

22 DECEMBER 2019

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



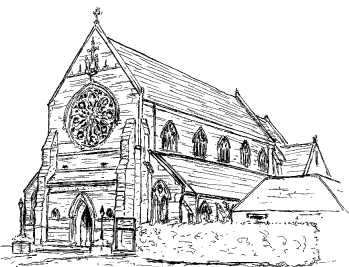
ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S CITY CENTRE CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTHAMPTON

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
PORTSMOUTH REG. CHARITY No. 246871

STELLA MARIS DEANERY

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



EMMANUEL: GOD WITH US, IN US AND THROUGH US

Over the last weeks and months we have been exposed to multiple promises, expectations and agendas; and sadly many of these have been false, misguided and not upheld. We have all had reason to question our social and political identity and often been left confused and bewildered. In contrast the message that is given to us in today's readings through the prophets, is consistent, founded and one of sure hope.

We have journeyed through Advent waiting and longing for the birth of the Son of God who was, and is, and will be sent among us — not only to lead us, but to give us an identity, and to be one with us. 'Emmanuel, God with us'.

Through the Virgin Mary, God became our flesh; became one like us in all things in order that He could truly not only share our pain, our joys and our hopes, but became all of these too. In turn we are called to be the Christ who comes for others. A Christ of two natures as St Cyril of Jerusalem so eloquently writes: 'Man in what was seen and God in what was not seen, as man truly eating like us, but as God feeding us in the five thousand from five loaves, as man sleeping in the ship but as God walking on the water, as man truly dying but as God raising Him to life'.

Richard Rohr in his Advent Meditations speaks of how each of us struggle to come to terms with our identity. In today's climate we can easily become confused as to where our loyalties lie and to whom we belong. Rohr suggests that guilt, low self esteem, self hatred and self preoccupation comes from Christian people allowing themselves to be at home in the world and taking our cues and identity from a world that Jesus never wanted us to be part of. This Christmastide, 'Emmanuel, God with us' becomes our identity: it will not change because God does not change. We must and we can find our true self.

We have just entered the year of God's word: 'The God who speaks'. Our gospel today is a supreme example of how God spoke through the prophets and reveals Himself in his Son. May we echo the prayer of vespers on Tuesday:

*Father, by Your will Your Son took upon Himself
that human nature which You fashioned and redeemed.
Grant that the Word who took flesh
in the womb of the ever-virgin Mary
and became a Man like us
may share with us His Godhead.
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

Tina Quinn

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK:

1. Because Joseph was a 'man of honour', Mary was able to give birth to the 'Emmanuel ...' (Gospel). When has your 'uprightness', 'honesty', 'integrity', enabled God to be experienced by others?
2. Ahaz refused to 'put God to the test!' (1st reading). Have you ever 'tested' God? Why? What happened? How did you feel?
3. Paul testifies to preaching 'The Good News' (2nd reading). When have you 'preached' the Good News? When have you missed an opportunity to 'preach' the Good News? More challenging: when have you been 'Good News'?

Vincent Harvey

TODAY SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT.


THE GOSPEL OF LUKE: a copy for everyone from Bishop Philip. Take home your copy.

CHRISTMAS DAY see times of Masses

CHRISTMAS EVE / DAY COLLECTIONS ARE FOR THE PRIESTS OF THE PARISH. Thank you for your generosity. Envelopes attached to this Newsletter to be returned at Christmas Masses.


CRIB OFFERINGS: This Christmas 2019, our Crib offerings in the Diocese will be donated to the Friends of the Holy Land. (In alternate years, the collections are sent to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre). These offerings remind us that the Christian community in the Holy Land represents a physical link between the modern world and the life and times of Christ – they are the ‘living stones’ of our faith. Since 1998, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has organised a group called the Holy Land Co-ordination. It is chaired by Bishop Declan Lang of Clifton. Recently, Bishop Declan issued the following statement: “As Bishops of the Holy Land Co-ordination have consistently highlighted, we all have a responsibility to oppose the continued construction of illegal settlements, which not only fuels human rights violations, but imperils any chance of a two-state solution. We stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land as it strives for justice and peace amid these increasingly difficult circumstances and look forward to reiterating this support in person during our forthcoming visit to Christian communities in Palestine.” There is a website you can check out.

