

# Our Lady Help of Christians

Diocese of Northampton – Deanery of St. Albans

52 Castle Street Luton Beds LU1 3AG

Tel: 01582 723254

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Website: [www.ourladyhelpofchristians.co.uk](http://www.ourladyhelpofchristians.co.uk)

6th December 2020

2nd Sunday of Advent

Parish Priest: **Fr Dariusz Bialowas** Tel. 01582 723254  
 Deacon: **Rev Gerry McGrogan**  
**Office Hours:** Thursday & Friday 11.30am to 2.00pm  
**Pastoral Area Council Website** [www.lutonpastoralarea.org](http://www.lutonpastoralarea.org)  
**Sisters of St Clare:** 3 Abigail Close, Luton LU3 1ND  
 Tel: 01582 424518; [www.sistersofstclare.com](http://www.sistersofstclare.com)  
 Parish Safeguarding Rep (PSR) : **Kate Brooks** Tel :  
 07395 938462 Email : [safeguardingpsr@outlook.com](mailto:safeguardingpsr@outlook.com)

**Confessions: Thursday and Friday 12noon-12.30pm.**  
 Confessions can also be booked by contacting the Parish Office.

*Confessions - Please do not leave this for the last minute during the run up to Christmas as Fr. Dariusz is on his own.*

- Phone calls to the office should be kept to a minimum and are for urgent matters only.
- If you communicate using email, it may be a few days before I am able to reply but it is essential that you include your telephone number in your email.
- Please check our website regularly. Recently, I have had phone calls asking for Mass and Confession times and what forms are necessary for schools. Such information is on our website or the schools website so please look there first.
- Please book an appointment before you come to see me.

**As November lockdown has come to an end,** our church will be open as follows:

Wednesday 9th December - 12.45pm – Holy Mass  
 Thursday 10th December - 12.45pm – Holy Mass  
 Friday 11th December -12.45pm – Holy Mass  
 Sunday 13th December – 09.30am, 11.30am and 5.00pm – Holy Mass.

**NYMO Resources** – To help our young people continue on their journey towards sainthood, the NYMO Youth office has a number of resources that can be accessed via the YouTube channel. Please go to YouTube.com and in the search field type luxnymo

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES 2021:** Given the current crisis the Luton parishes will not begin preparation for First Reconciliation (Confession), First Communion, or Confirmation until at least January 2021. For baptism as an adult or for your child please see your parish priest. The usual marriage preparation course for the town will not take place in 2021. Any couples asking to be married in 2021 should see their parish priest immediately.

**The Church still needs funds** to enable us to continue to pay our bills, keep the church running and open, so please continue to support the church financially. You can continue your weekly collection contributions by 2 different ways:- 1) Send us a cheque made out to 'Our Lady Help of Christians', 52 Castle Street, Luton, Beds LUI 3AG 2) We would like to encourage those parishioners who do not currently give by Standing Order to donate online. This can be done via the Diocesan website which can be found at <https://northamptondiocese.org/>. Scroll down to find the Donate button and follow the instructions on the Catholic Diocese of Northampton Virgin money giving page. Please ensure the parish name and area that the donation is intended for, ( i.e. Our Lady's, Luton), is indicated in the notes section of the donate page.

**Diocesan E-News** – If you would like to receive email updates on what is going on across our diocese please email <http://www.northamptondiocese.org/#signup>

<b>SUNDAY</b> Fr. Dariusz	9.30am	Dannie O'Donnell - Anniv RIP Sr. Kathleen – Birthday Ints. People of the Parish
Fr. Dariusz	11.30am	Alessandro Monziona - Anniv RIP Eithne Corcoran - RIP Poor souls in Purgatory
Fr. Dariusz	5.00pm	Robert Staples – RIP Patricia (Patsy) Bladon – Anniv. RIP
<b>MONDAY</b> Fr. Jeremy		PRIVATE MASS
Fr. Dariusz	12.45pm	People of the Parish
<b>TUESDAY</b> Fr. Jeremy		PRIVATE MASS
Fr. Dariusz		Len's – Birthday Ints. Patricia (Patsy) Bladon – Anniv. RIP
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Fr. Jeremy		PRIVATE MASS
Fr. Dariusz	12.45pm	Elda Centracchio – Birthday Rememberance Victor De Souza – RIP Sr. Kathleen – Birthday Ints.
<b>THURSDAY</b> Fr. Jeremy		PRIVATE MASS
Fr. Dariusz	12.45pm	Special Ints. Eithne Corcoran - RIP
<b>FRIDAY</b> Fr. Jeremy		PRIVATE MASS
Fr. Dariusz	12.45pm	Jozef Baronak – RIP Mary George – Anniv. RIP
<b>SATURDAY</b> Fr. Jeremy		PRIVATE MASS

**Thank you** to all our stewards who are working hard and keeping us safe. Please support our stewards and follow their direction. **URGENT:** we need new stewards. If you are interested and able to help please contact:-  
 Rose Bluett Tel: 07933 948934

**2nd Sunday of Advent** - This Sunday we are celebrating the 2nd Sunday of Advent. In our bible reading, we are called to Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. We can prepare a way for the Lord in many ways eg. going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession, Fasting, Praying, coming to Church and spending time in the presence of our Lord. How will you prepare a way for the Lord this Advent?

