



**5TH DECEMBER 2010**  
**SECOND 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**



## **CONFRONTATION ..... AND CHANGE!**

Many years ago a close friend of mine faced me with an observation he had made: "one of your problems", he said, "is that you never say 'sorry'". This hit me hard, brought me up short and made me stop and think! It was a painful comment to hear, but it did me good because it made me more aware of a failing which affected my relationship with others and gave me a false opinion of myself.

Sometimes we need to be brought up short, stopped in our tracks and faced with the truth about ourselves. It is never easy to hear such comments but if we take them in the spirit they are meant – to help us become aware – then they can be points of growth and development.

In a sense this is what we hear John the Baptist doing today in the Gospel. He is facing individuals with their failings. He is bringing them up short. He is making them see themselves as they are.

Crowds are attracted to John from all over the country. They want to be baptised and so forgiven and renewed. So they come in their throngs. But he is not happy with a small group: not happy with their motives, their reasons for coming to him, their agenda and their sincerity.

None of us like seeing ourselves in the mirror of life. None of us like the reflection of our true selves as seen through the lens of others. None of us, I think, would be keen to see us through God's eyes: to see ourselves as we really and truly are! Yet today that is what we are invited to do: to look at ourselves dispassionately and see and acknowledge the warts, the failings, the people/person we are.

If we do that then we meet God where God wants us to be and in so doing are given the grace necessary to move forward, to change and to grow. We cannot hide from God, but God is inviting us daily to enter a conversation with Him which enables us to discover the strength which lies in this self-revelation. For when we see ourselves as we are, in the presence of the God of infinite love and mercy, then we can begin to change. And to change often, as Cardinal Newman reminds us, is to become perfect!

Vincent Harvey

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### **THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:**

- 1 How would you describe your life at present: as wheat or as chaff (gospel)?
- 2 What 'good fruit' must you produce (gospel)?
3. What should you 'change' in your life in order not to be a viper (who sheds its skin but doesn't really change)?

## TODAY - SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER

### **NO SECOND COLLECTION TODAY**

**ECUMENICAL FAMILY RAMBLE** 2pm Swanwick Lakes. Meet at the Copal Park Lane care park. Tel. 023 8022 3389 for info or 077 5153 1984 on the day.

**G.F. HANDEL MESSIAH: PART ONE** • *Hallelujah* • *Amen. Cantores Michaelis. The Musicians of St. Michael's, Caroline Balding and Keith Davis directors* at 6.30pm in St. Michael's Church, Bugle Street. Nibbles and refreshments in St. Joseph's Church Hall, Bugle Street after the performance.

**STUDENT CHOIR** 7pm Mass, rehearsal at 6pm.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR PJ PHELAN** who died peacefully at home on Thursday last (2nd Dec). PJ had been ill for some months but, sadly, turned worse in the last few weeks. Remember Greta and the family in your prayers. They have lost a much loved husband, father and grandfather and we a much loved friend and dedicated and committed parishioner. May he rest in peace. Funeral arrangements will be announced.

## THIS WEEK

**SUNG MASS FOR THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** 7.30pm Tues. 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. in St. Boniface Church, 413 Shirley Road, Southampton with "Cantores Michaelis"[*So'ton University Music Dept.*], director: Keith Davis, organ: Alban Rees-Jones.

- MOZART: *Missa Brevis* in D [K.194]
- LASSUS: *Tota pulchra es*
- VICTORIA: *Ave Maria*
- PALESTRINA: *Alma Redemptoris Mater*
- Gregorian Chant for the Day.

**WELLSPRING PRAYER GROUP** meet on Tuesday evenings in St. Edmund's Hall at 8.00pm.

**ORGAN TUNING** Wed. 8th Dec. from 8am—2pm. **Church closed, no Adoration until 2pm.**

**ADVENT EVENING OF REFLECTION:** '*Stewards of the Story: Mary and Joseph*' 7.30pm—9.00pm on Wed. 8th Dec.

**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. 8th Dec. at 7.45pm in St. Edmund's Hall.

**INSPIRE:** 7.00 - 8.30pm Fri 10th Dec. in St Boniface Hall. Come along and join this new group for 11-13 year olds for fun, food & friendship - a mixture of activities, games and learning about our faith.

