

22 MARCH 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

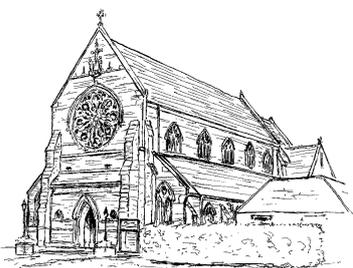


**ST JOSEPH'S &
ST EDMUND'S
CITY CENTRE
CATHOLIC PARISH
SOUTHAMPTON**

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**



A TIME TO COME TOGETHER

In 2015, Pope Francis announced the Year of Mercy, a time for the Church and Catholics everywhere to show mercy and compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation and to reach out and help those most in need in society. Pope Francis described the Church as a field hospital, healing and binding the wounds of its flock. With the recent outbreak of Coronavirus, with so many people affected worldwide, and with a reported 9,000 deaths to date, the Church once again is called to show mercy and compassion and to reach out and help those most in need.

During this invitation to mercy, Pope Francis drew attention to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy which help us to become more like our merciful Father in heaven. The Corporal works of mercy are—feed the hungry, visit the imprisoned, give drink to the thirsty, bury the dead, shelter the homeless, give alms to the poor and visit the sick. The Spiritual works of mercy are—counsel the doubtful, forgive others, instruct the ignorant, bear wrongs patiently, admonish sinners, comfort the sorrowful and pray for the living and the dead. Although the Coronavirus Pandemic is an opportunity for us to be witnesses to Christ and Church, of course, we must be practical and follow all Government guidelines regarding social distancing, self-isolation and measures that may be in place or are to come. Although some of these measures may restrict us in the physical sense of what we can do, for example visiting the sick if we are at risk ourselves due to health problems, we can think of new and alternative methods of contacting family, friends, neighbours, colleagues, through the use of the telephone, Skype, Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp, etc. In 1983, addressing the Catholic Bishops of Latin America in Haiti, Pope John Paul II called for a New Evangelisation, an evangelisation new in its ardour, new in its methods, new in its expression. Given the current situation, this is the challenge we now face. If we are in a position to do so, we may want to consider what support we can give to charities that provide care to the sick, elderly or most vulnerable in society or abroad, both financially and/or voluntarily. We may also ask family members, friends or neighbours if they require any help. While I'm sure the majority of us will be enthused by wanting to help others, we must first evaluate the help we can give and weigh up the risk to ourselves and others.

While it may be difficult to fulfil all the corporal works of mercy, we all have the opportunity to practise the spiritual works of mercy which are centred on prayer, our relationship with God and others. There are three works of mercy I want to pay particular attention to.

Firstly, counsel the doubtful. I'm sure that this time of uncertainty will cause much fear and anxiety to many, especially those who live on their own. Maybe by offering them a listening ear, this will help reduce their anxiety levels. Secondly, comfort the sorrow. As we already know, sadly, there has been a large number of people who have died of the virus already. If we do know anyone who has been affected by someone who has died of the virus, maybe we can give them the reassurances of faith and pray for them. Lastly, pray for the living and the dead. Let's also pray for those who have died with the virus, that they may be welcomed into the kingdom of heaven, and let's also pray for those that are suffering from the virus that they may make a full recovery. Let's also pray for the government, healthcare professionals and all who are at the frontline of this illness, that they may be given the wisdom, strength and grace, to best treat others, protect themselves and contain the virus. As well as reaching out to others, this period of uncertainty also gives the opportunity to reflect upon our own lives. The season of Lent is a season of repentance, a chance to reflect on the hurt we may have caused God or others by reflecting on our sins, our faults and failings. By practising the spiritual works of mercy, forgiving others and opening ourselves to God's forgiveness and mercy we will also be inspired and given the grace to be merciful and forgive others. We ourselves may be in doubt and in need during this difficult time, so the corporal and spiritual works of mercy also open us to the prayers and charity of others too.

Lastly, let's turn to prayers of our patron saints of the parish, St Edmund and St Joseph, and ask that through their intercession and prayer, both we, our family and friends, and our local community, may be kept safe and healthy.

Father Ansel D'Mello

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK (from the Scripture readings; for 'thoughts' re the Coronavirus see elsewhere):

1. "I only know that I was blind and now I can see" says the 'man born blind' (Gospel). In what way do you think you are blind? When have you 'seen' something in a different light which has changed your life/way of thinking?
2. "... the Lord looks at the heart" Samuel is told (1st reading). Do you allow God to 'look' into your heart? When? Why? How did/do you feel?
3. "Wake up from your sleep" St Paul writes (2nd reading)... "and Christ will shine on you". What 'sleep' do you need to wake from? In what way do you want Christ to 'shine on you'? Vincent Harvey

TODAY SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2020

Father Vincent writes:

As this newsletter goes to print (Friday) us three priests have to 'self isolate' for a minimum of 14 days. Father Ansel started to have slightly laboured breathing and chest pain Thursday evening and spent early Friday morning in the 'Emergency Department' undergoing tests. They have discovered a viral infection affecting his heart. They will not do the COVID-19 tests unless he has other symptoms. But, the upshot is, we in the Presbytery must self isolate and avoid close contact and practise good hygiene just in case!