# Our Faith on Sunday

## LITURGY

### 2nd Sunday of Advent (B)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Cf. Is 30:19,30  
**O people of Zion, behold,  
 the Lord will come to save the nations,  
 and the Lord will make the glory of his  
 voice heard  
 in the joy of your heart.**

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11  
*Prepare a way for the Lord.*

**PSALM:** Ps. 84:9-14. R. v8

**R) Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
 and give us your saving help.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
 a voice that speaks of peace,  
 peace for his people.  
 His help is near for those who fear him  
 and his glory will dwell in our land. (R)

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
 justice and peace have embraced.  
 Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
 and justice look down from heaven. (R)

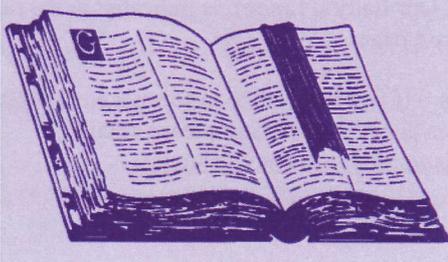
The Lord will make us prosper  
 and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
 Justice shall march before him  
 and peace shall follow his steps. (R)

**SECOND READING:** II Peter 3:8-14  
*We are waiting for the new heavens and new  
 earth.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**  
 Alleluia, alleluia! Lk 3:4.6  
**Prepare a way for the Lord,  
 make his paths straight,  
 and all mankind shall see the salvation  
 of God.**  
 Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Mark 1:1-8  
*Make his paths straight.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**  
 Bar 5:5;4:36  
**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
 and behold the joy which comes to you  
 from God.**



## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today's Gospel is not easy for a 21st century mentality to understand. Why? Probably because it starts off by talking about the forgiveness of sins. It says: *"and as they were baptised by him [John the Baptist] in the River Jordan they confessed their sins"*. Pope John Paul II said on various occasion that society nowadays has lost a sense of sin. What did he mean by that? He meant that we had lost sight of the fact that in front of God we are all sinners. If we refuse to acknowledge this, then we put humankind as the arbiter of right and wrong. When we do this as a society we reap the fruits of it. We will have a society where the most important things are not people, but profit, not the sacredness of human life, but disregard for the

perceived 'unproductive' members of society – the old, the disabled, the poor. Jesus' repeated message is to 'repent' and believe in the Gospel.

### EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



#### V. SPIRIT-FILLED EVANGELIZERS

#### INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

261. Whenever we say that something is "spirited", it usually refers to some interior impulse which encourages, motivates, nourishes and gives meaning to our individual and communal activity.

Spirit-filled evangelization is not the same as a set of tasks dutifully carried out despite one's longing to find the right words to stir up enthusiasm for a new chapter of evangelization full of fervour, joy, generosity, courage, boundless love and attraction! Yet I realize that no words of encouragement will be enough unless the fire of the Holy Spirit burns in our hearts. A spirit-filled

evangelization is one guided by the Holy Spirit, for he is the soul of the Church called to proclaim the Gospel. Before offering some spiritual motivations and suggestions, I once more invoke the Holy Spirit. I implore him to come and renew the Church, to stir and impel her to go forth boldly to evangelize all peoples.

## The Sacrament of the Present Moment\*

### GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT

God's grace is ever present in all that happens. It penetrates and pervades every pore of our being. It carries us along like a deep flowing current to which we have only to surrender ourselves.

Come, all who want God, learned or simple, and discover the map of the spiritual journey. Don't worry how others are walking.

Trust the way you yourself are called to follow and walk in it with confidence.

God's grace will not fail you.

Each one of us can bring God's message to others like the prophets of old. It is we who continue to write the book of God's words and works in the present day.

God doesn't put down the pen just because the official Scriptures are finished! We are the living books of the Holy Spirit still in the making.

\*Jean Pierre de Caussade's Self-Abandonment to Divine Providence for everyone by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard and published by New City ISBN: 978-1-905039-11-1