**CCPG** last meeting of the year and social. 7.45pm on Fri. 10th Dec. in St. Edmund's Presbytery.

**FOR INFO:** Mon: Day off: VH/PL. Catenian Dinner: VH  
Tues: Solent Uni meeting: VH. SCOF (Sou Council of Faiths): VH  
Wed: Wednesday luncheon club: VH/PL  
Diocesan Safeguarding: VH  
Thurs: Study Day: VH

## NEXT WEEKEND

**GOSPEL CHOIR** 7.00pm Mass, Sun 12th December.

**JEWISH STUDIES CULTURAL EVENT** from 10am - 6pm on Sun. 12th Dec. 2010 focussing on '**Antisemitism**'. Venue: University of Southampton, School of Humanities, The Avenue Campus, Lecture Theatre C. For booking: Tel. 023 8059 7261 or e-mail: humanitieslearn@soton.ac.uk.

## NEXT WEEK

**SOUTHAMPTON CITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN AID OF AOS:** 7pm Mon. 13th Dec. at the Ocean Terminal, (access via Dock Gate 4) Eastern Docks, free parking. Mayor of Southampton & Southampton Youth Brass Band & local choirs; hosted by Nick Girdler of BBC Radio Solent. Refreshments afterwards. A family event, all welcome. Contact - Rev Roger Stone 07963 345618.

**ST. MARY'S COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE** at 7pm on Mon. 13th Dec. in St. Edmund's Church.

**SAT. GEORGE CATHOLIC COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE** at 7.30pm on Tues. 14th Dec. in St. Edmund's Church.

**SOUTHAMPTON SINGS:** Carol Service at St. Mary's Stadium 17th Dec. 7.15 - 8.30pm. ***We are doing a block booking for the parish. Please leave your names on the sheet in the porch if you wish to attend and the money for your tickets to Fr. Vincent, Fr. Paul or the Parish office.*** Tickets are £4 or £12 for a family of 4. The money will go towards the ***Southampton Passion*** which will take place in the Guildhall Square Friday 22nd April 2011. Website address: [www.southamptonpassion.org.uk](http://www.southamptonpassion.org.uk).

**POLISH ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE** 5.00pm on Sat. 18th Dec. in St. Edmund's Church.

## GENERAL ITEMS



**GIFTS FOR CITY CENTRE CATHOLIC CARE:** Gifts for the elderly, wrapped or unwrapped, may be left in the baskets in the back of the church for all our elderly people visited during the Christmas Season. Please mark whether they are gender specific.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Betty Ashbolt, Carlos Fernandes, Alex Aitken, Sheila Quinn, Percy White, John Dorling, Pat Cummings, André Neves, Stephen Brooks, Peter Scott, Sheelah Munford, Cecelia Coutinho, Eileen O'Toole, George Francis Ponniah, Carolyn, Lee Henninghan, Jenson Pearce, Phyllis Richmond, Teddy Blake, Brian Cunio, Sheila Morris, Yvonne Robertson, Eileen Smedley, Margaret de Groen, Terry Clark, Kay Gills, Kathy Kelly, Ian McKenna, Myra and Bosco Andrade and all parishioners who are sick or recovering. Please let the parish office know if you would like to add someone to the list.

**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.'

**STAPLING OF CHRISTMAS MASS LEAFLETS:** Volunteers needed on Mon. 13th Dec, Tues 14th Dec and Thurs 16 Dec from 2.00pm in the new Parish Office at St. Edmund's Lodge on The Avenue. An hour of your time would be greatly appreciated - offers to Parish Office on Tel: 023 8033 3589.

**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 Harvey.

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE CHURCHES OF ASIA:** (as mentioned in the Book of Revelation) from **22<sup>nd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2011 led by Monsignor Vincent Harvey.** The pilgrimage will visit the Churches of Asia (see Revelation Chapter 1) which includes the great ancient City of Ephesus where St. Paul spent many years and from where he wrote many of his pastoral letters. Cost from £995 (for 20 people) to £935 (for 40 people) ..... if we book before end of January 2011 we receive a £30 discount each. All bookings must be through the Parish. Brochures out soon but if you are interested and would like to join us (25 people have already expressed an interest and have their names down) do contact the Parish Office, as it will be a 'first come first served basis'.

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE UPDATE:** A big thank you to all who contributed and helped in making this event such a success. The total amount raised is £1072.35. Names of winners of raffles and draw are on the Notice Boards. *Congratulations to everyone who has won a prize!*

**SINGLE OR DOUBLE ROOM FOR RENT** in lovely, clean furnished flat in Lordswood, close to Southampton General Hospital. Rent: £325 - £350/month excluding bills. If interested, contact Lucy on 07550 010263.

