

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

18th December 2022: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fr. Dominic McKenna Parish Priest Tel: 020 8953 1294
 Sue Partington Parish Admin Tel: 020 8953 1294
 Monday to Thursday: 10am - 4.30pm. suepartington@rcdow.org.uk

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 SS John Fisher & Thomas More. These can be viewed at 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.



Services for the forthcoming week

Saturday 17th December	Vigil: 4th Sunday	6pm (SSJFTM)	Ivan & Kristijana Ivankovic RIP
Sunday 18th December	Fourth Sunday of Advent	8.30am (SSJFTM) 10am (St T) Noon (St T)	Lourda O'Leary RIP Ana Cristina Trindade RIP (Ann) Kathleen Parsons RIP
Monday 19th December	Advent Feria	9.15am (St T)	Sean Ryan RIP (Bday)
Tuesday 20th December	Advent Feria	9.15am (St T)	Miriam, Julius, Aaron & Jane Rees RIP
Wednesday 21st Dec.	No Mass		
Thursday 22nd December	Advent Feria	9.15am (St T)	Sr Monica Clare RIP
Friday 23rd December	Advent Feria	9.15am (St T)	Ben Martin RIP
Saturday 24th December	Christmas Eve	5pm (St T) 8pm (St T) 12pm (SSJFTM)	Lourda O'Leary RIP Lilly Ward RIP All Parishioners who have died in 2022

Confessions Saturday weekly - 11am-11.40am at St Teresa's & 5pm-5.40pm at SSJFTM

Liturgy of the Word - 18th December

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: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means "God - is-with -us". Alleluia!

Next week's Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 97:1-6, *rsp.v3*, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18

Fr Dominic writes: The Forgotten Person of the Nativity—Saint Joseph!

A story is told about a School Christmas Pageant in which the boy playing Joseph became ill and was not able to perform. They did not replace him and nobody noticed. Nobody missed Joseph. Yet, Joseph is important.

In those days people married in stages. Firstly there was an engagement. This happened when a boy and a girl were very young and it was done by their families. The second stage was the betrothal. Here is where a couple accepted and ratified the engagement their parents had made. They could leave before the betrothal but to separate after the Betrothal required a formal legal procedure. A year later came the solemn marriage, which was final. Joseph and Mary were in the middle phase, the Betrothal. Joseph was a man of commitment, he truly loved Mary and was to divorce her quietly. But, reassured by God, in a dream, he committed himself to Mary and Jesus.

Commitment! It is said that our character is revealed not by the number of options we leave open in our lives but by the commitments we embrace. Talking about commitments leaves people uneasy. Because many see commitment as a loss of freedom, the surrender of options, and the deprivation of personal preferences. Our culture seems to teach us to avoid commitment. Joseph could have walked away from his commitment to Mary and Jesus, even after his dream, but he didn't. Christmas is a good time to renew our commitments to our families, our vocation, our work and our church community. Maturity is indeed defined not by the number of options we leave open but by the commitments we keep, even when it isn't easy.

Joseph is a powerful model for us at this time of year. A model of adult commitment which our culture desperately needs and a reminder to us to renew those commitments that shape our life and soul. Christmas is not just a beautiful story that warms our heart. It is about a solid fact that can save our soul.

Monthly Standing Orders: £3,885
Last two weekend's Offertory
 Envelopes £ 520
 Loose Plate £ 413.59
 Contactless donations £ 385
Total for weekends 4th & 11th December £ 1318.59



FHC 2022-23 Programme. The next meeting is **Thursday 19th January 2023 6.15pm at St Teresa's School** when we will review chapters 5 & 6. FHC dates were handed out at this week's meeting, if there is still a problem with your date, please contact Sue ASAP.

