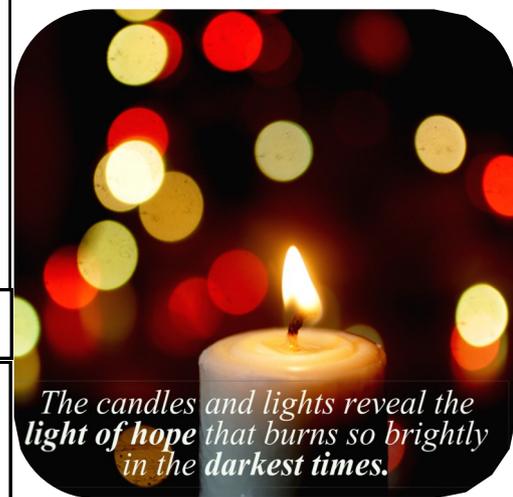


The Catholic Parishes of Borehamwood  
 St Teresa of the Child Jesus 291 Shenley Road, WD6 1TG  
 SS John Fisher & Thomas More 28 Rossington Ave, WD6 4LA  
 borehamwood@rcdow.org.uk www.catholicparishesofborehamwood.org

The Catholic Parish of Carpenters Park & South Oxhey  
 St Joseph's Church, Oxhey Drove Watford WD19 7SW  
 carpenterspark@rcdow.org.uk www.carpenterspark.org.uk

**4th Sunday of Advent: (Year B) 20th December 2020**

Fr. Dominic McKenna Parish Priest (based at St Teresa's)	Tel: 020 8953 1294
Sue Partington Parish Admin (based at St Teresa's)	Tel: 020 8953 1294
<i>Monday to Thursday: 9.30am—4.30pm. suepartington@rcdow.org.uk</i>	
Fr John Warnaby Asst Priest (based at St Joseph's)	Tel: 0202 428 0088
Jackie Faria Parish Admin (based at St Joseph's)	Tel: 0202 428 0088



*The candles and lights reveal the light of hope that burns so brightly in the darkest times.*

**St Teresa's church is monitored by CCTV cameras 24 hours a day. Live streaming of all services takes place at St Teresa's and can be viewed at [www.churchservices.tv/borehamwood](http://www.churchservices.tv/borehamwood) or through the link on our website**

**FIRE SAFETY NOTICE:** If anyone has difficulty in hearing, walking or anything else that may slow down safe exit in the event of a fire, please let us know before the service starts, so that we can arrange for assistance for you.

Saturday 19th December	Vigil: 4th Sun	6pm	Florrie D'Arcy RIP (Ann)
Sunday 20th December	4th Sunday of Advent	8.30am	Eileen Barry RIP
		10am	Mick Rooney RIP (Ann) & Felix Achale RIP (Ann)
Monday 21st December	Advent Feria	9.15am	Lilly & Anthony John Pinto RIP
Tuesday 22nd December	Advent Feria	9.15am	Jack Byrne RIP
Wednesday 23rd December	No Mass		
Thursday 24th December	Confessions	10am-1pm	
<b>All Christmas Eve Masses fully booked</b>	Vigil Mass	5pm	Frank Atkinson RIP & Malcolm Creaton RIP
	Vigil Mass	8pm	Mary & Ted Mansfield RIP
	Midnight Mass	12am	The Parishioners & all those watching online.
Friday 25th December	The Nativity of the Lord	8.30am	) All the deceased members of
<b>Some Christmas Day spaces at 8.30 &amp; noon</b>		10am	) the Catholic Parishes of Borehamwood
		Noon	)
Saturday 26th December	St Stephen Vigil: Holy Family	Noon	Michael Brady RIP
		6pm	The Front Line Workers & Care Givers

**Liturgy of the Word: 20th December 2020**

**Entrance Antiphon:** *Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour*

**Responsorial Psalm:** *I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!*

**Next week's readings:** *Eccles.3:2-6,12-14, Psalm 8127:1-5, resp cfv5, Colossians 3:12-21, Luke 2:22-40*

**Fr Dominic writes:** *Has our whole story of Christmas and the crib become too pretty and sweet?*

*When we look at the crib everything looks so pretty, so peaceful, so orderly. Not a cry is heard from the child, not a sound from the donkey or the oxen, not a smell of any kind. The straw is clean. With our inward ear we hear the singing of the angels and when we look up we see the star which led the Magi to Bethlehem.*

*This is pretty, and we might want to believe it. But we know it is not real. It is not true. It is a false picture. Everything was not as neat and pretty as that. The first Christmas was as full of hurry and worry as our Christmas is. It was full of uncertainty, disappointment and fear. It was no picnic for Mary and Joseph. It was more like an ordeal, perhaps even a nightmare. They had just completed a long difficult journey. They arrived in Bethlehem, poor, unknown, and without influence of any kind. They were unable to find accommodation. When the time came for Mary to give birth there was no one to assist.*

*It is too easy to move away from the poverty of the original crib. We have a tendency to pretty up the Christmas story, But, in doing that we remove it from us. We empty it of much of the meaning it carries for us.*

