My dear parishioners,

I have been here just over a year but in fact with my illness it’s been quite shorter than that. So coming back in September has been like starting again. It was a wonderful time for Fr Dominic, especially with the help of some outstanding parishioners whose names I don’t have to mention, but they know who they are. Those people helped to keep this place going with faith and with the practical responsibilities of the parish.

I feel that the recent few months have really changed my knowledge of you; to knowing you and how concerned you have been about my health and recovery. I can’t thank you enough for your prayers and love, even at times your critical advice. Love is very much a part of the mission of a priest as well as the relationship between a priest and his people.

As we ponder the Love which came to us at the birth of Jesus at that first Christmas and every Christmas since, this grace not only deepens us but changes us. Christmas opens our hearts, our minds and our lives to see there is always room for growth and renewal in faith. This cannot be found in any book on how to change your parish. It can only start with us, as we face the King of kings in the manger. We not only ponder about ourselves and our poverty, but on the gifts we have and what we can do for the Glory of God. Through Our Lady and in Saint Joseph we see how that Glory can be lived out.

Merry Christmas. Enjoy and remember it’s Christmas till the Baptism of the Lord.

Fr Gerard and Deacon Rob wish you all very happy and holy Christmas.
Sunday 29th December - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - Readings

1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3:3-7, 14-17 Psalm: 127
Psalm Response: O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Sunday 5th January - The Epiphany of the Lord - Readings

1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12 Psalm: 147
Psalm Response: The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.
2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18 Gospel: John 1:1-18

New Year’s Eve Celebrations
On Tuesday 31st December, Seventh day in Octave of Christmas, there will be Mass at 11pm, followed by drinks in the Presbytery

Dates for your Diary

Tue 31 Dec Seventh Sunday in the Octave of Christmas and Eve of Mary - 11pm Mass, followed by drinks in the Presbytery
Wed 01 Jan Solemnity of the Mother of God
Fr1 03 Jan The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Mon 06 Jan Church Hall will be closed for two weeks for electrical work
Mon 06 Jan Epiphany Mass in School at 2.30pm - All welcome
Thu 09 Jan Year 3 Class Mass at School at 8.50am - All welcome
Sat 11 Jan Confirmation, Catechesis session 4.00pm - 6.00pm, Presbytery/Hall

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.

PARISH OFFICE: Parish Office will be closed from 26th December till 6th January 2020

Admission to St Hugh’s School September 2020: Fr Gerard will be available at the Presbytery for the signing of the SIF on Monday 13th January from 7.00pm - 9.00pm.
**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’.

**Giving Tree** - A huge ‘Thank you’ to all who supported the Giving Tree. All the gifts have been delivered and received with grateful thanks. Your generosity was evident by the number of gifts on the sanctuary. Thank you.

**Christmas Gift to Coldingly Prisoners**: Once again, thank you to all those who sent your Christmas greetings and chocolates to the prisoners of Coldingly.

**Our Parish Projects Update**

Wishing you peace from Ahotokurom Padre Pio Rehabilitation Centre, Ghana. Thank you to all at St Hugh of Lincoln for your generous support. The staff and residents want to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Peace in 2020. If you would like to read about some of the activities that you are supporting, please do take a look at this uplifting December update at [www.ahoto.org/newsletters](http://www.ahoto.org/newsletters)

**On the Solemnity of the Epiphany**, chalk will be blessed at each Mass, so you can write by your home’s entrance +20 C M B 20+, the letters C, M, B have two meanings: the names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar and the words Christus mansionem benedicat, “May Christ bless the house.” The “+” signs represent the cross & 2020 is the year.

**Thank you** very much to everyone for your support for £20 Sunday, which has enabled us to start building works and the restoration of the Church toilet. Please pray for all those who worked on it, especially the roofers son, who died in September at the age of 19.

**Prayers and Help for the Sick and the Housebound**: We offer our prayers for all the sick and the housebound, 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.

**PARKING** - A number of complaints from our neighbours have been made recently regarding the parking of our parishioners. Please avoid parking on the pavement and blocking drives. Do think about walking or parking in the village car park please.

**Christmas Bazaar** - Tes Dionisio was the lucky winner of the Hamper Raffle. £126 was raised, bringing the grand total of the Christmas Bazaar monies to £3255.54. This amount will be divided between the school and the parish. Thanks for your continuing generosity.
Loving Mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again. To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before. You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.

V. After childbirth, O Virgin, thou didst remain inviolate.
R. O Mother of God, plead for us.

Let us pray. O God, Who by the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary hast given to mankind the rewards of eternal salvation: grant, we beseech Thee, that we may experience her intercession for us, by whom we deserved to receive the Author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

The Nativity of the Lord - 25th December 2019 - Cycle A

Wed 25 8.00am CHRISTMAS DAY - Dawn Mass People of the Parish
10.00am - Solemn Mass Tess Friel RIP
Thu 26 12noon St Stephen, First Martyr Altar Servers
Fri 27 7.30pm St John, Apostle; 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

Sat 28 6.00pm Vigil Mass Intentions of Bishop Peter Doyle
Sun 29 9.30am Morning Mass Repose of Soul of Julia Cross RIP
Sun 29 11.30am Morning Mass For the People the Parish
Tue 31 11.00pm 7th day in Octave of Christmas Paula McArthy RIP
Thu 02 7.30pm Latin Mass Sisters of Mary Morning Star
Fri 03 12noon The Most Holy Name of Jesus Intentions of the Ryan Family
Sat 04 11.15am Feria in Christmastide Rosalind & Ian Hall

The Epiphany of the Lord - 5th January 2020 - Cycle A

Sat 04 6.00pm Vigil Mass of the Epiphany Tommy and Breege Bulger RIP
Sun 05 9.30am Morning Mass Paula Stravens
Sun 05 11.30am Morning Mass Private Intention of Maria
Mon 06 12noon Monday after Epiphany Intentions of the Cassidy Family
Tue 07 12noon St Raymond, Priest Arthur Sale Intentions
Thu 09 7.30pm Latin Mass Renee Gahegan RIP
Fri 10 12noon Friday after Epiphany Sisters of Mary Morning Star
Sat 11 11.15am Saturday after Epiphany Private Intentions

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

Offertory Collection for last week: £1,167.74 of which £588.33 was Gift Aided. Many Thanks.