



## St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Church - Newsletter

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### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 4TH DECEMBER 2022 - YEAR A

#### Preparing The Way Of The Lord

One of the things that the first three Gospels agree on is that John the Baptist (who always turns up at mass on this second Sunday of Advent) understood his calling by referencing the Prophet Isaiah's line about the voice crying: 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. But there's a slight shift between that Old Testament text and its New Testament quotation. Isaiah 40.3 speaks of a voice demanding that 'a way for the Lord' be made across the wilderness. The Gospels speak rather of a voice in the wilderness demanding that a way be prepared for the Lord. In the sixth century BC Isaiah dared to dream of a 'sacred way' like the roads that led to the ziggurats of Babylon, roads well known to the exiled inhabitants of Judea. But his imagined highway, rather than leading to pagan temples, would carry the exiled and enslaved Jews all the way back to Jerusalem. He painted an audacious vision of bridging ravines and blasting a way through mountains. His dream didn't come to literal fruition – but, extraordinarily, the exiles did come home, overcoming every obstacle.

In the proclamation of John the Baptist, fulfilment of the prophecy seemed even less likely. How could this wild man of the desert, with his strange 'baptism' ritual and his even stranger dress and diet, in any sense be seen to be 'preparing the way of the Lord'. Again, no road was built and the Baptist was himself snatched by Herod Antipas's soldiers and beheaded. Another divinely blessed failure, another prophecy fulfilled in its very non-fulfilment. The Messiah came, nonetheless.

In Advent we prepare a way for that Lord in our homes, our hearts, our lives. We do it not by grand projects, blasting our way through every obstacle, but by simple steps, withdrawing – where we can – from the rush of life and from the frenzy of consumption that papers over deeper human needs for love, meaning and hope. It is the stepping back, that willingness to wait for the Messiah, which creates a desert within, a space where the Christ-child can be born anew.

In Advent, as well as reviewing our own lives, we are invited to rethink our vision of Church. Is being Church really about building impressive structures, bulldozing reality into the shape we deem fit for God? Or is it more about creating oases where people can wait for "the Spirit of wisdom and insight, the Spirit of counsel and power, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord," the Spirit that will lead us at last to the realisation that God's Kingdom really is close at hand?

Fr. Rob

**Woking Foodbank Collections This weekend.** Items underlined have recently been added.

**Needed:** Tinned mixed veg, chicken, potatoes, salmon, carrots. Long life sponge puddings, milk and Christmas treats. Also, cleaning spray, washing up liquid, bleach, nappies (size 7) and baby wipes. Please place donations in the boxes provided in the Narthex.

### **Consultation on Proposed Admission Arrangements for 2024-25**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with legislation that the governing body as the admission authority of St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Primary School is formally consulting on its proposed admission arrangements including oversubscription criteria for the school year 2024-25.

The proposed Admission Policy and Supplementary Information Form can be viewed on the Admission page of our school's website – [www.sthugh-of-lincoln.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.sthugh-of-lincoln.surrey.sch.uk).

A note of the proposed changes can also be found on the noticeboard in the narthex.

Consultation on Proposed Admission Arrangements for 2024-25 for The Marist Catholic Primary School, West Byfleet can also be found on the noticeboard in the narthex or on their website [www.marist.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.marist.surrey.sch.uk)

**Carol Singing in the Village:** There are opportunities this Advent to join fellow Christians from other churches in Knaphill to sing carols and spread the true meaning of Christmas. There will be a Christmas service at The Vyne Community Centre on Friday 9 December at 11am and on Thursday 22 December at The Garibaldi from 7.15pm. For more details speak to Roger (07501056679).

### **CAFOD World Gifts: Give a gift of hope this Christmas**

In Advent, let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>. World Gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.

**Panto tickets for Cinderella at Woking:** Tuesday 6th December at 7pm in the stalls.

All tickets at the discounted price of £22. To get yours contact the Parish Office or <https://app.classlist.com/#/events/view910060648>.

**Christmas cards for prisoners at Coldingley Prison** - The Prison is in our parish and currently about 80 Catholic prisoners are trying to rebuild their lives. In order to show them that their fellow parishioners have not forgotten them, the Chaplain has asked if we would give them a small Christmas card. Inside the card, you can write 'Dear brother in Christ' followed by a message, e.g. praying for you and your family this Christmas, and signed with your first name only.

Please place your cards in the basket in the narthex by **10.30am on 9 December**.

### **Christmas Bazaar**

A HUGE thank you to all who organised, ran a stall, donated and supported the Bazaar.

A list of prizewinners is in the narthex and the total raised to date stands at £2,300.44

**We still have a few items to sell including:**

- Traditional Christmas Plum Puddings at £2.50 (120g indiv), £5 (454g serves 4)
- No chimney for Santa to come down, then you'll be needing Santa's magic key, so he can enter to deliver the presents - £2.50
- Father Christmas' lost button and personalised letter (please provide names). Father Christmas has eaten too many mince pies and lost a button in your house. He asks your children to find it and keep it safe - £1

**ALSO we have a silent auction - see insert for details! Don't forget to put in your bids by 2.00pm on Friday 9 December.**

## Giving Tree

The tree is in place on the sanctuary. Please feel free to take a gift tag and buy whatever is noted on the tag. Your wrapped gift, with tag attached, should be returned over the **weekend of 11th December**. The beneficiaries will be:

- Abraham Cowley Unit at St.Peter's – Providing care for elderly mental health patients.
- Parish Project - Ahotokurom - Padre Pio Rehabilitation Centre, Ghana - a centre of Christian hospitality for the marginalised, disabled and disadvantaged. Dedicated workers provide social care services and education in the broadest sense, encouraging personal growth and independence. You can donate financially via Dona on our website or the device in the narthex.
- Parish Project - York Road - Providing accommodation, advice and support for anyone who is at risk of homelessness or is homeless in Woking. Again, you can donate financially as above.
- Woking Lions - Providing for the less fortunate families in the Woking area.
- Parish/School – families known to us.