*It was St. Francis of Assisi who assembled the first crib in a cave on an Italian hillside in the year 1223. His aim was to make the Christmas story come alive for the local people. His idea was to show them how close it was to them and their lives. He succeeded. On Christmas Eve the friars and the people assembled with candles and torches around the crib. Francis spoke to the people who were mostly farmers and shepherds about God's Son coming among them to teach us that we too are children of God and that as such we have an eternal destiny. The shepherds and farmers got the message: God had time for simple folks like them. At then end of the vigil they all returned to their homes full of peace and joy, feeling vey close to God and to each other.*



**Protecting your privacy:** Any personal details that you provide to this parish, (name, address, email, telephone number etc.) will be held on file & stored on the parish computer securely. If applicable, your details will also be entered into the appropriate Sacramental Register. For Volunteers groups, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers etc., your details will be shared with other group members in this parish to enable you to arrange cover etc. If you do not wish your details to be shared, please let the Parish Office know **You can read our full privacy policy on [rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy](http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy)**



If you can help the Foodbank, here is a list of essentials that they always need. Jam, tinned carrots, tinned potatoes or packets of mash powder, cereals, tinned rice pudding, tinned fruit & tinned hot dogs, tinned meat pies, tinned custard or custard powder and crisps. Thank you for your continued amazing response - you never fail us!



Baptisms are on hold at the moment until we get guidelines as to what we can & cannot do. If you would like to get your child baptised, as a starting point, please complete & submit the online baptism registration form, (found under sacraments on the website), we will then get in touch with you & arrange for you to see Fr Dominic so you are ready to go once we get approval.



### Why not change the way you donate?



In these strange times, with half empty churches, not seeing familiar faces, not being able to hire out the parish centre or sell repository, run classes, our revenue, like everyone's, has taken a hit. One of the main drops being in loose plate & envelopes. We are grateful for any donations that you make but were wondering if you had thought about donating regularly by way of a standing order. You won't need that Sunday scrabble for cash for the plate or for the fiddly envelopes and once set up you can forget about it! All you need to do is fill in a form, return it to us & let us do the rest. Having less cash in the church is much safer for us all and as would seem to be the case, more hygienic. Contact us if you would like to make the change!! Of course we have our **new contactless machine** at St Teresa's but there's only so much it can do - you have to be here in person! So please don't forget to use our **Virgin Money Giving**, which can be accessed via their site or by clicking on the button on our website.

Look at the "About us" page on the website & you will see "Donate" - its all there and please call us if you need help!



**We are in Tier 3 but we are pleased to advise that Public Masses can continue but subject to the same restrictions as before**, namely you must follow the stringent guidelines, you must pre book your attendance, (if your name's not on the list, you're not coming in!) and face masks must be worn at all times, unless you are medically exempt. You may remember **that we had a problem with people not booking & just turning up. please do book as we cannot exceed the limit of people allowed in the church under the regulations.** no one wants to be the one to turn people away, which is also unfair on our dedicated Stewards. Weekday masses are less well attended and so you do not need to book. If you have problems, please call us & we can book from this end. Communion will be given at the end of Mass and in the hand only. All masses will continue to be at St Teresa's to allow everything to be Live Streamed.



**Confirmation 2021:** The deadlines have now been reached for these & you should have received an email confirming registration. The programme will start in 2021 and we will be in touch before Christmas to give further details on how the course will be run next year.



**First Holy Communion 2021.** You should have received an email advising you that the course will start in the new year. We will be in touch very soon to let you know how we plan to carry out the teaching. Don't forget to collect your child's "I belong" book if you haven't already.

### The Financials...

**Monthly Standing Orders: £3,106 (£2,973 mthly last year)**

**Last weekend Offertory -**

**Envelopes £ 1060.05- thank you those who made up for missed weeks! Loose Plate £180.22**

**Contactless donations £ 60**

**Virgin Money Donations via website £ 15**

**Total weekly income for last week £1,315.27**

**This time last year our offertory was £ 826.75 envelopes & £857.33 £1,684.08 in total.**



**School Reception Admissions for 2021/22 - Certificates of Catholic Practice (CCP).** Fr Dominic will be signing the certificates but you will not need to see him in person, please follow the following procedures: [Download](#) and print the Certificate of Catholic Practice from the website (look on Home page or News) Fill in the required information and then send the completed certificate to the Parish Office, with a copy of your child's baptismal certificate. Once you have submitted the certificate and supporting documentation, please allow three days to turn it around then you can pick up from the Parish Office. **Fr Dominic is away from the Parish in January so you will need to submit before then, as the admission process closes on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**



The Sisters of Mercy Addo project have a new website that really is worth a look: [www.placeofmercyandhope.com](http://www.placeofmercyandhope.com)



### Do you know someone of whom we are not reaching?

Someone who doesn't have the internet whom we can call to keep in touch? Someone who is simply struggling with the current situation? Please do get in touch with us if you, or someone you know needs a bit of

We are sad to announce the death of long standing parishioner, Elizabeth Hackett. Her funeral will be on 6th January & subject to the usual COVID restrictions. May she rest in peace & rise in glory.



The school is unable to offer prospective parents a tour this year, so have put a short video on the Admissions page of their website, to show you their Early Years environment. [www.stteresas.herts.sch.uk/about-st-teresas/admissions](http://www.stteresas.herts.sch.uk/about-st-teresas/admissions) Please also take time to look at the Pupils' Learning pages on the website as this will give you a further taste of the school. If you have any questions regarding the admissions process, please either ring the school office (020 8953 3753) or send an email to [admissions@stteresas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@stteresas.herts.sch.uk)

