



## St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Church - Newsletter

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### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 'O ADONAI'- 18TH DECEMBER 2022 - YEAR A

#### **A Problematic Pregnancy**

The problem is that St. Luke makes it all sound so easy, this Annunciation thing. Yes, Mary is disturbed and wonders what the angel's greeting might mean. And she goes on to ask how she, a virgin, could ever become a mother. But by the time the angel has left her, inner calm has been restored, even before the Spirit has done its overshadowing and the teen can say serenely: "I am the handmaid of the Lord; let what you have said be done to me."

Matthew's take on things, which we hear this Sunday (Mt 1.18-24), is less straightforward, but unfortunately probably truer to those times. "Before she and Joseph came to live together, Mary was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit." Holy Spirit or no Holy Spirit, Joseph gets ready to do what his culture requires of him as a bare minimum: divorcing Mary quietly, sparing her 'publicity'. That 'publicity' could have cost her life, perhaps at the hands of a family member (intent on punishing her for 'bringing shame' on the clan), or could simply have forced her to live as a social outcast for the remainder of her days. It takes another angel to change Joseph's mind. As with the other Joseph in the Book of Genesis, the story of Mary's fiancé is to be driven by dreams. Two more will be required before the Holy Family arrive back in Nazareth after escaping their own wicked Pharaoh-figure, Herod.

As Matthew tells it, Jesus' beginnings involve misunderstanding, moral ambiguity, shame and danger (a pattern which is also highlighted in the list of Jesus' (male) ancestors which begins the First Gospel (Mt 1.1-17)). Only four women are mentioned before Mary – Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba. All have tainted stories and are somehow not entirely respectable. Maybe that's the point, though. God works through 'holy irregularities', coming to us at the pinch-points of life. This is Incarnation. This is how "God is with us", becoming our Emmanuel (Mt 1.23). This is where "the Word was made flesh and set up his tent among us" (the literal translation of Jn 1.14), not in the beautifully ordered parlour of the house of Joachim and Anna, as depicted in so many artists' depictions of the Annunciation but in an embarrassing pregnancy, on a difficult journey, in a borrowed stable and (as our Northern Christmas tradition insists) in the bitter cold darkness of a winter's night.

God comes unembarrassed to the place of our shame and pain. That is the Gospel and that the feast that we await next weekend.

Fr Rob

**SUNG VESPERS at St Dunstan's** on Sunday 18 December at 4.00pm.

**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, the housebound and expectant mothers of our parish.

**Repository** is open for the sale of cribs and Christmas gifts.

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all who supported the GIVING TREE. All gifts have been delivered and received with grateful thanks by all. Many families will have a better Christmas thanks to your generosity.

**Looking for a Reception Class place for September 2023?** Why not come and see us at St Hugh's School. To book a place call 01483 480441 or email [info@sthugh-of-lincoln.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@sthugh-of-lincoln.surrey.sch.uk).

### **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.

### **National Board of Catholic Women**

Please see the poster in the narthex for details of various events. For further details or to share your projects, ideas and hopes for women of our Diocese, or if you would like help with resources please contact: **Sue Petritz** Diocesan Link for Arundel & Brighton. Actively promoting the presence, participation & responsibilities of Catholic Women [nbcw@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:nbcw@abdiocese.org.uk)

A gentle reminder about the next Study Day, on **Saturday, January 14th, 2022**, at Chilworth Abbey by Fr John Seddon OSB of Bishop Barron's 'Catholicism', Episode 5, '**The Indispensable Men**', on Saints Peter and Paul. Mass, 9.00am, Presentations and Talks 10.15am-3.30pm. Bring a packed lunch and a friend if possible. See [chilworthbenedictines.com](http://chilworthbenedictines.com) for more details

**Time Out: Self-Guided Retreat at Worth Abbey, 20-22 Jan, Cost: £90 per night.** Enjoy the rhythm of monastic prayer and liturgy, time in reflection, and the peace of the Sussex countryside. Optional daily Lectio Divina with the monastic timetable of divine office, liturgy, and the opportunity for a 1:1 meeting with a member of the monastic community. To book; E: [retreats@worth.org.uk](mailto:retreats@worth.org.uk) or T: 01342 710318

**Who are You, O God, and Who am I!?** A Retreat at the [Franciscan Centre Ladywell](http://Franciscan Centre Ladywell), **25-29 Jan, led by Br Paul Rout OFM**, Cost: £100 non resident, £300 resident (inc food). This retreat will draw upon the inspiration of the writings of Saints Francis, Clare of Assisi and Bonaventure, and Pope Francis. For info or to book; E: [franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk](mailto:franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk) or T: 01483 675575

**St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP)** is a voluntary organisation with over 7000 members in England and Wales with an active branch at St Dunstan's Woking. SVP specialise in person to person contact, visiting vulnerable people offering them friendship and support. If you, or you know someone struggling or lonely or wish to get involved, please contact via email: [wokingsvp@gmail.com](mailto:wokingsvp@gmail.com).