#### MEETING UPDATES:

**CCPG (City Centre Pastoral Group)** met 10 days ago with a new Chair Person: Mrs Andrea Reiter; new members have also joined the group: Mr Robert Taylor, Mrs Sue McCall and Mr Leegy Varghese. Amongst items discussed: job description for the proposed 'Pastoral Assistant' (this has to be finalized by the Pastoral Area Council as this will be a PA ministry); meeting with the Bishop; time was spent reflecting upon and discussing the 'Pastoral Councils' guidelines recently revised by the Diocese. This document will be discussed over the period of the next meeting.

**CENTRAL & WEST PASTORAL AREA** met last Wednesday. A detailed job description and person spec for the proposed Pastoral Assistant was distributed and briefly discussed. Other items discussed: how to

implement a PA magazine; youth development and involvement.

**PASTORAL AREA MAGAZINE:** To improve communication around the Pastoral Area and to help inform parishioners of activities, interests and articles, we would like to pull together an editorial team from around the area. If you are interested in this or have the skills that could be useful and wish to know more do please contact Father Vincent (or any of the Area priests).

## PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

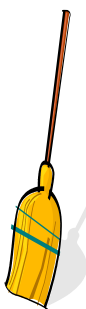
### Volunteers required to help:

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 greatly  
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.***

**BAPTISED PEOPLE 'Light in Darkness'** 21st—23rd January 2011, Hallmark Hotel, Durley Chine Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH2 5JS. Booking soonest online at [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). The weekend starts with supper on Fri. 21st Jan. and finishes after lunch on Sun. 23rd Jan. A limited number of non-residential places are available.

### DECEMBER TWO HUNDRED CLUB WINNERS

1st Prize—Judy Brown £30.00  
2nd Prize—Anna Griffiths £15.00

**THANK YOU TO MARTHA'S FROM CATHOLIC CARE, SWVG & SOUTHAMPTON CITY MISSION** for their generous donation received recently. It is very much appreciated.

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



**NAME A STAR TO HANG IN THE CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS IN AID OF HCPT:** 50p for the small stars or £1 for the large stars.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER 2010**

SAT	VIGIL MASS 4 DECEMBER		6.15PM SJ MARIE ADAMS 85TH BIRTHDAY INTS. (AR) 7.00PM SE MASS IN POLISH
SUN	5 DECEMBER	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	9.00AM SE ST. FRANCIS XAVIER FROM SOUTHAMPTON GOANS (AR) 10.00AM SJ JACK CRAIG & JIM HAWKES RIP (CH) 11.00AM SE NEVILLE ANGLISS RIP (MB) 7.00PM SE ROSEMARY ANDERSON RIP (KW)
TUES	7 DECEMBER	<b>ST. AMBROSE</b>	10.00AM SE PAT COUTANCHE RIP (MB)
WED	8 DECEMBER	<b>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>	7.00PM SE JESSY POULOSE - THANKSGIVING (ST)
THURS	9 DECEMBER	<b>OF THE 2ND WEEK OF ADVENT</b>	12.15PM SJ PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
FRI	10 DECEMBER	<b>ST. SWITHUN WELLS</b>	7.00PM SE CATHERINE HAYES RIP (F)
SAT	11 DECEMBER	<b>OF THE 2ND WEEK OF ADVENT</b>	11.00AM SE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE MALONEY FAMILY RIP (F) 6.15PM SJ SEAN, KATHLEEN & STEWART ADAMSON RIP (DC) 7.00PM SE MASS IN POLISH
SUN	12 DECEMBER	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ('GAUDETE')</b>	9.00AM SE AGOSTINHO GONSALVES RIP (MG) 10.00AM SJ FRAN & IAN MORLEY— 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY INTENTIONS (F&M) 11.00AM SE CAROL WEBER RIP (1ST ANNIV.) (NF) 7.00PM SE PATRICK & MARY HANRAHAN RIP (S&MH)

**Contact Details:**

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 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 023 8022 4418  
 Tel. No.: 023 8022 4418  
 e-mail: parafia@naszaparafia.co.uk  
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 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 McGeady 077 6925 8378  
 e-mail: pmcgeady@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk  
 Blog: http://youngcatholicssouth.blogspot.com

**2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT YEAR A**

**Psalm Response**

In His days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths  
straight. And all mankind shall see  
the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

**Prayer of the Church week 2**

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER**

**3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT YEAR A**

1st reading: Isaiah 35:1-6,10

2nd reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

**NO 2ND COLLECTION  
TODAY**

**2ND COLLECTION  
NEXT WEEK  
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

28/11/2010	1st Coll.	2nd Coll. Church Bldg Fund
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2486.57</b>	<b>£387.67</b>
Cash	929.59	199.67
S / O	1216.39	188.00
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	340.59	-

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