VOCATIONS: Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22 2019. “When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord directed him.” Are you prayerfully vigilant about discovering your vocation in Christ? Might He be inviting you to the priesthood or consecrated life? To explore further, call Fr John Cooke on 01329 318 869 or email vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



RECENTLY DIED: Maureen Latham RIP. Late of Hamble Heights Care Home and Meadowhead Road, Basset. Requiem Mass 10am Friday 27 December at St Joseph Church followed by cremation at the East Chapel, Southampton Crematorium. May she rest in peace. Please pray for her family.

NEXT WEEKEND



WEDDING BELLS: Congratulations to **Marlena Linder** and **Przemysław Kwiatkowski** who are getting married at 1:00pm on Saturday 28 December in St Edmund Church. May God bless them all the days of their lives.

END OF YEAR SILENT RETREAT 28 Dec—1 Jan 2020 at Verbum Dei Retreat Centre, Isle of Wight. Email verbumdei.iow@gmail.com to book. See notice boards.

THIS WEEK

FOR INFORMATION: Mon: Clergy Day off
Thurs: Hospital on call: VH
Fri: Funeral: VH

MONDAY MASS IN ST JOSEPH CHURCH 23 December at 12 noon praying The Angelus followed by the Holy Rosary and then Mass at 12:15 pm.

****ST EDMUND BIG CLEAN**** 2pm—4pm Monday 23 December in St Edmund Church.

*****CHRISTMAS MASS TIME CHANGE ...** please note that **Christmas Eve Mass in St Joseph** this year will be at **8:30pm (Carols followed by Mass)**. Please make a note ...

****STEWARDS AND WELCOMERS**** for Christmas Masses. All offers of help greatly appreciated. Please add your name to the list in the porch.
****ALTAR SERVERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES**:** Please add your names to the list in the Sacristy.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24 December 2019		
6:00 pm	Christmas Family Mass	St Edmund
8:30 pm	Christmas Mass in Polish	St Edmund
**8:30pm	**Christmas Night Mass	**St Joseph
11:30pm	Christmas Night Mass	St Edmund
Christmas Day Wednesday 25 December		
9:00 am	Christmas Day Mass	St Edmund
10:00 am	Christmas Day Mass	St Joseph
11:00 am	Christmas Day Mass	St Edmund
St Stephen's Feast Day Thurs 26 December		
11:00am	Altar Servers Mass	St Joseph
New Year's Day Wednesday 1 January 2020		
10:00am	Mary, Holy Mother of God	St Edmund



Wishing everyone a Happy, Holy and Blessed Christmas from the Clergy and all in the Parish Office.

PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED from 12noon Tuesday 24 December to Thursday 2 January 2020. Should you require the assistance of a priest during this time for an emergency please phone The Presbytery on 023 8033 4891. Do leave a message if no one is available when you call, messages are listened to frequently and will be responded to as soon as possible.

NEXT WEEK

ECUMENICAL FAMILY RAMBLE Wednesday 1 January 2020 at Mayfield Park / Mayfield Nurseries, Weston Lane, Southampton. Starting point: Bowling Green Car Park, SO19 9HL. See notice boards. Tel. 023 8044 2403.



BAPTISM: We welcome into our worshipping community **Juliette Gropora**, daughter of Jose Luis and Halima, who is being baptised at St Joseph Church at 11:30am on Sunday **BAPTISM** 5 January 2020.



WEDDING BELLS: Congratulations to **Grzegorz Leszczynski and Marlena Adamus** who are getting married at 3pm on Saturday 11 January 2020 in St Edmund Church. May God bless them all the days of their lives.

SEPARATED/DIVORCED: Relationships that have broken down can lead to unresolved hurts and questions, to feelings of rejection or isolation.

In January 2020 we are offering a series of evenings for those who are separated, or divorced: **'Restored Lives'** is run over 7 weeks and offers the opportunity to explore different issues in a safe and non-judgemental setting with those who have been there too.

The first meeting is at 7pm on Tuesday 14 January 2020 in St Edmund Hall. If you are interested in joining or would like to know more please speak to Father Vincent or one of the priests.

