

4 DECEMBER 2016

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

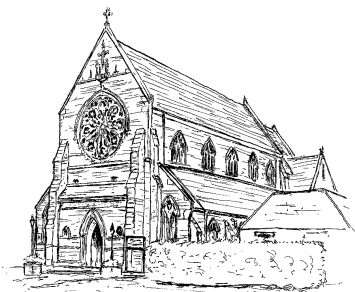


ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S CITY CENTRE CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTHAMPTON

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
PORTSMOUTH REG. CHARITY NO. 246871

**SOUTHAMPTON CENTRAL, WEST &
EAST DEANERY ALSO INCLUDES:**

- ST. BONIFACE, SHIRLEY
- HOLY FAMILY, MILLBROOK
- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL,
LORDSWOOD
- IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,
PORTSWOOD
- CHRIST THE KING &
ST. COLMAN'S, BITTERNE
- OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION,
HEDGE END
- ST BRIGID, WEST END
- ST. PATRICK'S, WOOLSTON
- THE ANNUNCIATION,
NETLEY ABBEY



IF WE DO NOT CHANGE, THEN WE SHALL STAY AS WE ARE

We are familiar with the fact that our readings schedule at Mass rotates every year across years A, B, and C. Perhaps fewer of us recognise that the second Sunday of Advent is always given to John the Baptist. Every year he calls to us from the desert. And every year, we hear him differently.

John was not alone, "Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him". This is the same desert the people of Israel spent 40 years crossing all those centuries before. So what is so attractive about John? He utters a seductive, alluring promise that has a mesmeric effect. He tells the people, you can begin again, you can change; it is not all hopelessness; you can start again. He baptised those who had decided to change their lives. Today he calls everyone to change. Everyone needed it then, everyone is still called to it today.

Each of us has a responsibility in the here and now, of seeing what needs to be changed in our lives and then doing something about it. Just as John leapt in his mother's womb when he recognised the arrival of The One, we too recognise The One of whom he speaks. It is Jesus, the Christ, of course. Jesus also makes that same call for a change of heart to each of us today.

Unlike most of those people who say, "the problem with you is ... ," and don't give us any real help in order that we might change for the better, Jesus is ready to offer all the help we need to become better people, if only we show willing and turn to him in prayer. First and foremost perhaps we all need to become more faithful to our baptism as Christians, and allow ourselves to be challenged and changed by the word of God. To hear the word of God and to act on it: what better way to prepare for the One who is to come?

Andy Philpott

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK:

1. Pope Francis summed up John the Baptist's vocation in three key words: "Prepare, discern and diminish." (Gospel) 'Prepare and discern' are obvious but why does he say we also need to 'diminish' ourselves?
2. There are people with whom you disagree. How easy is it to "be tolerant" with them (2nd reading)? Why would you think this way instead of just going along with such people, or being nice, or acting like you agree with them? Do you treat others in "the same friendly way as Christ treated you"?

Vincent Harvey

TODAY SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER 2016

TODAY: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT when we prepare for the coming of our God as St John the Baptist says, by seeking forgiveness.



MESSY CHURCH ARE LAUNCHING THEIR FIRST SESSION WITH AN ADVENT THEME today from 2:30pm—4:00pm in St Joseph's Hall in Bugle Street. All children and their parents are very welcome.

ECUMENICAL FAMILY RAMBLE to Woodmill Southampton at 2pm today. Starting point Woodmill Lane Car Park.

RECENTLY DIED: Dick Barber RIP late of Shirley.



Requiem Mass 11am Tuesday 13 December in St Boniface Church, Shirley. May his dear soul rest in peace. Please keep his son Chris Barber (Pastoral Area Maintenance Administrator) and all their family in your prayers.

THIS WEEK

FOR INFORMATION: Sun Mass Andover: TC

Mon Day off: TC/RB/VH

Tues Advent Assemblies St Anne: VH/RB

Deanery Clergy Meeting: VH/TC/RB/AP

St George Governors: VH

Wed Team Meeting: VH/RB/AP/TQ

Thurs Springhill: VH. Bamenda Committee: VH

Fri St George Mass: VH. Dept. for Vocation mting: VH

Sat Mass Bournemouth: TC

Sun Mass Southampton: TC

WELLSPRING PRAYER GROUP last meeting before Christmas will be on Tuesday 13 December at 2:30pm. They will resume on Tuesday 10 January at 2:30pm. There is no meeting in the hall on 6 December.

LUNCH CLUB meet from 12noon on Wednesdays in St Edmund's Hall. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to join.

