



19TH DECEMBER 2010

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**



**CITY CENTRE
CATHOLIC PARISH,
SOUTHAMPTON
ST JOSEPH'S &
ST EDMUND'S**

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
PORTSMOUTH REG. CHARITY NO. 246871

**A Stewardship Parish in
a Stewardship Diocese**

**SOUTHAMPTON
CENTRAL AND WEST
PASTORAL AREA
ALSO INCLUDES
ST. BONIFACE,
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
& HOLY FAMILY**



A GIANT!

Joseph's world must have been turned upside down on that momentous day when Mary broke the news that she was going to have a baby. He had probably come home from a hard day's work in Nazareth or the surrounding area, expecting to sit down to his main meal and relax. Then Mary tells him the news, the 'good news'; but for him it must have been devastating.

Joseph's response reflects the character of the man: he didn't want her to have adverse publicity (that would bring disgrace upon her and her family, dishonour to them all and, possibly, the death of Mary by stoning); so he decides to divorce her informally. What a giant of a man morally, spiritually and humanly.

Exhausted with the day and dozing, or having gone to bed, Joseph has a dream.....a dream that added to an already frightful and complicated situation: he is told that Mary has conceived by the Holy Spirit. She is to give birth to the Emmanuel whom they must call 'Jesus' (in Hebrew, Yeshua which means 'God is salvation'). Again Joseph, despite all the questions he must have had, reveals his deep faith, his spiritual and human stature by taking 'his wife to his home'.

This was just the beginning. In the months and years ahead he and Mary would find themselves in difficult and life threatening situations. They would experience rejection and ridicule. All of this would have made them search their souls time and again. No doubt creating more questions than answers!

Today we are reminded of the enormity of the response by Joseph and Mary. Mary, the young girl, took a massive leap in faith to say 'yes' to God; Joseph took a massive leap in trust: trust in Mary, trust in his instincts and, above all, trust in God. Their faith and trust enabled the 'Christmas event' to happen. Their active acceptance of God's invitation to them brought God into human history in a real and substantial way. We are here in faith, here as part of the Body of Christ, because of them!

Let us in our turn enable our contemporaries to experience God by being people of spiritual and human stature, people with faith and trust in the Lord which is expressed in the way we celebrate, the way we live and who we are!

Vincent Harvey

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:

1. What name means more to you: Jesus or Emmanuel?
2. How can you witness to these two names?
3. What must you do to enable those around you to experience God in their midst?

TODAY - SUNDAY 19th DECEMBER

SECOND COLLECTION - Catholic Care

FILIPINO CHOIR 7.00pm Mass, rehearsal at 6.00pm.



RECENTLY DIED: **Bernard Charles Smedley** of Forest Hills Drive, Southampton. Funeral 1.00pm Tues. 21st Dec. in St. Edmund's Church. Our sympathy to his wife Sonia and family.

Margaret Grover of Allington Lane, West End. Funeral arrangements to be confirmed.

Margaret has been a parishioner in our community for many years, she will be sadly missed. Our sympathy to her family and friends. *May they rest in peace.*

THIS WEEK

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE at 7.30pm on **Mon. 20th Dec.** in **St. Edmund's Church.** Over the years a tradition has grown for a large number of people to gather as a community and celebrate the sacrament of Penance at this time. Please note the date and join us as various priests will be available to us to 'unbind us and let us go free.'

PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Volunteers needed to help to put up the Christmas crib, to decorate the Christmas trees, to prepare the Church for Christmas with candles, stars, flowers etc.

Wed 22nd Dec. 10.30am - 4.00pm

Thurs 23rd Dec. 10.30am - 4.00pm

Fri 24th Dec. 10.00am - 12.00pm

BIG CHURCH CLEAN Wed. 22nd Dec. from 2.00pm.

All offers of help are appreciated. *If you can assist in co-ordinating or give an hour of your time - please add your name to the sign-up list at the back of the Church.*

ALTAR SERVERS, READERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, STEWARDS & WELCOMERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES: please put your name on the lists in the porches if you can help.