**Carol Singing in the Village:** Join fellow Christians from other churches in Knaphill this Advent to sing carols and spread the true meaning of Christmas at The Garibaldi on **Thursday 22 December from 7.15pm**. For more details speak to Roger (07501056679).

**Parking:** Recently an ambulance with its blue lights on, had to be guided through cars double parked just outside the church. At the end of Mass a very large supermarket truck was unable to proceed along Victoria Road due to double parking. We urge our parishioners to be considerate to our neighbours and other road users by **not parking across drives or on the pavement and please do not park opposite a parked car - the road is not wide enough. This is especially important as numbers attending Christmas Masses increase.**

## CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR OUR PRIESTS

By long tradition, the collection taken over the Christmas Masses provides income to the Parish for the support of our clergy. Not only does it form a substantial part of their annual income, it is also a way of expressing our thanks and appreciation.

If you are a UK taxpayer and wish to enhance your gift with Gift Aid, please use a blue Christmas Collection envelope which are available on the pews and in the narthex. Alternatively, you can use a contactless machine to make your donation, again adding Gift Aid if you are able.

### **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.

**Consultation on Proposed Admission Arrangements for 2024-25** for St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Primary School and The Marist Catholic Primary School can be found in the narthex.

**Annual diocesan Justice & Peace Assembly, 'Hungry for Change', 28 January 2023, 9.30am-1.30pm at The St Philip Howard Centre, RH10 6RP.** Our annual Justice & Peace Assembly will explore how war contributes to world hunger with speakers from CAFOD, Pax Christi, and the Ecological Conversion Group. [Register your free place here.](#)

### **Aged 18-35? Join the diocesan Pilgrimage to Lisbon 31 July-7 August 2023**

Join millions of young people from around the world to celebrate our faith and make life long friendships. The week includes a trip to Fatima, amazing festival activities and Mass with Pope Francis. To find out more contact our Youth Adviser Lizzie: [lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk)

**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](#)

**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 extended to 22 December.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact David Thorn on: [confirmation.sthughs@gmail.com](mailto:confirmation.sthughs@gmail.com)

**Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word led by Bishop Richard, 21 January 11am - 4pm** at [St Bernadette's Church Crawley](#). The day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, preparing to read, using microphones, Lectio Divina, and Mass. To register your free place click [here](#) or [contact](#) our Liturgy & Music Adviser, Catherine Christmas.

**FOSTER CARERS** needed in our local area. Please see the poster in the narthex. To find out more call 0800 0969626 or visit <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/children/social-care/fostering>.

**Jackpot Club:** Congratulations to David Thorn and Karen Linnell on winning £49.50/£24.50 respectively in the November Draw - a nice bonus for Christmas! If you would like to join the Club for £3 quarterly or £12 annually, please contact the Parish office.

50% of the subs goes to general parish funds for the running and maintenance of the parish and 50% goes back to members via the monthly draw. *You have to be in it to win it!*

## 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 17th December - December in Great Advent, O Sapientia\*

6.00pm Vigil Mass Intentions of Anna Tracey & Family

### \*SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT\* - YEAR A 2022

9.30am Holy Mass People of the Parish

### \*Monday 19th December - December in Greater Advent, 'O Radix Jesse'\*

No Mass

### \*Tuesday 20th December - December in Greater Advent, 'O Clavis David'\*

9.00am Holy Mass for the children of St Hugh's School Year 6

### \*Wednesday 21st December - December in Greater Advent, 'O Oriens'\*

No Mass

### \*Thursday 22nd December - December in Greater Advent, 'O Rex Gentium'\*

10.00am Holy Mass Ints of Maureen Harper

### \*Friday 23rd December - December in Greater Advent, 'O Emmanuel'\*

No Mass

### \*Saturday 24th December - December in Great Advent, O Sapientia\*

7.00pm Vigil Mass of the Nativity Andy Higgins RIP

10.00pm Christmas Eve with Carols from 9.30pm Graham Camplin RIP

### \*SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER - NATIVITY MASS OF THE LORD\* - YEAR A 2022

9.00am 'Shepherds' Mass - Christmas Day People of the Parish

10.30am SOLEMN MASS OF THE DAY Carolina & Luigi Natale RIP



**Last Week's Offertory Collection:** Baskets - £225.87, Contactless - £82.00 and Standing Orders - £588.33, which were Gift Aided. Total - £896.20. 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 19th December - December in Greater Advent, 'O Radix Jesse'\*

12noon Requiem Mass Kaye Hawkins RIP

### \*Tuesday 20th December - December in Greater Advent, 'O Clavis David'\*

10.00am Holy Mass Brighty Antony

### \*Wednesday 21st December - December in Greater Advent, 'O Oriens'\*

10.00am Holy Mass Birdie McClorey RIP

### \*Thursday 22nd December - December in Greater Advent, 'O Rex Gentium'\*

10.00am Holy Mass Eugene Ismail RIP

### \*Friday 23rd December - December in Greater Advent, 'O Emmanuel'\*

10.00am Requiem Mass Timothy Stratford RIP



## The Christmas Novena

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 a day, then your intentions and say:*  
one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be. Our Lady of Advent pray for us.  
Saint Joseph pray for us.