Sadly, as you know, all public Masses and Services have been suspended due to the Coronavirus. What we plan to do, as a Parish, to enable us to be nourished in our faith, will slowly emerge as the weeks roll by (see elsewhere for some ideas!). We are living in an unprecedented time, and each day are being faced with new challenges and, dare I say, new opportunities.

Our priority is the health and wellbeing of others and ourselves: physically, mentally and spiritually. We need to look out for our families, for each other, and those beyond our families and faith community. Each one of us needs to keep our eyes, ears and hearts open in order to respond to the needs we encounter. At the same time we need to 'keep safe' and not put ourselves unnecessarily at risk.

We will be creating group networks within our current groups/teams for self-support, encouragement and outreach. We will also collaborate with other faith communities, voluntary and statutory organisations in order to help support those in greatest need.

The church one of my nieces is involved with is highlighting the phrase 'Faith not Fear'....that should be one of our mottos as we move forward.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: Even during these strange times we celebrate 'Mothering Sunday': Mother Church (the origin of the Day) and our own mothers, living or dead. Today we say 'thank you' to our mothers ... spoil them maybe ... they are important to us.



VOCATIONS... 4th Sunday of Lent - 22 March "**The Lord looks on the heart.**" Are you called to bring the Light of Christ to the world through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life? Contact Fr John Cooke email vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or 01329 318 869.

BABY LOSS MATTERS material available in both 'Lady Chapels' for anyone who wishes to pray because of 'Baby loss' or to leave a prayer.

A POEM TO PONDER:

LOCKDOWN

"Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But, they say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers
with her number through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless,
the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in
a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters. To Love.

So we pray and we remember that Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able to touch across the empty
square, Sing."

by Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM 13 March 2020

THANK YOU to all who contributed in any way to the concert held last Sunday in St Joseph Church in aid of the School of Joy. Over £1,645 has been raised. *Janek Heath.*

CLOTHING DONATIONS: St James' Shelter for the Homeless and St Dismas offering support to those with alcohol addiction combined to become 2Saints. Grateful thanks for your generous donations of clothing from 2Saints clients and staff in these difficult times.

LENT 2020

THE LENTEN ROSARY PRAYER CHAIN: started on Ash Wednesday; we have 100 decades being said! *Please pray for them all.*

40 DAYS FOR LIFE: 6 February – 6 April. The prayer vigil happens at the entrance to the Royal South Hants Hospital. BPAS is based in the hospital and it is here where the majority of abortions happen in Southampton. To sign up for vigil hours visit <https://www.40daysforlife.com/southampton>

NEXT WEEK

THE DOWRY OF MARY REDEDICATION ...On Sunday 29 March, The Fifth Sunday of Lent, the Sunday after the Solemnity of the Annunciation, every single Catholic in England will be invited to rededicate themselves personally to the Blessed Virgin Mary so that England can shine once again as the Dowry of Mary.

The rededication follows in the footsteps of King Richard II, who in the face of great political turmoil in 1381 went to the shrine of Our Lady of Puy in Westminster Abbey to seek her guidance and protection. The purpose today is so that the Catholics of England, faced with the personal and national challenges of our times, can turn to Her once again and offer our faith as She leads us to Christ Her Son. In medieval times, the English understanding of the word “dowry” was something “set aside” by a man for his wife in the event of his death. The rededication was proposed at the November 2017 meeting of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.

HANGING OF CRUCIFIXES: are now up. Eventually, once we have funding, we will spotlight them.

GENERAL ITEMS

POPE FRANCIS’ INTENTION FOR MARCH. EVANGELISATION: CATHOLICS IN CHINA: That the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

BASICS BANK for the first two months of the year our Basics Bank volunteers have given out 5 days’ worth of food **2,275 times and clothed 300 people.** This means that despite generous donations in the run up to Christmas, we’re already seeing gaps appear in the warehouse. We encourage the church family across Southampton to help us bring in a “Spring Harvest” of food donations so that we don’t run out of essential items. Boxes in both churches, items urgently needed:

*Cold tinned meat (ham, corned beef, sandwich spread)
Tinned meat for heating (meatballs, stew, chicken in white sauce etc.), Tinned Carrots, Tinned / Cartons Custard or Rice Pudding, Tinned Spaghetti, Spreads (jam, marmite, chocolate)*



PLEASE PRAY FOR all parishioners on our prayer lists and those we are not aware of who are ill or undergoing treatment or who have been affected by the Coronavirus in any way.

200 CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE: New members needed, contact the parish office if you’re keen.

