



St. Peter's Church

Bishop's Rise, Hatfield,
Hertfordshire AL10 9HN
Tel: 01707 262121
www.stpetershatfield.org



13 December 2009

Volume 4, No. 3

Mass Times:

Sunday Masses

Sat. : 6.00 pm Vigil Mass

Sun. : 9.15 & 11.00 am &

6.00 pm : Student Mass
(University term-time only)

Weekday Masses

Mon-Wed, Fri: 9.30 am

Thurs : 7.00 pm

Sat : 10.30 am

Holy Days of Obligation

Mass: 9.30 am & 7.30 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Sat 11.00 am – 12 noon

Morning Prayer

Mon-Wed, Fri : 9.10 am

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

After Mass on Tuesday

Rosary

After Mass on Wednesday

First Friday : 7.30 pm

Confessions

Sat 11-12, 5.15-5.45 pm

or by request

Baptism – See Fr. Mark

Preparation obligatory

Marriage – 6 months notice

Preparation obligatory

Last week's collection

£616.28

Thank-you

Parish Priest: *Fr. Mark Vickers*

E-mail: markvickers@rcdow.org.uk

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete) : Year C



Fr. Mark writes: Like Lent, Advent is a more sombre season – but only up to a point. It is a time of preparation for the great joy which lies ahead with the coming of Our Saviour. Today is Gaudete Sunday – the word means simply “Rejoice!” We come out of purple vestments for the day and go into rose coloured ones, reminding us to lighten up. And we *are* joyful if we take on board John the Baptist’s message : it doesn’t matter what has happened in the past provided we too ask that question, “What are we to do?” And the answer is, as far as possible, to rectify the wrongs we have – and be reconciled with God and neighbour. Then, indeed, Christmas will be truly joyful.

Christmas Offerings

Attached is an envelope for Christmas offerings, your gift to the parish. It costs c. £8,500 pa to have a priest in a parish. The Sunday collection pays the general expenses of the parish and Diocese (including Catholic schools). Traditionally, priests were paid from Christmas and Easter offerings, stole fees and Mass stipends. When I arrived, these raised less than £3,000 pa. We are now much more in line with the actual cost, but we need to continue this to show we are a viable parish. Envelopes can be returned in the collection or through the house letter box.

Student Mass

The University Term finishes on Friday and this evening is the last 6 pm student Mass until 10 January. If you are going home, have a wonderful Christmas. If you are staying in Hatfield, please join us for the parish Masses and activities. After Mass this evening, the students are carol singing to raise money for the Passage, the homeless charity founded by Cardinal Hume. If they come to your street, please give them a warm welcome.

Advent Penitential Service

The most important way we prepare for the coming of Christ is in our hearts and our lives. All Catholics should be thinking of going to Confession at this time of year so we can celebrate Christmas spiritually renewed with true joy. There are the normal times of Confession in the parish – and I am happy to hear Confessions at any other time when I am free. In addition, we have a joint Penitential Service with Marychurch in Old Hatfield at **7.30 pm** this **Tuesday, 15 December**. There will be a number of priests available to hear Confessions.

Christmas Carol Service

The Parish Carol Service is at **3 pm** next **Sunday, 20 December**. In addition to the normal readings and carols, the children’s liturgy group will be performing a nativity play and a group from the School will be singing. There will be mulled wine, tea and coffee in the Hall afterwards. Come and join us, and invite your family and friends.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve	9.30 am Morning Mass
Thursday, 24 December	11.00 pm Midnight Mass (carols from 10.30 pm)
Christmas Day, Friday	9.15 & 11.00 am
St. Stephen’s Day	12 noon
Saturday, 26 December	6.00 pm Vigil Mass
Holy Family, Sun., 27	9.15 & 11.00 am
Monday, 28 December	No Mass

St. Stephen is the patron saint of altar servers, so it would be good to have as many altar servers as possible at the Mass at 12 noon on his Feast Day on 26 December.

