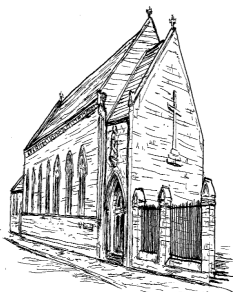


**13TH  
DECEMBER  
2009**

**THIRD  
SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT**



**CITY CENTRE CATHOLIC PARISH, SOUTHAMPTON**

**ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S**

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH REG. CHARITY No. 246871

New web address: <http://www.southampton-city-catholics.org.uk/>

**A Stewardship Parish in a Stewardship Diocese**

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



## **'GAUDETE' SUNDAY WE AWAIT THE COMING OF THE SAVIOUR**

**Fr Paul writes:**



On the third Sunday of Advent, the penitential purple of the season changes to the colour rose and we celebrate 'Gaudete' or 'Rejoice!' Sunday. The words of scripture are up-beat; "Shout for joy, daughter of Sion" says Zephaniah. "Sing and shout for joy," says Isaiah. "I want you to be happy" says St. Paul. "Do penance for the judge is coming," says John the Baptist. What's that stark, strident saint of the desert doing here, on "Rejoice Sunday"? His stern call to repentance does not seem to fit.

Believe it or not, John the Baptist is the patron saint of spiritual joy. After all, he leapt for joy in his mother's womb at the presence of Jesus and Mary (Luke 1:44). And it says that he rejoices to hear the bridegroom's voice (John 3:29-30).

John the Baptist was joyful because he was humble. In fact, he shows us the true nature of this virtue. Humility is not beating up on yourself, denying that you have any gifts, talents, or importance. John knew he had an important role which he played assertively, with authority and confidence. The humble man does not sheepishly look down on himself. Actually, he does not look at himself at all. He looks away from himself to the Lord.

But what about John's stark call to repentance? How can this be Good News? Because repentance is all about humility and humility is all about freedom. And freedom leads to inner peace and joy, joy in the presence of the Bridegroom.

### **ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

It is timely, upon hearing of the call to repentance in the scriptures, that we use this Advent season to avail ourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Though it can be a challenging sacrament, we receive untold benefits of freedom, forgiveness, peace, healing and strength from this sacrament. We sin as individuals; that's why we need to make an individual confession. It does us good to go on our knees (if not literally then metaphorically!), put our sinful deeds into words before one who takes the place of Christ, face up to the truth of ourselves and entrust our lives to God's merciful and just love. I extend a heartfelt invitation, then, for you all to join us in St Edmund's Church for our Advent Service of Reconciliation on Monday 21 December, where we can celebrate and experience together the mercy and unconditional love of our God.

# TODAY - SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER

**ADVENT WREATH** We light the 3rd (pink) candle.

**TIMES OF CHRISTMAS MASSES** - leaflet to be distributed at all Masses.

**SECOND COLLECTION** - Christmas Flowers to decorate our two Churches.

**GOSPEL CHOIR** - 7.00pm Mass, rehearsal at 6.00pm - new singers welcome.

**PARISH DIARIES FOR 2010** now on sale - £1.00.

**2010 DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH DIRECTORIES** now on sale - £3.00 each.

**CHRISTMAS STARS** - Name a star after someone you would like to remember this Christmas. The star will hang in the churches over the Christmas season - £1 or 50p.

**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.

## THIS WEEK

### STAPLING OF CHRISTMAS MASS LEAFLETS

Volunteers needed on Mon 14th Dec, Tues 15th Dec and Thurs 17 Dec from 2.00pm. An hour of your time would be greatly appreciated - offers to Parish Office on tel: 023 8033 3589.

**ST MARY'S COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE** - 7.30pm on Mon 14th Dec in St Edmund's Church. Open invitation for all to attend.

**ST GEORGE COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE** - 7.00pm on Tues 15th Dec in St Edmund's Church. Open invitation for all to attend.

**ADORATION** will be in the Sacristy due to rehearsals for Carol Services on Mon and Tues until 2.00pm - after which it will resume in the Church.

**ST BONIFACE CHURCH ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE** - Tues 15th Dec at 8.00pm (Fr Paul to assist)

**CHRISTMAS TREES** to be erected in St Edmund's Church on Thurs 17th Dec. Adoration in Sacristy.

**EU WELCOME MANAGEMENT GROUP** to meet at 7.00pm on Thurs 17th Dec in St Edmund's Presbytery.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER - 7.30PM IN ST. EDMUNDS 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 7 PRIESTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO US TO 'UNBIND US AND LET US GO FREE'

## CALLING ALL SINGERS!



*Christmas is coming, which provides a great opportunity to sing some well-loved Christmas music as we celebrate the coming of Our Lord! This year's Midnight Mass at St Edmund's will combine many of the favourites with some new and more challenging pieces. It would be wonderful to welcome any members of the congregation (new or old, and particularly gentlemen!) to join the Choir to sing at Midnight Mass ... and maybe even beyond into the New Year! We rehearse on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, and will be having a longer rehearsal on Tuesday 22nd December, starting at 6.30pm. If you are interested in joining us, or have any questions, do come and talk to Musical Director, Ian Richardson, after St Edmund's 11.00am Mass.*