CORONAVIRUS ... NEXT STEPS

- **All public services are suspended:** Mass; Confessions; Funerals (grave side or Crematorium only); Weddings (except just the Bride/Groom; family, witnesses); Baptisms (immediate family only) all of this can be seen on the Bishop’s statement (on Parish Website)
- **All groups and all meetings** are cancelled (including any outside ecumenical groups we are involved with)
- **Parish Office** is closed BUT contact can be made via the Parish Office phone number or email
- **Adoration:** we would like to continue Adoration at St Edmund daily, even Sunday if possible. Some of our Adorers are over 70 years old so in ‘self-isolation’, so we need volunteers. **Are you able to commit 1 hour a week, from Sunday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm?** If you can just commit 1 hour please phone/email the Parish Office
- **Mass intentions** will be said as scheduled for each day by one of the priests at a Mass ‘behind closed doors’ (congregation not allowed)! So be assured that ‘your’ intention will be offered. If you still want Masses offered for intentions contact the Parish Office
- **St Edmund’s** will be open daily from 10am—5pm, on a Friday from 10am to 8pm (Adoration 6pm—8pm) and on Sunday 9:30am to 7:30pm
- **St Joseph’s**—we had plans but with the emerging situation today they are on hold
- **Spiritual aspects at home:**
 - Create a **‘sacred space’** (crucifix, statue, bible etc.) to focus prayer
 - Read all or some of the **Sunday scripture readings** (‘Magnificat’ <https://us.magnificat.net/free> OR access ‘Universalis’ online)
 - Recite the Rosary
 - **Access the Parish** or Diocesan Website for ideas (also to see the Weekly newsletter)
- **Watch Mass** online: the Cathedral <https://www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk/live-mass.php> or other churches: www.churchservices.tv/
- Pray with your children daily if you can... lots of online resources
- **Practise good / excellent hygiene:** wash hands whenever you arrive home (soap and hot water the best); rub with gel if you have touched a hard surface when out, or been shopping, or had contact with another person. As school child wrote recently ‘Careless Contact Costs Lives’!
- **Support the Parish** financially if you can (a wall box inside the ‘broken’ glass door in St Edmund).....Gift Aid Envelopes can be put through the Office or Presbytery letter box
- **Father Vincent** will be ‘self-isolating’ due to his age, and now we three are all ‘self-isolating’; working from the presbytery but with no contact with others

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA are appealing for: woolly hats, socks, underwear, jumpers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, deodorant, biscuits and chocolates. Please leave items in the baskets in the porches. Contact Fr John Lavers john.lavers@stellamarismail.org Our Lady Star of the Sea..... Pray for Seafarers...! Thank you, Father John Lavers.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2020

*(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 MAR	<h1 style="margin: 0;">FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</h1>	SÉAN, KATHLEEN & STEWART ADAMSON RIP (DC)
SUN	22 MAR		REG & MABEL HURST RIP (RH) GOD'S GUIDANCE & FAVOUR (CA) PRAYING FOR HEALING OF CORONAVIRUS VICTIMS—FOR GOD'S PROTECTION IN THE WORLD—DOCTORS, NURSES, MEDICAL STAFF & ALL PEOPLE (ANUSHKA P) PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
TUES	24 MAR	OF THE 4TH WEEK OF LENT	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
WED	25 MAR	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	DECEASED MEMBERS OF LA SAINTE UNION COMMUNITY, SOUTHAMPTON (F) GRAVESIDE BURIAL: EILEEN BRENNAN RIP BARBARA, DORTHE & JADWIGA—MOTHER'S DAY BLESSINGS (BM)
THURS	26 MAR	OF THE 4TH WEEK OF LENT	HELENA HOUSTON RIP—BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY (PO)
FRI	27 MAR	OF THE 4TH WEEK OF LENT	FOR PRIESTS & VOCATIONS (HH)
SAT	28 MAR	OF THE 4TH WEEK OF LENT	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH JENNY DONNARUMMA RIP—BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY (MC)
SUN	29 MAR	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	TEDDY RICHMOND RIP (GP & DP) REEMA KHALIL—1ST BIRTHDAY—GOD'S BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING (OA) FRANCIS PONNIAH 85TH BIRTHDAY—GOD'S BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING AND BLESSINGS TO THE FAMILY (ANUSHKA) PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

CONTACT DETAILS:

Parish Priest: Monsignor Canon Vincent Harvey
Email address: vharvey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Father Vincent Tel. No. 023 8033 4891
Presbytery Address: 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton SO152EQ

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

Parish Secretary: Mrs Anne Wheeler
Parish Office Tel. No. 023 8033 3589
Parish Office Address: St. Edmund Lodge, The Avenue, SO17 1XJ
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 MARCH 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Psalm Response:

*The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
*I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.*
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

READINGS 29 MARCH 2020
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37: 12—14
2nd Reading: Romans 8: 8—11
Gospel: John 11: 3—7, 20—27, 33—45

2ND COLLECTION TODAY
CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND

2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK
CHURCH MAINTENANCE

COLLECTIONS 15.3.2020	1ST	2ND—CATHOLIC HOME CARE
Totals	£2,288.60	£425.26
Cash	527.71	242.76
S / O	1,408.71	146.00
Gift Aid Rebate	352.18	36.50

CONFESSION / RECONCILIATION

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