STAPLING OF CHRISTMAS MASS LEAFLETS: *Thank you* to everyone who helped with the stapling of Reconciliation and Christmas Mass leaflets last week. It is very much appreciated.

BAPTISM: We welcome into our faith community **Olivia Mollon**, daughter of Christopher & Katarzyna, who is to be baptised in St. Edmund's Church at **12 noon on Tues. 21st Dec.**



CALLING ALL SINGERS! We will be having a **longer rehearsal** on **Tuesday 21st Dec.** starting at **7.00pm** in **St. Edmund's Church** to prepare for the **Christmas Eve Midnight and Christmas Day Masses.** New members of the congregation (particularly gentlemen!) are encouraged to

join the Choir to sing at Midnight Mass ... and maybe even beyond into the New Year! If you are interested in joining us, or have any questions, do come and talk to our Musical Director, Ian Richardson, after St Edmund's 11.00am Mass.

MAYOR'S CAROL SERVICE 5pm Wed. 22nd Dec. outside the Bargate, "Taking the message of Christmas out into the market place". All welcome!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? Or knowing more about our faith? If so, please come and join our **Journey in Faith** group on Wed. 22nd Dec. at 7.45pm in St. Edmund's Hall.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS at St. Edmund's is appropriate for family and children. It includes a drama on the role of St. Joseph. Readings and prayers are simplified for children, we recommend that the children are dressed as shepherds (tea towels) or angels. Prams and buggies to go into the conservatory and not into the church.

FOR INFO:

Mon: Day off: VH/PL.

Penitential Service: VH/PL

Tues: Housebound Communion: VH

Wed: Housebound Communion: VH

Mayor's Carol Service: VH



NEXT WEEKEND

CHRISTMAS OFFERING



The collections on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day are for the benefit of our 2 priests and are the most substantial part of their personal annual income. Envelopes stapled to this weekend's Newsletter. Thank you for your generosity!

CHRISTMAS 2010 IN THE PARISH: *Please see times of Masses on separate leaflet.* As Boxing Day falls on a Sunday it has been decided that there will **only be two Sunday Masses for the Parish, both at St Edmund's: 10.30am and 7.00pm.** Thank you: *Vincent*

NEXT WEEK

VIGIL & MASS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE: Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Paul at Midnight on New Year's Eve on Fri 31st Dec. in St Edmund's Church and there will be a vigil of prayer, with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beforehand from 11.00pm. We hope to have a good congregation to welcome the New Year.



CHURCH CLOSED—ADORATION CANCELLED Mon. 27th & Tues. 28th Dec. and Mon. 3rd Jan. 2011.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED Wed. 29th, Thurs. 30th. & Fri. 31st December. Please contact the Presbytery if your call is urgent.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 19th DECEMBER 2010

| | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|---|
| SAT | VIGIL MASS 18 DECEMBER | LITURGY OF THE DAY | 6.15PM SJ | NORA HUNTER RIP (MH) |
| | | | 7.00PM SE | MASS IN POLISH |
| SUN | 19 DECEMBER | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 9.00AM SE | MARGARET SINCLAIR RIP (MY) |
| | | | 10.00AM SJ | SINEAD MACALASTER RIP (CM) |
| | | | 11.00AM SE | DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE RICHARDSON FAMILY (RC) |
| | | | 7.00PM SE | PJ PHELAN RIP (PARISH OFFICE) |
| MON | 20 DECEMBER | LITURGY OF THE DAY | 7.30PM SE | ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE |
| TUES | 21 DECEMBER | LITURGY OF THE DAY | 10.00AM SE | ELLEN MURPHY RIP (F) |
| | | | 1.00PM SE | FUNERAL MASS—BERNARD SMEDLEY RIP |
| WED | 22 DECEMBER | LITURGY OF THE DAY | 7.00PM SE | MRS. LAWLOR INTENTIONS (AN) |
| THURS | 23 DECEMBER | LITURGY OF THE DAY | 12.15PM SJ | PADDY HANNIGAN RIP (F) |
| FRI | 24 DECEMBER | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD | 6.00PM SE | WILLIAM & KATIE COADY RIP (S&DC) |
| | | | 9.00M SE | CHRISTMAS MASS IN POLISH |
| | | | 11.30PM SE | PEOPLE OF THE PARISH |
| | | | 11.30PM SJ | PEOPLE OF THE PARISH |
| SAT | 25 DECEMBER | CHRISTMAS DAY | 9.00AM SE | PEOPLE OF THE PARISH |
| | | | 10.00AM SJ | JUDE NORONHA RIP (MA) |
| | | | 11.00AM SE | PEOPLE OF THE PARISH |
| | | | 7.00PM SE | MASS IN POLISH |
| SUN | 26 DECEMBER | THE HOLY FAMILY | 10.30AM SE | P.J. PHELAN RIP (F&KMCE) |
| | | | 7.00PM SE | IN THANKSGIVING TO ST. JUDE (HP) |