## 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.

Tues 22nd Dec 10.30am - 4.00pm

Wed 23rd Dec 10.30am - 4.00pm

Thurs 24th Dec 10.00am - 12.00pm

### BIG CHURCH CLEAN

Tues 22nd Dec From 2.00pm

All offers of help greatly appreciated

*If you can give an hour of your time - please add your name to the sign-up list at the back of the Church*

## CONFESSION TIMES:

Sat. 11.30am St. Edmund's

Sat. 5.45pm St. Joseph's

Thurs 12.00pm St. Joseph's

## EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



*Adoration every day in St Edmund's Church (Church open all day)*

## CHRISTMAS NOTICES

### VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR CHRISTMAS:

**Altar Servers** wanted for Christmas Masses - please sign the 'sign up' sheet in Sacristy.

**Stewards / Welcomers** wanted for Reconciliation Service on Monday and for Christmas Masses - please sign the 'sign up' sheet at back of Church.

**Ministers of Holy Communion** wanted for Christmas Masses - please sign the 'sign up' sheet at back of the Church.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Anthony Whelan, Teddy Blake, Faith, Brian Cunio, Margaret Stobbart, Sheila Morris, Yvonne Robertson, Fr John, Philip Taylor, Janine Day, Anne Wheeler, Eileen Smedley and all parishioners who are sick or recovering. Please let Parish Office know if you would like to add someone to the list.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO SING IT! YOUTH GOSPEL CHOIR** for an outstanding performance on Fri 4th Dec in St Edmund's Church. It was a memorable evening in the presence of a very full Church. All of us felt so proud of this amazing initiative, started in our community, offering such a high class performance of carols. Our thanks to Nicky Manning, Kate Murelli, Clare Ezekwe, Nel Scorey and Julie Berry for their hard work organising Sing It! over the years.

**WELLSPRING PRAYER GROUP** - No meeting Tues 15th Dec. Next mtg Tues 5th Jan, 8.00pm in St Edmund's Hall. (Up to 20 people gather regularly for this prayer group.)

**NEW SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR** Ian Morley has very kindly agreed to take on the administration for this. He will be assisted by Theresa Dyer and Rita McTaggart. To contact Ian or arrange to complete a CRB form, please e-mail or telephone the Parish Office and Ian will get back to you. Our thanks to Helen Simmonds for her advice, help and support in setting up the structures for Safeguarding in the Parish.

**ENTRANCE EXAMINATION** for St Mary's College 9.00am-12.15pm Sat 9th Jan 2010. See noticeboard

**CAFOD SUPPORTERS DAY** - Sat 9th Jan St Bede's Parish Hall, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX 10.30am - 3.30pm. Bring packed lunch. E-mail [portsmouth@cafod.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk), tel 01252 329385.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

**SERVICE OF INDUCTION** of Mgr Vincent Harvey VG, led by Bishop Crispian Hollis in St Edmund's Church at 7.30pm on Fri 5th Feb 2010. Reception to follow in St Anne's School Hall. The Mayor and Sheriff of Southampton and a wide range of civic and religious leaders have been invited to this very significant event. We hope as many of the parish community as possible will share in this.

**FAREWELL MASS OF THANKSGIVING** for Fr John in St Edmund's at 7.30pm on Fri 29th Jan. Reception to follow in St Anne's School Hall.

CLEAR are looking for an Experienced Sessional ESOL Tutor for asylum seekers and refugees. E-mail [maryam@clearproject.org.uk](mailto:maryam@clearproject.org.uk). See noticeboard.

**LEAD STOLEN** - from the roof of the Boiler House at St Edmund's Church. Additionally, the new flues for the two newly-installed boilers had been tampered with and the repair estimate for this work may be over £1000. Also, the skylight in the flat roof, next to the Sacristy in St Joseph's Church, had been dislodged by individuals trying to gain access to the building. This has now been repaired. **All of this is a reminder to us as to how important it is to attend to the security of our buildings.**

**TRAIN TO BE A PRIMARY TEACHER** at the Primary Catholic Partnership at Holy Family School, e-mail [admin@pcp-scitt.org.uk](mailto:admin@pcp-scitt.org.uk), tel 023 8077 7953. See noticeboard.

**LITTLE WAY HEALING MINISTRIES** Fr Laurence Brassill OSA and Mrs Pauline Edwards and team offer a day to experience the healing power of Jesus at the Highfield House Hotel, 119 Highfield Lane - Sat 9th Jan 2010, 10.00am - 4.30pm. Come and go as you wish. All welcome - tea and coffee at 10.00am, lunch break. Jesus promised "Lay your hands on the sick and they will be healed". Come and experience.

