

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](mailto:borehamwood@rcdow.org.uk) [www.catholicparishesofborehamwood.org](http://www.catholicparishesofborehamwood.org)

## Christmas & New Year Double Edition

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](mailto: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](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.

### Services for the forthcoming week

Saturday 24th December	Vigil & Nativity	5pm (St T)	Lourda O'Leary RIP
	Vigil	8pm (St T)	Lilly Ward RIP
	Carols	11.30pm (SSJFM)	
	Midnight Mass	12am (SSJFTM)	All Parishioners who have died in 2022
Sunday 25th December	Nativity of the Lord	10am (SSJFTM)	All Parishioners living & deceased
		Noon (St T)	All former Parishioners living & deceased
Monday 26th December	St Stephen	Noon (St T)	Dot & Ollie Quinn RIP
Tuesday 27th December	St John	Noon (St T)	Michael Brady RIP
Wednesday 28th Dec.	No Mass		
Thursday 29th December	St Thomas Beckett	9.15am (St T)	Jan Davies RIP (Ann)
Friday 30th December	The Holy Family	9.15am (St T)	Kathleen O'Donnell RIP (Bday)
Saturday 31st December	Vigil: Mary, Holy Mother of God	6pm (SSJFTM)	Mary & Ted Mansfield RIP
		9.30pm (St T)	Lourda O'Leary RIP
Sunday 1st January	Mary, the Holy Mother of God	10am (SSJFTM)	Evelyn Doegah RIP (Ann)
		Noon (St T)	Jack & Noni McCarthy RIP (Ann)
Monday 2nd January	SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	<b>Noon (St T)</b>	John Corcoran RIP
Tuesday 3rd January	Christmas Feria	9.15am (St T)	Dritan Doda (Int)
Wednesday 4th Jan,	No Mass		
Thursday 5th January	Christmas Feria	9.15am (St T)	Frank & Art Wassam RIP (Ann)
Friday 6th January	<b>Epiphany</b>	<b>7am (St T)</b>	Pat Burke RIP (Ann)
		<b>9.15am (St T)</b>	Lilly Ward RIP (Bday)
		<b>7.30pm (St T)</b>	Mary Caffrey RIP
Saturday 7th January	Vigil: Baptism of The Lord	6pm (SSJFTM)	Victor Cyril Doegah RIP (Ann)

**Mass Intentions now booked through until March 2023**

### Liturgy of the Word - 25th December

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; His sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.
<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b>	All the ends of earth have seen the salvation of our God..
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	Alleluia, alleluia! A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth Alleluia!
<b>Next week's Readings:</b>	Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 66:2-3,5,6,8, <i>rsp.v2</i> , Hebrews 1:1-2, Luke 2:16-21

### Liturgy of the Word - 1st January

<b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>	Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.
<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b>	O God, be gracious and bless us.
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son Alleluia!
<b>Next week's Readings:</b>	Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7, Psalm 28:1-4,9-10, <i>rsp.v11</i> , Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17

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.



**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



We have a **Christmas Tree of Remembrance at St Teresa.** Please feel free to write a name or a message on the stars provided and put on the tree. We know that Christmas can be a tough time of year when the absence of a loved one is felt even more. Please keep all those people in your prayers.



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!



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 & return to us.



**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 Godparents - 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**

## 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](mailto:community.services@hertsmere.gov.uk)

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## Fr Dominic writes:

## God's Gifts

Christmas is about gifts and presents. Around Christmas the shops are filled until late in the evening with shoppers who delayed buying their gifts. In the end hardly anyone can escape the pressure to buy gifts for others. Christmas is about one particular gift, but it not the type you can buy in a shop. It is about the gift that was given to Mary, Jesus' mother. An angel came to tell her that she was full of the Holy Spirit. Celebrating Christmas means sharing what happened to Mary at that moment. How often are we aware of being with the Holy Spirit? And when and where should this happen?

Many of the paintings of the annunciation show Mary at prayer. We do not know what Mary was doing when the angel arrived. Was it because she was at prayer that the angel told her that she was full of grace? I know of many people who have said that in years of praying they never felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in themselves.

Orthodox Bishop Anthony Bloom wrote about this problem in a book he wrote. He tells the story of a woman who complained to him that she had dedicated herself to prayer for over fourteen years, without ever feeling God's real presence in her life. No driving light, no signs or signals—nothing. She remained stuck in the dark night of the soul. The bishop gave her his advice. After some time, the woman returned to him. She told him that she had followed his advice. She had gone home and sat down in her most comfortable chair with a cup of tea. She had started to knit. Eventually, she was totally relaxed. She glanced at the crucifix on the wall and a picture of Mary. She looked out of her window at the beautiful garden, which was full of plants, flowers, and birds, and watched some children passing by on their roller skates. She gazed at the sun in the bright blue sky, and the tiny white clouds. She listened to the sounds in the street, the excited voices of the playing children, and suddenly.....it was given to her. She felt the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We tend to limit God's presence in our lives to the times when we are at prayer. It is one way of getting God out of the rest of our lives. We only allow God to enter our lives when we are in church—kneeling with our eyes closed and hands folded. By only giving God access to those parts of our life we consider "holy", we are reversing the roles. So that God's presence in us does not depend on God but on us. Let us, at this time of year, let Jesus enter all the aspects of our life.