Parish Office

Fridays : 9.00 am-1.00 pm

St Philip Howard Primary & Pre-School – 01707 263969**Nicholas Breakspear Senior Mixed** – 01727 860079**Loreto College Senior Girls** 01727 856206**QEII Hospital Catholic Chaplaincy**
Bernadette Cassidy
07884 187463**Youth Group**
Jemma Emmans
01707 880703**Ignatian Prayer Group** – alternate Tuesdays
David Barham 01707 266551**Planned giving envelopes**
Pat Malsher – 01707 265530**APF Mission Boxes**
Heather Coakley 01707 269153**Hall Bookings**
Heather Coakley 01707 269153**St Peter's Power Running and Walking Group**
Mondays in term time
Michael & Linda Blissett
01707 885933**Crib Offerings**

Crib offerings go to the Westminster Catholic Children's Society who help children and families in need. They do excellent work in difficult circumstances. Please support them if you can by placing money in the basket by the crib.

Marriage Preparation

Catholics should marry in church, and undertake marriage preparation for what is obviously one of the most important and joyful steps in their life. We will be offering a marriage preparation course here at St. Peter's on **Saturday, 23 January**. Please let me know if you would like to attend the course.

Readings at Sunday Mass

Zephaniah 3: 14-18 Philippians 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 10-18

Psalm 12 Response: **Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**Gospel Acclamation: **Prepare a way for the Lord, Make his paths straight, And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.****Prayer of the Church** : Psalter Week 3**Weekly Rotas****Flowers:** Maria, Bella & Anna**Church cleaning :** Krzysztof Lassak**Shop:** 18.00 Frances Nicholas

9.15 Pauline O'Toole 11.00 Mary O'Donnell

Welcome: 9.15 Rosemary Curran

11.00 Uzo Cliffe

Mass Intentions for the Week 13 - 20 December 2009

Saturday, 12 December	18.00	Mary Beretta, RIP
Sunday, 13 December	9.15	John McGuire, Anniv
<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	11.00	Kathleen & Kevin Moran, Anniv
	18.00	Pro Populo
Monday, 14 December	9.30	Mary Beretta, RIP
<i>St John of the Cross</i>		
Tuesday, 15 December	9.30	Francisca Dias, RIP
Wednesday, 16 December	9.30	Mary Beretta, RIP
Thursday, 17 December	19.30	Tom & Mags Clarke, Int
Friday, 18 December	9.30	Frances & Frank Murphy, RIP
Saturday, 19 December	10.30	Mary Beretta, RIP
	18.00	Pro Populo
Sunday, 20 December	9.15	Patricia Wilkes, Anniv
<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	11.00	Katrina Hogan, Anniv

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND:

Carmel Burton, Mike Faithfull, Hugh McGrath, Margaret Lovatt Dugan, Joe McKenna, Christina Newman, Peggy O'Connor, Anne Smith

Pilgrimage : Rome & Assisi, October 2010

As part of our Golden Jubilee celebrations we have a parish pilgrimage to Rome & Umbria 23-30 October 2010. We plan to have Mass at the Tomb of St. Peter and an audience with the Pope. We spend four days in Rome, then three in the beautiful Umbrian countryside visiting Assisi and other places associated with St. Francis. A pilgrimage is a wonderful way of deepening our faith, making new friends and thoroughly enjoying ourselves in the process. Please pick up a brochure from the back of the church, and ask me for an application form.

South Hatfield Residents' Association

As Christians we should aim to be involved as a force for good in public life at both the national and local level. There is a proposal to set up a Residents' Associations for South Hatfield to influence some of the issues which give people concern locally. If anyone is interested in joining the Committee, please contact our parishioner, Adrienne Nix, on (01707) 2880141.

Pantomime

This year's professionally-produced pantomime, Aladdin, is at **12.30 pm, Saturday, 9 January**, followed by a children's party **2.30-3.30 pm**. There are 80 tickets available from Tony Dodd after the 11 am Mass or on 01707 646383 : £5 for every person occupying a seat.