GENERAL ITEMS

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR DECEMBER: EVANGELISATION: That every country may determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

FATHER TOMY CHIRACKALMANAVAN: Please pray for Father Tomy's mother who died early last week: may she rest in peace. Father Tomy has flown home to preside at her funeral and be with the family. We expect him back before Christmas!! As we pray for her, we pray also for Father Tomy and all the family.

FATHER ELIJAH joined us last week so that we could 'present' him with the result of the collection we took for him to say 'thank you and best wishes'. Father Elijah enjoyed meeting people at the 9am & 11am Masses (and those that came up from other Masses). He was overwhelmed with the £3,292 that was raised and presented to him. Thank you for your generosity.

ST GEORGE CATHOLIC COLLEGE, SOUTHAMPTON have been judged to be **OUTSTANDING** for the fourth year in succession in their recent LA Inspection.

The Summary from the Inspection Report is: *"The school continues to provide a very good quality of education for its students. Staff and pupils are happy here and enjoy the school's strong sense of community. The quality of the care for students, and the range of opportunities presented to them ensure that everyone feels valued and well prepared for their next stage of life. The head teacher, his senior staff and governors are giving the school strong, caring and purposeful leadership."*

PLEASE PRAY FOR Maire Quirk, Ewa Evans, Ewa Slinn, Teresa Hodges, Sue Hanrahan, Marisa Tellegen, Myra & Bosco Andrade, Madeleine Clarke, Bunty Weerakoon, Christopher Browne, David Spencer, Pat & Don Devers, Azad & Viyille Perera, George Chesworth, Jean White, Sheila Morris, John Hennessy, Pat O'Neill, Marcus Boulton-Smith, Jean Mooney, Eloise Chessman, Bobby Murphy, Jackie Galbraith, Joan Forbes, Doris Leggett, John O'Reilly, Bill Eastman, Shane Wing, Kathryn Morley, NW, Carol Butt, Maureen Lee, Roy Reeves, Joachim Rodrigues, Donna Madden, Joyce Mguni, Noreen Kealy, Kay Kelly, Colm O'Riordan, Simon Parry, Sue Tutton, Alex Boyle, Jeanette Brookes, Joy Grant, Ludwig Basisty, Irene Green, Malcolm Cross, Paul Sassu, Peter Scott, Maria Annunziata, Perry Cunio, Mike Mantle, Pauldia Grant and all parishioners who are ill.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS www.godwhospeaks.uk Advent sees the beginning of the Year of 'The God who Speaks' when we focus more on God's Word in our lives. Please take a handout on what you can do at home to highlight the importance of God's Word. We will be developing this theme during the year.

THE PRAYER: *Living God, you walk alongside us and speak to us throughout the Scriptures. Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears and shows us how to live for one another. Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world. Amen*

V. *Your word is our path and your truth is our light.*

R. *This day and every day*

A THOUGHT: ADVENT SHOULD admonish us to discover in each brother or sister that we greet, in each friend whose hand we shake, in each beggar who asks for bread, in each worker who wants to use the right to join a union, in each peasant who looks for work in the coffee groves, the face of Christ.

Then it would not be possible to rob them, to cheat them, to deny them their rights.

They are Christ, and whatever is done to them

Christ will take as done to Himself.

This is what Advent is:

Christ living among us.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2020 led by Father Vincent and Godfrey Doyle. Following the successful pilgrimages last year to Santiago de Compostela and this year to Malta a further one is being planned for next year. ***This will be to Fatima and other religious and historic sites in northern Portugal, finishing in Lisbon.*** It is being planned for early October. Details will be available in the early part of next year.

THANK YOU FROM CAFOD for the £1,039.84 received from the Parish after the last autumn fast day. See letter on the notice boards.