PASTORAL AREA PARISHES - MASS TIMES: Holy Family, Millbrook Sat Vigil 18:30; Sun 11:00am; Holy day 19:00. St. Boniface, Shirley Sat Vigil 18:30; Sun. 08:30; 10:30. Holy day 10:00; 20:00. St. Vincent de Paul Sun 09:15; 11:30 in Polish; Holy Day 10:00.

Contact Details:

Parish Priest: Mgr. Vincent Harvey
 E-mail address: vincent.harvey@gsy.org.uk
 Assistant Priest : Fr. Paul Leonard
 E-mail address: pleonard@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
 Presbytery Tel. No.: 023 8033 4891
 Presbytery Address: 14 Rockstone Place,
 Southampton, SO15 2EQ
 Parish Secretary: Anne Wheeler
 Parish Office: St. Edmund's Lodge
 (next to St. Edmund's Church)
 The Avenue, Southampton, SO17 1XJ
 Tel. 023 8033 3589
 Email: catholic14@btinternet.com
 Parish Website: http://www.southampton-city-
 catholics.org.uk/
 Hospital Chaplain Fr Michael Cronin 023 8079 8517
 Retired Priest: Fr. Paul Spellman
 Polish Chaplaincy: Fr Wojciech Stachyra SChr
 Tel. No.: 023 8022 4418
 e-mail: parafia@naszaparafia.co.uk
 Polish website: http://www.naszaparafia.co.uk/
 Address: 15 Languard Road,
 Southampton, SO15 5DL
 S'ton Uni. Chaplain: Sr Catherine: 078 1110 7046
 Solent Uni. Chaplain: Sr Liliana: 079 6776 1714
 Catholic Home Care: Anne Monaghan 023 8033 3589
 Counselling Service: Sr Mairead Noonan 077 7905 1901
 Martha's Gift Shop: 023 8033 3400
 EU Welcomers Project: Dave Adcock 07786 392 886
 e-mail: euwelcome@yahoo.co.uk
 Youth Co-ordinator: Peter McGeedy 077 6925 8378
 e-mail: pmcgeady@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT YEAR A

Psalm Response

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!**

Prayer of the Church week 4

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER THE HOLY FAMILY

1st reading: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14
 2nd reading: Colossians 3:12-21
 Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

2ND COLLECTION

TODAY

CATHOLIC CARE

2ND COLLECTION

NEXT WEEK

OUR 2 PRIESTS

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 5/12/2010 | 1st Coll. | 2nd Coll. |
| | Christmas | Flowers |
| Total | £2205.59 | £521.16 |
| Cash | 912.64 | 288.56 |
| S / O | 1010.12 | 232.60 |
| Gift Aid Tax Rebate | 282.83 | - |

Thank you for your generous contributions. Please note, the Gift Aid tax rebate on the 2nd collection is retained by the Parish. Your donations make the life & work of the Parish possible.

Our Catholic Schools: Springhill Catholic Primary 8033 3954
 St Anne's 8032 8200, St George 8032 2603