Confirmation: 2022-23 Programme. Next meeting is 7th March 2023 6.30pm, at St Teresa's Church, when we will review the answers to sessions 4,5,& 6 If you haven't submitted your Saints Name & Sponsor yet , please do so,

Memories Café – bereavement and loss drop-in support sessions. Every Monday - 11am to 1pm at the Watford Hospital Chaplaincy. Memories Café offers a chance to meet with others who understand the experience of loss. It is a space to talk about the pain of bereavement and find mutual support and encouragement when you need it most. email: westherts.spiritualcare@nhs.net

The wonderful upgrade to the office computer has wiped out the newsletter email distribution list. If you are wondering why you haven't received it recently, please drop Sue an email and we will add you to the list!

BAPTISMS: Our baptisms take place on a Saturday afternoon, at either Noon, 1pm or 2pm, with a Rite of Welcome at your usual Mass the weekend before. They are individual ceremonies. If you would like your child to be baptised, please complete the registration form over the website (under Sacraments) & Sue will get in touch once she receives it. You can have up to four God-parents - no more as we don't have space in the register! - one of whom must be a practising Catholic . You will also need to attend a Baptism Preparation Course - you will be asked to book via the website when you submit your registration.

2023 courses arranged so far: 21st January, 25th February & 25th March. All 3.30pm-4.30pm at St Teresa's Church

Still scrabbling around for cash for the Offertory? Keep forgetting to bring your envelopes?, **why not think about donating by Standing Order?** All you need to do is pick up a standing order mandate & complete

CHRISTMAS AT THE PARISH:

Saturday 24th December

5pm: Christmas Vigil & Children's Nativity (St T)

8pm: Christmas Vigil (St T)

11.30pm: Carols (SSJFTM)

12pm: Midnight Mass (St T)

Sunday 25th December

10am; Mass (SSJFTM)

Noon: Mass (St T)

Please pick up a service card for full details.



Warm Spaces in Borehamwood

MONDAY

Chatter Tables 11:30am-3:30pm at St Michael's Church
 Borehamwood Library 9am-6pm at 96 Shenley Road

TUESDAY

Welcome Café 11:30am-3:30pm at St Michael's Church
 Borehamwood Library 12pm-6pm at 96 Shenley Road

WEDNESDAY

Borehamwood Library 9am-6pm at 96 Shenley Road
 Back2Bowls 1-3pm at Aberford Community Centre

THURSDAY

Welcome Café 11:30am-3:30pm at St Michael's Church
 Borehamwood Library 12pm-7pm at 96 Shenley Road

FRIDAY

Organ Hall Community Centre 10am-4pm

SATURDAY

Borehamwood Library 9am-4pm at 96 Shenley Road

MORE INFORMATION t: 0208 207 7801 e: community.services@hertsmere.gov.uk

Domestic Abuse It doesn't have to be physical violence to be domestic abuse. *Are you living in fear of your Intimate partner or family member* **Is that person. verbally abusive, financially controlling, Bullying, Unreasonable & Unpredictable? Humiliating and puts you down, Controlling , Sexually abusive? Do you feel....It's your fault, You can't be yourself, Low in mood, Isolated, Less confident? You have lost your identity and who you once were? If any of the above are affecting you please attend our drop in session with SAHWR Outreach where you can receive confidential information, advice & support around your options. Thursday's 1-3pm ,the Community Shop, 5 Leeming Road, Borehamwood WD6 4EB**

Premises Updates: December marks the annual services of the heating at both churches. Then in the New Year we need to look at emergency lighting to keep the Health & safety Inspector happy with us. The money that you so kindly give to the Contingency Fund not only helps for unexpected repairs but also helps us make sure we keep everything properly maintained rather than wait for something to go wrong before we address it. There are envelopes for the fund in both churches, if you are able, please do pick up an envelope and donate, if you Gift Aid your donation - even better! You can also give by bank transfer (40 05 20 91095714 WRCDT St Teresa). You can also contactless a donation, just let us know if you do, to make sure that we allocate it to the correct pot! We know that times are tough so if you can't help , please don't worry.

If you know of someone who would like a copy of this newsletter posting / emailing out to them weekly, just let us know. **We also provide large print copies.**