SPRINGHILL CHRISTMAS CONCERT PRACTICE from 2pm—3:30pm Tuesday 6 December & Wednesday 7 December in St Edmund's Church.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE PRACTICE 10am to 12 noon Thursday 8 December in St Edmund's Church.

CONFRATERNITY OF THE ROSARY—SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS 12:15pm Thursday 8 December in St John's Cathedral, followed by recitation of the holy rosary, candlelight procession.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE ****6pm Thursday 8 December** in St Edmund's Church.

BAMENDA COMMITTEE MEETING 7pm Thursday 8 December in St Edmund's Presbytery.

SUNG MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY 7:30pm Thursday 8 December at St Boniface Church, 413 Shirley Road, Southampton with 'Cantores Michaelis' directed by Keith Davis, organ: Jonathan Pilgrim. See noticeboards.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA) meet 7:30pm Thursdays in St Edmund's Hall, Rockstone Place, SO15 2EQ for those interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith.

SPRINGHILL FOUNDATION CLASS visit to St Edmund's Church 9:30am Friday 9 December.

PILATES WITH HILARY 10am every Friday in St Edmund's Hall. *Text Hilary on 07786 617302 if you are interested in joining this class.*



YOUTH CLUBS: Junior **FROGZ** for ages 8-12, meet on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of the month from 6pm—7:15pm. *Next meeting: Friday 9 Dec.* Theme: *Advent Party.*

Senior **FANNING THE FLAME** for ages 12-18 Fridays 7:15pm—9:00pm, includes a talk. All welcome. Venue for both: St Boniface Church Hall.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP meet 8pm in St Edmund's Hall on Fridays.

NEXT WEEKEND

'THE DESERT SHALL BLOOM' Saturday 10 December **Advent retreat day** at the Verbum Dei Retreat Centre, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight. The cost is a donation to the Community. For more info or to book contact Patricia Yandell 07835 948 435 or Sr. Margarida Londral on 07970 083 252.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION PROGRAMME welcome, introductions and **first session** for parents and **registered candidates** from 10:30am—12noon Saturday 10 December in St Anne's School Hall, Rockstone Place, SO15 2WZ. Entrance through the car park gates. Free parking available.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAMME 2pm—4pm Sunday 11 December in St Boniface Church Hall, Shirley Road. Candidates to bring their books, pen, a drink and snack to share if they would like to. *Theme 'What We Can Know About God'.*

NEXT WEEK

SPRINGHILL CAROL CONCERT 1:30pm Monday 12 December in St Edmund's Church.

SPRINGHILL CAROL CONCERT 9am Wednesday 14 December in St Edmund's Church.

SOUTHAMPTON AND SOLENT UNIVERSITIES INTERFAITH FORUM from 4pm—5:45pm Wednesday 14 December in St Edmund's Church and Hall.

SISTERS FROM BELARUS will be selling icons and other religious items: Wed 14 Dec before and after 7pm Mass in St Edmund's and Thursday 15 Dec before and after the 12:15pm Mass at St Joseph's. See noticeboards.

CCPG 7:45pm Wednesday 14 December in St Edmund's Presbytery.

JINGLING BELLS Christmas Carol singing in Lyndhurst Sun 18 Dec 2:30pm—3:30pm. Free admission. Silver collection. Bring a friend, mince pies and mulled wine! See poster or call Jenepher on 07891 733939.

TWO HUNDRED CLUB—DECEMBER WINNERS

1st prize	Pam Oates	£20.00
2nd prize	Judy Brown	£10.00

ADVENT

YEAR OF CARITAS: LOVE IN ACTION will be the theme for our Parish for 2016/17. There is no universal or diocesan theme for the next 12 months so the Liturgy Team and CCGP have decided that all that we do this coming 12 months will reflect 'Year of Caritas: Love in action' ... watch this space ... watch the Parish ... watch each other!!

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE 7:30pm Monday 19 December ... at **St Edmund's Church**. An opportunity to stop in the midst of the Christmas rush and ponder where we are in our relationships: *with God, each other and the Faith Community*. As part of the celebration priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Come along and *'prepare for the coming of Christ!'*

SACRAMENTAL RECONCILIATION available most Saturdays 11:30am in St Edmund's Church and 5:45pm St Joseph's; also 11:45am Thursdays in St Joseph's.