**Confirmation Programme 2023:** Bishop Richard will officiate at the Confirmation Mass at Arundel Cathedral on **Saturday 13 May 2023**. If you, or a young person you know, in Year 10 or above, would like to start the preparation to pray and think about being Confirmed this year, please click the link for an Application Form. [Young Adults – St Hugh of Lincoln Roman Catholic Parish](#)  
Please complete electronically, and return your form by email, or to the Parish Office marked Confirmation 2023. The closing date is : **Monday 12 December**.  
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact David Thorn on: [confirmation.sthughs@gmail.com](mailto:confirmation.sthughs@gmail.com)

**Traidcraft Christmas cards, Advent calendars, etc are on sale from the Repository after Mass.**

**Admission to St Hugh's School September 2023 - Submission deadline 15 January 2023.** Please pop the completed SIF into the Presbytery at 95 Victoria Road, **before** the Christmas holiday period. Once signed by Fr Rob, you will be contacted to arrange collection before Christmas.

**St Hugh's School** are looking for a part time teacher to cover maternity leave. For details see <https://www.eteach.com/job/class-teacher-maternity-leave-wednesday-thursday-friday-1288918>.

**WOKING & SAM BEARE HOSPICE - LIGHT UP A LIFE St Dunstan's Church, December 4th, 4.00 pm.** Open to everyone to attend, even if your loved one was not cared for by the hospice. It is a chance to take some time out to remember those no longer with us and with others who are going through similar journeys.  
To help with catering/seating please register your attendance using this [link](#) to reserve your seat.

**Caritas Social Action Network**, the Social Action Agency of the Catholic Church in England & Wales, has issued a statement about the autumn budget statement, highlighting concerns about the extreme hardship faced by many at this time, the failure to lift the two-child cap on Universal Credit payments and the delay in reforming the social care system, while acknowledging some advances made. They urge Catholics to write to their MPs on these matters.  
See [Caritas Social Action Network - Caritas Social Action Network - CSAN](#)

## Live Simply Award

We hope that, like St. Dunstan's parish in Woking, our community will work together to earn a 'Live Simply' award from Cafod, marking our work together to make our parish more aware of the environmental impact of our activities and our capacity to be good stewards of 'our common home' (as Pope Francis calls the earth in his great letter, 'Laudato Si'). As a taster for what we can do, individually and as a parish, you are invited to follow their **online Advent Calendar** which is running from December 1-24. See: <https://calendar.myadvent.net/?id=w5ktf4ybxlxb80748ylmvz4tyiasenky>.

## Prayers

We offer our prayers for the people of Ukraine and Russia and an end to this devastating conflict.  
Please keep in your prayers the sick and the housebound of our parish.

### Mass Times and Intentions - ST HUGH OF LINCOLN CHURCH

Sunday Masses will be livestreamed via the Parish YouTube channel.

Confessions on Saturdays - 5.15pm to 5.45pm

**\*Saturday 3rd December - St Francis Xavier, Priest\***

6.00pm

Vigil Mass

Jim & Florence Moore RIP

and Giovanni & Carolina Yon RIP

**\*SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT\* - YEAR A 2022**

9.30am

Holy Mass

People of the Parish

**\*Monday 5th December - Monday of the Second Week in Advent\***

No Mass

**\*Tuesday 6th December - St Nicholas, Bishop\***

No Mass

**\*Wednesday 7th December - St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor\***

No Mass

**\*Thursday 8th December - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary\***

10.00am

Holy Mass

Bill Collins RIP

**\*Friday 9th December - St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin\***

No Mass

**\*Saturday 10 December - Our Lady of Loreto\***

6.00pm

Vigil Mass

People of the Parish

**\*SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER - THE 'GAUDETE' SUNDAY OF ADVENT\* - YEAR A 2022**

9.30am

Holy Mass

For the Holy Souls of St Hugh's Parish

**Last Week's Offertory Collection:** Baskets - £281.04, Contactless - £89.00

and Standing Orders - £588.33, which were Gift Aided. Total - £958.37. Many thanks.

### Weekday Mass Times and Intentions - ST DUNSTAN'S CHURCH

Weekend Mass Times - visit [www.st-dunstans.org](http://www.st-dunstans.org)

**\*Monday 5th December - Monday of the Second Week in Advent\***

10.00am Holy Mass

Rosary and Adoration until 2.00 pm

**\*Wednesday 7th December - St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor\***

10.00am Holy Mass

Jessie Rajendram RIP

**\*Thursday 8th December - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary\***

10.00am Holy Mass

Annum Lona RIP

**\*Friday 9th December - St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin\***

10.00am Holy Mass

Desmond Craig Waller RIP

### The Christmas Novena

*This Novena has been used to request special help from St. Andrew for any cause.*

**Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.**

*The Novena prayer is said 15 times each day, then mention your intentions and say: one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be. Our Lady of Advent pray for us. Saint Joseph pray for us.*