NEW 11AM MASS CO-ORDINATORS ROTA now available in the inner sacristy.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE In Bosnia Herzegovina where Our Blessed Mother calls us in a special way to prayer and renewal. Benefits of travelling with Marian Pilgrimages; a guide is provided for the duration of the stay. English Mass every day. Leaves Wednesday September 30 ends 7 October flying from Gatwick to Dubrovnik and a 2.5 hour transfer to Medjugorje. Half board in a comfortable guest house, flights and transfers £595 (based on shared room), single supplement applies. Early bird £30 discount for booking before 1 Feb. £100 deposit. Contact Heather Hauschild Hauschild287@btinternet.com for more details. To reserve a place or for more info see website <https://marian-uk.com>

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER 2019

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

SAT	21 DEC	VIGIL MASS	6:15PM SJ MARGARET SINCLAIR RIP (MY)
SUN	22 DEC	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9:00AM SE JOY POULOSE RIP (J & S) 10:00AM SJ AGNIESZKA BANKS INTENTIONS (MATTHEW) 11:00AM SE DAHAM'S BIRTHDAY & CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO THE LORD JESUS, OUR LADY, ANGELS, SAINTS & GOD'S PEOPLE UNIVERSALLY (ANUSHKA & FRANCIS) 7:00PM SE ROBERT & FAMILY—GOD'S BLESSINGS (RK)
MON	23 DEC	LITURGY OF THE DAY	12 NOON SJ THE ANGELUS, ROSARY & MASS AT 12:15PM
TUES	24 DEC	CHRISTMAS EVE	6:00PM SE TONY HYLAND RIP (GC) **8:30PM* SJ THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH 8:30PM SE CHRISTMAS EVE MASS IN POLISH 11:30PM SE THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
WED	25 DEC	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	9:00AM SE THOMAS & THERESA KENNY RIP (GL) 10:00AM SJ BRIDIE MYLES RIP & JUDY BROWN RIP (JB) 11:00AM SE KATIE & WILLIAM COADY RIP (SC&DC)
THURS	26 DEC	ST STEPHEN	11:00AM SJ ALTAR SERVERS' MASS
FRI	27 DEC	ST JOHN	7:00PM SE PRIESTS & VOCATIONS TO THE RELIGIOUS LIFE (HH)
SAT	28 DEC	THE HOLY INNOCENTS	11:00AM SE SEAMAS REILLY RIP (GL) 6:15PM SJ MICHAEL HOGAN RIP (MY) 7:00PM SE MASS IN POLISH
SUN	29 DEC	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	9:00AM SE MICHAEL REID RIP (EH & HS) 10:00AM SJ THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH 11:00AM SE ANNETTE WOOD RIP & MARY ROBINSON RIP (RICHARD) 7:00PM SE KUM CHOY LEONG RIP (ZTL)

CONTACT DETAILS:

Parish Priest: Monsignor Canon Vincent Harvey
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Assistant Priest: Father Ansel D'Mello
Email address: anseldmello@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Father Ansel Tel. No. 023 8017 2104

Assistant Priest: Father Jaya Praveen Yenubari
Email address: jpraveen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Father Jaya Mob. No. 07774 552 341

Deacon: Deacon Andy Philpott
Email address: aphilpott@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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Parish Email Address: southamptoncitycentre@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Website: www.southampton-city-catholics.org.uk

Pastoral Assistant: Mrs Tina Quinn / Mobile 07827 810 457
email: tquinn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Catholic Home Care: Mrs Anne Monaghan 023 8017 0498
Email address: catholichomecare@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Hospital Chaplaincy: 023 8120 8517—Father Joe McNerney

Polish Chaplaincy: Father Mariusz Urbanowski
Tel. No. 023 8178 6316 email: southampton@tchr.org
Address: 15 Landguard Road Southampton SO155DL
Claire Thompson (via Parish Office)

Safeguarding Reps: Sister Emiliana Silva—Mob. 07426 000 213
Solent Uni. Chaplain: email: emiliana.silva@solent.ac.uk

S'oton Uni. Chaplains: Fr Jaya Praveen Yenubari 07774 552 341
Sister Valentina Stilo—Mob 07983883377

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH WEEK 4

22 DECEMBER 2019
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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!

READINGS 29 DECEMBER 2019

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

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

NO 2ND COLLECTION TODAY 22.12.19

2ND COLLECTION CHRISTMAS MASSES 24 / 25.12.19: FOR OUR PRIESTS

COLLECTION 15.12.19	1ST	2ND— CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
Totals	£2,886.68	£357.58
Cash	1,125.79	237.58
S / O	1,408.71	96.00
Gift Aid Rebate	352.18	24.00

CONFESSION / RECONCILIATION

St Joseph: Thursday 11:45am * Saturday 5:45pm
St Edmund: Saturday 11:30am