ADVENT LADDER & EMPTY MANGER—ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S: To encourage our children to experience Advent and make Jesus' bed as "comfortable" as possible through their good deeds we suggest you look at the decoration in the front of the altar at St Joseph's and in the Sacred Heart alcove at St Edmund's. The idea is, that when a child does an act of service, sacrifice, prayer or kindness, done in honour of Baby Jesus as a birthday present, they receive a piece of straw (*you can find it in the basket next to decoration of the Advent Ladder*). Then, with their mother or father the child is asked to come to the church and gently put a piece of straw into the manger and say a prayer to Jesus. *Children are also encouraged to make stars ★, snow flakes ❄, angels 🇂 and sheep to 🐑 put on the trellis in the Sacred Heart Alcove as well.*

★ **NAME A STAR** to hang in the church at Christmas in memory of a loved one. £1.50 per star. Available at Masses from next weekend. All proceeds towards HCPT.

PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

ST EDMUND'S BIG CHURCH CLEAN:

****Tuesday 20 December from 2pm—4pm****

ALSO HELP REQUIRED TO put up and decorate the Christmas tree and prepare the Church for Christmas with candles, stars, flowers:

Saturday	17 December	From 11:30am
Monday	19 December	From 10:30am
Wednesday	21 December	From 10:30am
Thursday	22 December	From 10:30am

STAPLING OF CHRISTMAS MASS LEAFLETS: *Volunteers needed Monday—Friday 9am—1pm and 2pm—4pm from Wednesday 14 December. Call at the Parish Office if you can help.*

STEWARDS / WELCOMERS / READERS / E. MINISTERS

For Reconciliation Service and Christmas Masses

All offers of help greatly appreciated. Please add your name to the sign-up list at the back of the Church. (Altar Servers list in the Sacristy.)



GIFTS FOR CATHOLIC HOME CARE CLIENTS

It's that time of the year again when we ask parishioners, while out shopping in the next week, to please consider picking up a small gift or two for us to pass on to our elderly clients. Many of the Christmas offerings now in the shops would be suitable—toiletries, chocolates, biscuits, socks, scarves etc. Gifts should be new and **unwrapped** so that individual health and dietary requirements can be considered when our Carers select for their clients. **Baskets available in the porches for this final weekend 03/04 Dec.** *These gifts make a big difference - thank you!*

GENERAL ITEMS

SILENT RETREAT 29 December to 1 January with Verbum Dei Community on the Isle of Wight. Email verbumdei.iow@gmail.com to book. See noticeboards.

CAFOD: *"Thank you for your support of CAFOD this year by actions such as writing messages of hope. Your actions are bringing hope and compassion to our sisters and brothers around the world - thank you. The CAFOD group are: Jude Maleski, Vicki Munday, Marina Joyce, Judy Brown and Mike Wilcox ... we would welcome any new volunteers."*

'UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE' a DVD course by Jeff Cavins to be run in St Edmund's Hall for 6 weeks during Lent. Watch this space.

HOLY LAND FEBRUARY 2018 Watch this space!

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A DEACON? Oscott Seminary have introduced a preparatory year for men discerning a call to the Permanent Diaconate which begins in January 2017 and consists of three overnight stays in January, March and May. The aim of these sessions is to help candidates better understand the reality of a vocation to Holy Orders and to help discern whether this is what God is calling them to. There will be Parish based pastoral elements, spiritual formation and intellectual input given through teaching, seminars and discussions. Wives of prospective candidates will also be supported during these days and are encouraged to attend. Attendance at these days does not commit an individual to beginning the formal Formation program. For further info please email Fr Peter Hart at diaconate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk as soon as possible.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Robert Rymill, Tony McCall, Donna Madden, Joyce Mguni, Caroline Gailor, Rosa Santos, Fr David Hutton, Lucky & Sujata, Mano, Nelum, Felicity Singleton, Sheila & Clare Morris, Morris Penny, John Redhead, Jackie Duggan, Esther Pananwela, Noreen Kealy, Kay Kelly, Colm O'Riordan, Valerie Summerton, Simon Parry, Sue Tutton, Alex Boyle, Janette Brookes, Joy Grant, Joanne Cunio, Ludwig Basisty, Irene Green, JL, Malcolm Cross, Teresa Adams, Judy Brown, O'Hanlon family, John Morris, Paul Sassu, Moyra Clearkin, Peter Scott, Phyllis Grattan, HE, Virginia Monteiro, Maria Annunziata, Jean Kaye, Vera Morris, Perry Cunio, Mike Mantle, Maria Farrao, NW, Bosco and Myra Andrade, Joe Sculley, Josie Franklin, John O'Reilly, Bridget Busk, Pam Bennett, Pauldia Grant and all parishioners who are ill, having surgery or on our prayer list.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER 2016

*(Key to City Centre Catholic Masses below are SJ = St Joseph's Church, Bugle Street, SO14 2AH and SE = St Edmund's Church, The Avenue, SO17 1XJ)

