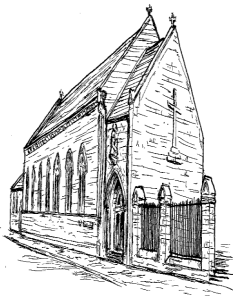


6TH
DECEMBER
2009

SECOND
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



Second Sunday of Advent

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN THE BAPTIST

Fr John writes:

It's a pity that Advent has been smothered by the extension of Christmas. The parties have begun, Christmas music, lights and decorations are everywhere. The rich spirituality of our purple and penitential Advent has been lost. Today we meet a significant Advent figure, John the Baptist. In art he is portrayed as scruffy, thin and poorly clad, his head is always turned to the side, and his right hand pointing elsewhere. In his day he was probably more well-known than Jesus. From the cities people flocked and made a pilgrimage out to the desert, the wilderness, to hear John. It is generally believed that Jesus would have been a disciple of John. His message was clear "Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight". *Godspell* (the rock musical) opens with a spotlight on a lone figure ringing out his one-liner "Prepare ye the way of the Lord". John the Baptist's task is to call people to turn away from sin and to change their hearts so that they are ready to listen to the words of Jesus when he arrives. He baptised the people who were truly sorry, and wanted to make a fresh start in their lives. We too are called to announce the coming of Christ. What we are doing now is as critical as what John was doing. The way we live our lives makes a difference, this is the most powerful sign, we are called "to live without spot or blemish before him at peace". 2 Peter 3:14



TODAY - SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ADVENT WREATH We light the 2nd purple candle.

CHILDREN'S MASS 9.00am at St Edmund's and 10.00am at St Joseph's.



BAPTISM We welcome into our faith community Alexander Shackleton, son of Peter and Lisa, who is to be baptised in St Edmund's at 12.30pm.

SECOND COLLECTION - Church Building Fund

GIFTS FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE - wrapped or unwrapped - may be left in the baskets at the back of the Church.

STUDENT CHOIR - 7.00pm Mass, rehearsal at 6.00pm

GOAN COMMUNITY celebrate their national feast of St Francis Xavier - our prayers and good wishes to them.

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

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

RECENTLY DIED



Sheila Taylor of Avenue Road, Southampton. Funeral Mass at 12.30pm Wed 9th Dec in St Edmund's Church. Burial to follow in Hollybrook Cemetery. Reception of Coffin at 4.30pm on Tues 8th Dec. Our sympathy to her family. **May she rest in peace**

THIS WEEK

FEAST DAY Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Tues 8th Dec. Mass at 10.00am.

SAFEGUARDING GROUP to meet with Angela McGrory, 7.00pm Tues 8th Dec in St Edmund's Presbytery. Tel Angela or Soraya on 023 9281 6396 for fuller info.

WELLSPRING PRAYER GROUP - to meet at 7.30pm on Tues 8th Dec in St Edmund's Hall.

ST EDMUND'S CHURCH CLOSED for organ tuning, Wed 9th Dec - **Adoration cancelled until 2.00pm** (Church open for 12.30pm Funeral)

WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON CLUB Christmas lunch on Wed 9th Dec at 12 noon in St Edmund's Hall.

AREA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT GROUP to meet at 2.30pm on Wed 9th Dec in St Edmund's Presbytery.

CLERGY OF SOUTHAMPTON AREA to gather for Christmas lunch on Fri 11th Dec in St Edmund's Hall.

NEXT WEEKEND

GOSPEL CHOIR 7.00pm Mass Sun 13th Dec, rehearsal at 6.00pm. New members welcome.

NEXT WEEK

ST MARY'S COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE - 7.30pm on Mon 14th Dec in St Edmund's Church.

ST GEORGE COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE - 7.00pm on Tues 15th Dec in St Edmund's Church.

NB: Students to rehearse in the Church 11.00am to 2.30pm both days - Adoration to continue in Sacristy.

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

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

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

GENERAL ITEMS

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.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE - Our thanks to the many volunteers who helped out and supported this event. A list of raffle prizewinners is on display at the back of the Church. Our total profit for the Parish was £1,091.63. Lots of people enjoyed the 'bacon butties'!!!!

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'



CONGRATULATIONS!! TO THE 200 CLUB WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER 2009

1st prize - Jeanne Carney
2nd prize - Mrs Macdonald

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.

CONFESSION TIMES:

Sat. 11.30am St. Edmund's

Sat. 5.45pm St. Joseph's

Thursday 11.45am St. Joseph's

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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



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

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.



Also, many thanks for the generous response to the appeal last weekend, please call Anne in the office with your details and offers of help.

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.

BLUE CHRISTMAS A candlelit service for those who find the approaching Christmas season difficult to cope with - 7.30pm on Fri 11th Dec in St Michael's Catholic Church, Langdown Lawn, Hythe. See noticeboard.

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. Includes an image of a red Christmas stocking with a white star and a gift box.

ST ANNE'S - CLASS OF '85 If you left St Anne's in 1985 (or went on to the 6th Form) - Kate Miell (nee Dunkley) is planning a reunion for 1st May 2010 and would like to hear from you. For details contact Kate direct on 023 8039 8181 or by e-mail to familiymiell@ntlworld.com.

CHRISTMAS CARDS on sale at the back of the Church - only limited stock now available - don't miss out! 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

SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEALS PANEL



Wanted, Volunteers to become Panel members for Schools in the Diocese. Training offered. Details from Administration Officer - tel 01329 835363, e-mail schools@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk See Noticeboard.

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.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR
WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER 2009**

SAT	VIGIL MASS 5th DECEMBER		6.15PM SJ	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			7.00PM SE	MASS IN POLISH
SUN	6th DECEMBER	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00AM SE	FRANK HARRISON RIP (MH)
			10.00AM SJ	BOSO ANDRADE INTENTIONS (MA)
			11.00AM SE	ST FRANCIS XAVIER FEAST DAY - (SOUTHAMPTON GOAN COMMUNITY)
			7.00PM SE	LASHAN & RUSHIKA PEIRIS THANKSGIVING (L&RP)
TUES	8th DECEMBER	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	10.00AM SE	SCULLIAN / RYAN FAMILIES RIP (MR)
WED	9th DECEMBER	OF THE 2nd WEEK OF ADVENT	12.30PM SE	FUNERAL MASS - SHEILA TAYLOR RIP
			7.00PM SE	IN THANKSGIVING (MD)
THUR	10th DECEMBER	OF THE 2nd WEEK OF ADVENT	12.15PM SJ	EILEEN COLES RIP (PH)
FRI	11th DECEMBER	OF THE 2nd WEEK OF ADVENT	10.00AM SE	EILEEN COLES & N GROVER RIP (GM)
SAT	12th DECEMBER	OF THE 2nd WEEK OF ADVENT	11.00AM SE	DR SHANIKA & MIGARA WEDDING INTS (AP)
			6.15PM SJ	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			7.00PM SE	MASS IN POLISH
SUN	13th DECEMBER	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	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)

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
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

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

Psalm Response

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad

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

SECOND COLLECTION
TODAY
CHURCH BUILDING FUND

SECOND COLLECTION
NEXT WEEK
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

First reading: Zephaniah 3 : 14-18

Second reading: Philippians 4 : 4-7

Gospel: Luke 3 : 10-18

29/11/09	1st Collection	Catholic Home Care
Total	2604.72	527.02
Cash	1021.05	271.52
S / O	1207.15	255.50
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	376.52	

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.