeping watch in the darkness of the night, are illumined by the message of the angels. The destiny of this tree is also comparable to our own, we who are called to give good fruits to manifest that the world has truly been visited and rescued by the Lord," the Pontiff continued. "Christians have always sanctified pagan signs and symbols, the evergreen tree is an obvious one."

Some glass baubles were painted with the figures from the Jesse tree, it was surmounted, not by an angel but an image of Our Lady. Maybe we should try to do something like that on our trees as it shows our faith, without speaking. O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum, wie treu sind deine Blätter. This is the version I have known from a child by Nat King Cole. https://youtu.be/2mP9T8BQ_bQ

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve: Rorate Mass at 9.00am, Benediction at 3.00pm, Family Masses at 5.00pm and 7.00pm.
Carol Service at 11.30pm followed by Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY - The Nativity of our Lord
Dawn Mass at 8.00am, Solemn Mass of the Day at 10.00am

Altar Servers - There are sign up sheets in the sacristy for you to indicate which Mass you are available to serve at.

Carol Service: This year after listening to people we will make less of the Carol Service before Midnight Mass as it kind of drains people away from the wonder and beauty of Mass at Midnight and the incarnation of Christ and being totally present in Bethlehem. So it will start about 15 minutes before Mass and will be more reflective. Next year we will just start with Midnight Mass. Many thanks for your support and asking good questions.

On Sunday, 15th December, the 3rd Sunday of Advent, we will bless Baby Jesus figurines from parishioners' home nativity scenes. We encourage you and your children to bring the figure of Baby Jesus from your house. We will also bless Hay.

Dates for your Diary

Tue	17	Dec	'Rorate Mass' at 6.30am, followed by Breakfast - Parish Hall
Tue	17	Dec	Advent Reconciliation Service St Hugh's at 7.30pm
Sun	22	Dec	Carol Service and Benediction at 4pm, followed by refreshments in the Hall
Mon	23	Dec	Requiem Mass for Harold Cookson at 10.00am - No 12noon Mass Adoration and Confessions 5.00pm - 6.30pm
Thu	26	Dec	Feast of St Stephen - Mass at 12noon
Fri	27	Dec	Feast of St John - Latin Mass at 7.00pm

This Tuesday 17th we will have our Advent Penitential service. The Blessed Sacrament will be Exposed from 5.00pm and I will be available for confessions especially for people who can't get out later at night. Then at 7.30pm we will have a short service and Deanery Priests will join me for Confessions. What a wonderful thing to do before Christmas please come and invite your friends and your family; confessional door is open for us all.

Giving Tree - Your wrapped gift should be returned on 15th December, latest by 1.00pm.
Coldingley Prison - This weekend is the deadline for your contributions.

On Sunday the 5th January 2020, we will have an Epiphany Tableau led by the children and a little procession to put the Blessed Sacrament in the Crib in His beautiful costume. To show the real presence of Jesus and to celebrate with our children and our parish the true meaning of Christmas and the beauty of the Epiphany. I would also like help with the refreshments in the hall at the end.

Advent Prayer for young adult & students 4th Sunday of Advent, 22nd December
at Our Lady of Ransom, Eastbourne - Please see leaflets in the Narthex.

Church Christmas Flower Collection at all Masses THIS WEEK. Please give generously.

Please remember in your prayers **Harold Cookson** who passed away on the 10th December, whose funeral will take place on 23rd December at 10.00am in our Church.

PARISH OFFICE: Parish Office open from 10am - 2pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. If you wish to contact the Parish Office, email: sthughoflincoln.office@gmail.com

Advent Breakfast following 6.30am Rorate Mass

If you would like to stay for a cooked breakfast after Mass **on Tuesday 17th December**, it would be helpful for catering purposes, if you could sign up on the sheet in the Narthex .

Christmas Offertory Collection

By tradition, this is in support of our Parish Priest and forms a substantial part of his annual income. This is also one of our ways of expressing our thanks and appreciation to our pastor. Envelopes are available this weekend at the back of the Church if you will be away over Christmas. If you are a tax payer, **please mark your envelope 'Gift Aid'**.

Please take a **Christmas card with Mass times** and there are some in bunches to give to the Catholics that you know and meet on your road.

On **Sunday 22nd December at 3.00pm** we will have a carol service please invite your neighbours and lapsed Catholics and anyone you feel would benefit from this service. Refreshments will be available in the Parish Hall.

Confirmation programme 2020: It is time to consider joining the Parish Confirmation programme, which will begin in January for young people in Year 10 and above. An application form is available at the back of the church and on the website, along with details of the dates of the sessions. **Please complete and return your form to the Presbytery by 29th December.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact David Thorn on confirmation.sthughs@gmail.com.

Christmas Hamper Raffle after all Masses this weekend. Tickets are £1 each. The raffle will be drawn after 11.30 am Mass on Sunday 22nd. All proceeds will be added to the Bazaar monies to be divided equally between the School and the Parish."

Raffle in aid of St Hugh of Lincoln Primary School and Woking Hospice.

Top Prize: Luxury Hamper; Runner up prizes: Meal for 2 (to be collected) and 1 hour Spa treatment. £1 per ticket. Available to buy at the School Playground and in the Parish Hall after the 9.30am Mass on 15th December or contact Dueyna on 07786 798609.

Carol Singing in the Village: You still have an opportunity to join Christians from other Churches in Knaphill for Carol Singing in and around the village as a reminder to others of the true meaning of Christmas. Venues this week are **Garibaldi Pub on Wednesday 18th** from 7.30pm and the **Vyne Community Centre on Thursday 19th** at 11.00am with refreshments from 10.30am. See poster in Narthex for more details or speak to Roger (01483 481944).

Sunday 15th December - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Reading

1st Reading: **Isaiah 35:1-6, 10** Psalm: **145**

Psalm Response: **Come, Lord, and save us.**

2nd Reading: **St James 5:7-10** Gospel: **Matthew 11:2-11**

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent - 15th December 2019 - Cycle A

Sat	14	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Douglas & Mark Robbins RIP
Sun	15	9.30am	Morning Mass	Anne-Marie Peero RIP
Sun	15	11.30am	Morning Mass	For the People of the Parish
Mon	16	12noon	3 rd Week in Advent	Vincent Mc Nulty RIP
Tue	17	6.30am	Rorate Mass	Mary and John Docherty RIP ****
Thu	19	8.50am	No School Mass	
Thu	19	7.30pm	In Greater Advent, 'O Radix Jesse' Latin Mass	Intentions of Dan Curran
Fri	20	12noon	In Greater Advent, 'O Clavis David'	Intentions of Maureen Harper
Sat	21	11.15am	In Greater Advent, 'O Oriens'	Private Intentions

Fourth Sunday of Advent, 'O Rex Gentium' - 22nd December 2019 - Cycle A

Sat	21	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Jim & Florence Moore RIP
Sun	22	9.30am	Morning Mass	Dec'd Members of the Gilbert Family
Sun	22	11.30am	Morning Mass	For the People of the Parish

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: one hour before 12noon Mass on Weekdays
and half an hour before 11.15am Mass on Saturday.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10.30am - 11.00am and 5.30pm - 5.50pm on Saturdays.

Vespers and Benediction: Sundays at 5.00pm

Mass Intentions are available for the month of January 2020

Offertory Collection for last week

£1117.75 of which £588.33 was Gift Aided. Many Thanks.



THE ANGELUS

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. *Hail Mary....*

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word. *Hail Mary....*

V. And the Word was made Flesh (Genuflect)

R. And dwelt among us. *Hail Mary*

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray : Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.

Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.