SAT	3 DEC	VIGIL MASS	6:15PM *SJ 7:00PM SE	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH MASS IN POLISH
SUN	4 DEC	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9:00AM SE 10:00AM SJ 11:00AM SE 7:00PM SE	STOY & JESSY—THANKSGIVING ETHELDREDA CONWAY—INTENTIONS (F) PJ PHELAN RIP (GP & DP) ROMEO & JEAN ZANELLOTTI RIP (F)
TUES	6 DEC	ST NICHOLAS	10:00AM SE	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
WED	7 DEC	ST AMBROSE	7:00PM SE	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
THURS	8 DEC	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	12:15PM SJ	THANKSGIVING (TQ)
FRI	9 DEC	OF THE 2nd WEEK OF ADVENT	7:00PM SE	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
SAT	10 DEC	ST SWITHUN WELLS	11:00AM SE 6:15PM SJ 7:00PM SE	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH MARY JOSEPHINE SHANAHAN RIP (NK) MASS IN POLISH
SUN	11 DEC	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9:00AM SE 10:00AM SJ 11:00AM SE 7:00PM SE	AGOSTINHO GONCALVES RIP (MG) PEARL ROBINSON RIP—ANNIVERSARY MASS (JR) DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE CURTIS HAYWARD FAMILY (F) GORDON FAMILY—GOD'S BLESSINGS—JOURNEY MERCIES (MI)

PARISHES MASS TIMES: Holy Family, Millbrook Sat Vigil 18:30; Sun 11:00am; 1:00pm (Polish); 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, Lordswood Sun 09:15; Holy Day 10:00. Christ the King & St Colman Sun 11:00; Holy Day 19:00. Immaculate Conception, Portswood Recon: Sat 10:30 (After Mass); Sun 08:30; 10:30; Holy Day 10:00; 19:30. Our Lady of the Assumption, Hedge End Sat Vigil 17:30; St Brigid, West End Sun 17:30; St Patrick, Woolston Sat Vigil 18:00; Sun 11:00; Holy Day 09:15 (term time); 10:00 (outside of term time). The Annunciation, Netley Abbey Sun 09:00, Holy Day 19:00.

Contact Details:
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E-mail address: rbullock@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Assistant Priest:
E-mail address: fathertomy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Presbytery Tel. No: 023 8033 4891

Presbytery Address: 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton, SO15 2EQ

Deacon:
Andy Philpott andrew.philpott@virginmedia.com

Pastoral Assistant:
Tina Quinn Tel 023 8017 0497 (Mon-Wed)
email: tqinn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary:
Anne Wheeler
Parish Office Tel: 023 8033 3589

Parish Email Address: southamptoncitycentre@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Office Address: St. Edmund's Lodge, The Avenue, SO17 1XJ

Parish Website: www.southampton-city-catholics.org.uk

Apostleship of the Sea:
Roger Stone Tel 07963 345 618
E-mail address: rogerstone@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk

Catholic Home Care:
Anne Monaghan 023 8017 0498
E-mail address: catholichomecare@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

EU Welcomer's Project:
Dave Adcock 07786 392 886
E-mail address: euwelcome@yahoo.co.uk

Hospital Chaplain:
Fr Michael Cronin 023 8120 8517

Martha's Gift Shop:
023 8033 3400

PA Property Admin.:
Chris Barber Tel 023 8017 0499
Email Address: cbarber@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Poitiers Project
Graham Alldred 07980 933 828

Polish Chaplaincy:
Father Zbigniew Budyn
Tel 02381786316; email: southampton@tchr.org

Address: 15 Languard Road, Southampton, SO15 5DL

Safeguarding Reps:
Catherine Marshall-Cox & Claire Thompson

Solent Uni. Chaplain:
Sister Virginia Adnan 07413 557 751

S'oton Uni. Chaplain:
Sister Valentina Stilo 07983 883 377

Vocations to Priesthood: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/vocation/

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:
Springhill Primary 023 8033 3954
St Anne's School 023 8032 8200
St George College 023 8032 2603

Prayer of the Church Week 2

SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER 2016 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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!**

READINGS SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 2016

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1—6.10

Second Reading: James 5:7—10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2—11

2ND COLLECTION TODAY	2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Collections	1st	2nd CATHOLIC HOME CARE
27.11.16		
Total	£2,512.42	£275.84
Cash	941.66	177.71
S / O	1,256.61	78.50
Gift Aid Tax	314.15	19.63

Thank you for your generous contributions. Your donations make the life and work of the Parish possible.

CONFESSION TIMES

St Edmund's: Saturdays 11:30am
St Joseph's: Thursdays 11:45am
Saturdays 5:45pm