



St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Church - Newsletter

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CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY EDITION 24th December 2022 to 8th January 2023 - YEAR A

If Christ Were Born Today

If Christ were to enter our world today, where would he choose to be born? Bethlehem remains besieged, surrounded by watchtowers, and 'The Wall'. That would still be a fitting place for the birth of this strange Messiah, born in poverty on the edge of Empire in a borrowed stable. But maybe he would take his place instead among our age's refugees, with the millions driven from their homes by violence, climate change or sheer poverty. Perhaps the shattered frozen homes of Ukraine's towns might be a fitting site for our Silent Night Saviour's birth. Would Mary and Joseph's journey now lead them to registration at a refugee reception centre far from their bombed-out home, rather than to a Roman census queue? Might – God forbid – their transport of choice be not a donkey but an unseaworthy (and illegal) rubber boat? To whom might the angel chorus sing: to those gathered at a 'Warm Hub' because they cannot afford to heat their homes? And what of the Magi, setting out in search of the New-Born King? Who has the freedom of heart to undertake such a quest today?

These are not flippant thoughts. At Christmas we meet the One whom Pope Francis has called 'the God of the peripheries', the One who takes flesh among the overlooked and the undervalued, the One who embraces powerlessness as the ultimate sign of the power of divine love. Yes, God still seeks room at the inn, still seeks to enter into our human story – not just in Bethlehem or Ukraine or in refugee camps scattered around the globe but also at our own Christmas table, be we alone or surrounded by family. As the Book of Revelation has it: "Look, I am standing at the door, knocking. If one of you hears me calling and opens the door, I will come in to share a meal with that person and that person with me." (Rev 3.20) At Christmas God comes close. Indeed, in Jesus, God is truly with us, Emmanuel. May you know that closeness in your keeping of the feast and may his nativity renew in us all the search for peace on earth and goodwill to all.

Fr. Rob



Father Rob, Father Nick and Deacon Rob wish you a blessed and joyful Christmas. Thank you to everyone who has helped to prepare our celebrations – and especially to those who have joined in our worship in person or online.

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.

Please note the **Parish Office will be closed from 22 December until 10 January 2023.**

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.

Charisms, gifts or talents? – a talk for Young Adults: Our Diocesan Young Adults (18-35) online formation continues with guest speaker Sr Margaret Atkins exploring Charisms and how they might lead us to a particular state of life. Join us on 9 January 2023 to meet other young Catholics and learn more about how God might be calling you! E: Lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk

A gentle reminder about the next **Study Day, on Saturday, 14 January, 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 for more details

Living Presence, a Retreat at The House of Prayer led by Jill Benet, 20-22 Jan, Cost: £200-220.

A time to connect and rest in the presence that 'surpasses all understanding'.

This retreat is suitable for those establishing a practice of Centering Prayer and those who wish to spend time in quiet practice with teaching, extended periods of prayer and silence. Book [here](#).

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 or T: 01342 710318

Who are You, O God, and Who am I!? A Retreat at the [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 or T: 01483 675575

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist led by Bishop Richard Saturday 18 February 2023 from 11.00am - 4.00pm at Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge. The day will include theological and practical talks, Eucharistic Adoration and mass. Arrival from 10.30am for refreshments. Please bring a packed lunch. Please sign up at: [Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist \(18-Feb-2023\) - ChurchSuite Events](#) E: Catherine.Christmas@abdiocese.org.uk for more information.

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>.

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.

Sunday, 8 January, 2023 is the feast of the **Baptism of the Lord**. As well as remembering Jesus' own baptism in the River Jordan by John, we are all invited to reflect on our own baptism, which is the source of our calling to be living witnesses to the Gospel. Over the last year we have had the joy of welcoming many children (and some adults, too) into our parish family. So we invite all those who have celebrated a baptism during 2022 to come to one of the masses that weekend in order to mark that important step of faith and to receive a special blessing. If possible, let the parish office know you are coming and, if you are willing to, send us a photograph which we can put on display (uncaptioned) – a sign of the new life and new growth in our community. May you always find support and new life in our company.

World Youth Day: Are you aged 18-35? If you are, we invite you to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lisbon to meet with the Holy Father. 31st July -7th August 2023. Join millions of other young people from all over the world to celebrate our faith and make life-long friendships. The week will include a trip to Fatima as well as all the amazing festival activities, not to mention Mass with Pope Francis. To find out more about this amazing opportunity please contact lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk.

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.](#)

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.

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](#)

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.

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 15 March 2023. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre and National Museum. Special St. Patrick's Day Celebrations. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

Last Week's Offertory Collection: Baskets - £284.62, Contactless - £77.00 and Standing Orders - £588.33, which were Gift Aided. Total - £949.95. Many thanks.

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 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

Monday 26th December - St Stephen, First Martyr

No Mass

Tuesday 27th December - St John, Apostle and Evangelist

10.00am Holy Mass Alexandra Peaston RIP

Wednesday 28th December - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

No Mass

Thursday 29th December - St Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr

No Mass

Friday 30th December - The Holy Family

10.00am Holy Mass Alfredo Del Rio Garcia RIP

Saturday 31st December - Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas

6.00pm Vigil Mass Doug Carr RIP

SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY - MARY MOTHER OF GOD - YEAR A 2023

9.30am Holy Mass People of the Parish

Monday 2nd January- Sts Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen, Doctors of the Church

No Mass

Tuesday 3rd January - The Most Holy Name of Jesus

No Mass

Wednesday 4th January - Feria in Christmastide

No Mass

Thursday 5th January - Feria in Christmastide

10.00am Holy Mass Denise Chevillard RIP and her family

Friday 6th January - THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

10.00am Holy Mass For the Gilbert & Punchard Families
7.30pm Holy Mass Sue Dethick RIP

Saturday 7th January - St Raymond of Penafort, Priest

6.00pm Vigil Mass People of the Parish

SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR A 2023

9.30am Holy Mass Christina Bruce RIP

Weekday Mass Times and Intentions - ST DUNSTAN'S CHURCH

Second week & weekend Mass Times - visit www.st-dunstans.org

Monday	26th December	11.00 am	Ada Stanbrook RIP
Tuesday	27th December	10.00 am	Mariam Paily RIP
Wednesday	28th December	10.00 am	Ena and Geoff Penny, Wedding Anniversary
Thursday	29th December	10.00 am	Joanna Coleman & Daniel Coleman
Friday	30th December	10.00 am	For the homeless

Prayer Petition to the Holy Name of Jesus

God, You appointed Your only-begotten Son to be the Saviour of mankind, and You commanded His Name to be Jesus. I beg that a most ardent love of Your Divine Son imprint that Name upon my heart; that it always be on my mind, and frequently on my lips; that it be my defence in temptation, my refuge in danger, and my consolation and strength in the hour of my death.