

St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Church

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 22nd DECEMBER 2019

Here are some passages from The Holy Father Francis apostolic letter “**ADMIRABLE SIGNUM**”, (<http://www.vatican.va>), on the meaning and importance of the nativity scene which he wrote at the beginning of December. He writes why does the Christmas crèche (crib) arouse such wonder and move us so deeply? Firstly, because it shows God’s tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness. The gift of life, in all its mystery, becomes all the more wondrous as we realise that the Son of Mary is the source and sustenance of all life. In Jesus, the Father has given us a brother who comes to seek us out whenever we are confused or lost, a loyal friend ever at our side, and as God who forgives us and frees us from our sins.

Setting up the Christmas crèche in our homes helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. Naturally Gospels remain our source for understanding and reflecting on that event. At the same time, its portrayal in the crèche helps us to imagine the scene. It touches our hearts and makes us enter into salvation history as contemporaries of an event that is living and real in a broad gamut of historical and cultural contexts.

In a particular way, the nativity scene has invited us to “feel” and “touch” the poverty that God’s Son took upon himself in the Incarnation. Implicitly, it summons us to follow him along the path of humility, poverty and self-denial that leads from the manger of Bethlehem to the cross. It asks us to meet him and serve him by showing mercy to those of our brothers and sisters in greatest need (cf. Mt 25:31-46). 8.

When, on Christmas, we place the statue of the Infant Jesus in the manger, the nativity scene suddenly comes alive. God appears as a child, for us to take into our arms. Beneath weakness and frailty, he conceals his power that creates and transforms all things. It seems impossible, yet it is true: in Jesus, God was a child, and in this way he wished to reveal the greatness of his love: by smiling and opening his arms to all.

The birth of a child awakens joy and wonder; it sets before us the great mystery of life. Seeing the bright eyes of a young couple gazing at their new born child, we can understand the feelings of Mary and Joseph who, as they looked at the Infant Jesus, sensed God’s presence in their lives. “Life was made manifest” (1 Jn 1:2). In these words, St John sums up the mystery of the Incarnation. The crèche allows us to see and touch this unique and unparalleled event that changed the course of history, so that time would thereafter be reckoned either before or after the birth of Christ.

Thank you to all who brought baby Jesus to be blessed at Mass on Sunday it was such a joyful thing to do and I hope it will grow. I hope you all have some image or crib in your home.

Come Lord Jesus. Fr Gerard

Sunday 22nd December - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Readings

1st Reading: **Isaiah 7:10-14** Psalm: **23**

Psalm Response: **Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.**

2nd Reading: **Romans 1:1-7** Gospel: **Matthew 1:18-24**

CHRISTMAS MASSES

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| Tuesday 24th December | Christmas Eve: Rorate Mass at 9.00am, Benediction at 3.00pm, Vigil Mass for Families at 5.00pm and 7.00pm. Carol Service at 11.45pm followed by Solemn Mass of Midnight |
| 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.

At the Mass on the Feast of St Stephen on the Thursday 26th December, the Altar Servers are invited to renew their promises to the Guild of St Stephen.

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.

Dates for your Diary

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| 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 - Adoration and Confessions 5.00pm - 6.30pmget spiritually ready for Christmas |
| Tue | 24 | Dec | Rorate Mass at 9.00am, Vespers and Benediction at 3.00pm |
| Thu | 26 | Dec | Feast of St Stephen - Mass at 12noon - all Altar Servers to join |
| Fri | 27 | Dec | Feast of St John - Latin Mass at 7.00pm, bring wine for blessing |
| Tue | 31 | Dec | Seventh Sunday in the Octave of Christmas and Eve of Mary - 11pm Mass, followed by drinks in the Presbytery |

On Sunday the **5th January 2020**, we will have an Epiphany Tableau at 10.30am Mass 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.

After all other masses there will be a little procession to the Crib.

I would also like help with the refreshments in the hall at the end.

Congratulations to Frank & Sue Eaton and Maria Carey on winning £53.50/£26.50 respectively in the November Jackpot Draw.

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.

This Sunday, 22nd December, we will have a carol service at **4.00pm**. Please invite your neighbours and lapsed Catholics, and anyone you feel would benefit from this service. Refreshments will be available in the Parish Hall.

Please join us after the Rorate Mass at 9.00am on Christmas Eve to clean the Church and Brass for Christmas. Many Thanks.

Donations of greenery for the crib, please bring Ivy, Holly, Fir, Bay and other greenery to decorate the crib by Christmas Eve morning.

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.

Please help yourself with Religious/Spiritual books in the Narthex, left over from the Bazaar.

PARKING - This is particularly important as our Christmas Masses have large numbers attending. A number of complaints from our neighbours have been made recently regarding the parking of our parishioners. The police have advised us to ensure that we park legally, as well as be considerate to our neighbours and avoid parking on the pavement and blocking drives. Do think about walking or parking in the village car park. Inconsiderate parking prevents the emergency services getting through to someone in need.
If a fire engine comes this way, it may well damage cars that are blocking its path.

Prayers and Help for the Sick and the Housebound: We offer our prayers for all the sick and the housebound. Additionally, many people are in desperate need of food, clothing and shelter. One way of helping is through the Foodbank. Also, in this Season of Goodwill, please find out and help people who need transport to come to Church, especially during the Festive Season.

Woking Foodbank Collection on 4th/5th January: There will be a collection point in the Narthex over this weekend. Supplies are running low and all donations of non-perishable foodstuff, toiletries and nappies (size 4&5) will be very much appreciated. However they do have plenty of tea, baked beans, canned peas, pasta, cereals, soups & jams. Thank you.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Fourth Sunday of Advent - 22nd December 2019 - Cycle A

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|-----|----|---------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Sat | 21 | 6.00pm | Vigil Mass | Jim & Florence Moore RIP |
| Sun | 22 | 9.30am | Morning Mass | Dec'd Members of the Gilbert Family |
| | | 11.30am | Morning Mass | For the People of the Parish |
| Mon | 23 | 10.00am | Requiem Mass | Harold Cookson RIP |
| Tue | 24 | 9.00am | Christmas Eve - Rorate Mass | Holy Souls |
| | | 5.00pm | Christmas Eve - Family Mass | Rita Hughes RIP |
| | | 7.00pm | Christmas Eve - Family Mass | Andy Higgins RIP |
| | | 11.45pm | Blessing of the Crib, followed by Solemn Midnight Mass | Graham Camplin RIP |
| Wed | 25 | 8.00am | CHRISTMAS DAY - Dawn Mass | People of the Parish |
| | | 10.00am | CHRISTMAS DAY - Solemn Mass | Tess Friel RIP |
| Thu | 26 | 12noon | St Stephen, First Martyr | Altar Servers |
| Fri | 27 | 7.30pm | St John, Apostle and Evangelist Latin Mass | Sisters of Mary Morning Star |
| Sat | 28 | 11.15am | The Holy Innocents, Martyrs | Andrew Higgins RIP |

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - 29th December 2019 Cycle A

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|-----|----|---------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sat | 28 | 6.00pm | Vigil Mass | Intentions of Bishop Peter Doyle |
| Sun | 29 | 9.30am | Morning Mass | Repose of Soul of Julia Cross RIP |
| | | 11.30am | Morning Mass | For the People 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 months of January and February 2020

Offeritory Collection for last week

£1,219.52 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.