**TO RENT** Two-bedroom maisonette in Southampton town - available from mid-December. Please contact Parish Office for details.

**MARTHA'S GIFT SHOP**  
**Bedford Place**

**For all your  
Christmas cards  
and gifts. A great  
selection of items  
are available**



**MISSING!** - set of keys for St Edmund's Hall. Is it possible that you may have forgotten to return a set of keys borrowed for the Hall? Please return to Parish Office asap.

**WELCOME** If you are a visitor to the Parish, we want you to know how welcome you are - whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world or simply down the road.

**HAVE YOU BORROWED A HYMN BOOK?** Please check as you may have borrowed one for a wedding or a funeral. Please return.

**GIFT AID IT!** Help us to make your contributions go further. If you pay UK Income Tax you can increase your contributions by 28% by Gift Aid. Please contact Parish Office for Gift Aid form.

**HOLY COMMUNION FOR SICK AND HOUSEBOUND** If you or a member of your family are unable to get to Mass on a regular basis, we would be pleased to arrange for Holy Communion to be brought to you at home. Please telephone the Parish Office.

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND** A CD of photographs now available from the Parish Office

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR  
WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER 2009**

<b>SAT</b>	<b>VIGIL MASS</b> 12th DECEMBER		6.15PM SJ LILIAN HEWETT RIP (B&GD) 7.00PM SE MASS IN POLISH
<b>SUN</b>	13th DECEMBER	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	9.00AM SE AGOSTINA GONSALVES RIP 10.00AM SJ HOLY SOULS OF PURGATORY (PH) 11.00AM SE RELATIVES & FRIENDS OF C HARTIGAN RIP (CH) 7.00PM SE PETER BRADY RIP (GL)
<b>TUES</b>	15th DECEMBER	<b>ADVENT - WEEK 3</b>	10.00AM SE PRIVATE INTENTION (BP)
<b>WED</b>	16th DECEMBER	<b>ADVENT - WEEK 3</b>	7.00PM SE DOROTHY & BOB FLETCHER RIP (F)
<b>THUR</b>	17th DECEMBER	<b>LITURGY OF THE DAY</b>	12.15PM SJ JESSIE MACDOUGALL RIP (F)
<b>FRI</b>	18th DECEMBER	<b>LITURGY OF THE DAY</b>	7.00PM SE MARGARET KIBUUKA RIP (MW)
<b>SAT</b>	19th DECEMBER	<b>LITURGY OF THE DAY</b>	11.00AM SE ANEELICA FLORES RIP (ZFL) 6.15PM SJ MARGARET SINCLAIR RIP (MY) 7.00PM SE MASS IN POLISH
<b>SUN</b>	20th DECEMBER	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	9.00AM SE ELLEN MURPHY RIP (F) 10.00AM SJ JESSIE MACDOUGALL RIP (DMK) 11.00AM SE PETE CHIVERS RIP (J&MH) 7.00PM SE PADDY HANNIGAN RIP (F)

**Contact Details:**

Parish Priest	Canon John O'Shea
Assistant Priest	Fr Paul Leonard
Parish Secretary	Anne Wheeler
Parish Office	14 Rockstone Place Southampton. SO15 2EQ 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 8022 4418 parafia@naszaparafia.co.uk
Polish website:	http://www.naszaparafia.co.uk/
Address:	15 Languard Road Southampton, SO15 5DL
Southampton University Chaplain	Sr Catherine 078 1110 7046
Solent University Chaplain	Sr Liliana 079 6776 1714
Catholic Home Care	Anne Monaghan 023 8033 3589
Counselling Service	Sr Mairead Noonan 077 7905 1901
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Ian Morley 023 8033 3589
Martha's Parish Gift Shop	023 8033 3400
EU Welcomers Project	Dave Adcock 07786 392 886 e-mail: euwelcome@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.euwelcome.org

**Our Catholic Schools:**

Springhill Catholic Primary	023 8033 3954
St Anne's Catholic School	023 8032 8200
St George Catholic College	023 8032 2603

**3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)**

**Psalm Response**

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst  
is the Holy One of Israel

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

**Alleluia!**

**Prayer of the Church Week 3**

**SECOND COLLECTION**

**TODAY**

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

**SECOND COLLECTION**

**NEXT WEEK**

**CATHOLIC CARE**

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER**

**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)**

First reading: Micah 5 : 1-4

Second reading: Hebrews 10 : 5-10

Gospel: Luke 1 : 39-45

06/12/09	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	Church Building Fund
<b>Total</b>	<b>2443.03</b>	<b>405.90</b>
Cash	870.05	185.90
S / O	1207.15	220.00
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	365.83	

Thank You For your Generous Contributions. Please note, the Gift Aid tax rebate on the second collection is retained by the Parish. Your donations make the life and work of the parish possible.