



6 MARCH 2016

**FOURTH
SUNDAY
OF LENT**



*Mothers
Sunday*

**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



'I HAVE TAKEN THE SHAME ... AWAY FROM YOU'

(Book of Joshua)

Recently someone 'bent' my ear telling me that their priest ends all his Sunday sermons talking about the need for Confession, and that if he pursues that vein of thought at every sermon they could be put off Confession for life! I can understand their sentiment! Yet, in a sense, the priest is not wrong, though maybe over egging it a little.

The action of the 'Prodigal Father' – running to his son, clasping him in his arms, putting the best robes on him – is a powerful image of God. God wants to 'run' towards us, wants to 'embrace' us, and wants us to look 'magnificent'. And in God's eyes we do, because God is, in a sense, besotted by us and with us: we are His creation, He has saved us from sin/death, and He loves us as no-one else does.

God has no formula for loving us, or for having mercy and compassion on us. God is who God is – loving always, merciful always, compassionate always.

The younger son, despite his early actions of total rejection of his father, accepts this and allows the father to do what the father does, because he is the father! I am intrigued to know what, if Jesus had completed the story, the elder son would do (a son who denies the existence of a brother!). Does he eventually allow the father to come closer, to embrace him and to make him look 'magnificent'? Or does he stand back, aloof, away and isolated?

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is our way of letting God come close, embrace us and make us look magnificent. Because through the Sacrament we accept the mercy, compassion and love that God gives us. God gives it to us regardless, because of who God is and who we are, but we need to accept it if it is going to change and transform us. The Sacrament enables that to happen in a real, substantial and concrete way, and through it we are, as Pope Francis has said, 'liberated'.

As we move beyond the half-way point of Lent, maybe now is the time to be Reconciled with each other and the Lord. Maybe now is the time to allow the Sacramental Grace of the Sacrament to take 'our shame away' and restore us as actual sons and daughters of God. Avail yourself of the '24 hours for the Lord' (see elsewhere) or prepare for the Penitential Service on Monday 21 March. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation experience God coming to you, embracing you and clothing you in radiant beauty!

Vincent Harvey

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:

1. When has your 'shame' (1st reading) been taken away by God?
2. 'Be reconciled to God' (2nd reading): when are you going to do it?
3. Let yourself be 'embraced' by God (Gospel).

Vincent Harvey

TODAY SUNDAY 6 MARCH 2016



HAPPY MOTHERING SUNDAY to all mothers.

NEW BOXED/NUMBERED ENVELOPES for parishioners who pay monthly contributions in this way - are now available for collection at the back of the Churches.

AN APPEAL AT THE END OF MASS for Street Pastors. Since their implementation some years ago, Street Pastors has had a profoundly positive effect on the 'night-time economy', reducing crime, violence and assisting people in distress. **More Street Pastors required: do consider!**

ECUMENICAL FAMILY RAMBLE to the Byways of Bursledon today at 2pm. Starting point: Lowford Community Car Park (parking free on Sundays).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Sundays at 6:10pm during Lent; today's will be led by the RCIA group.

RCIA SECOND SCRUTINY OF THE ELECT 7pm Mass today at St Edmund's Church.

YOUTH CHOIR 7pm Mass, rehearsals at 6pm in the hall.



RECENTLY DIED: Shaun Leahy RIP late of English Road, Southampton. Reception of the coffin into St Edmund's 4pm Tuesday 8 March; funeral service 11am Wednesday 9 March followed by burial at South Stoneham Cemetery.

Phyllis New RIP late of Bugle Street, Southampton. Reception of the coffin 4pm Monday 14 March in St Joseph's Church; funeral service 9:45am Tuesday 15 March followed by cremation at the Southampton Crematorium. May they rest in peace. Please pray for their families.

THIS WEEK

FOR INFORMATION:

Mon Interfaith conference; London: VH. Day Off: TC

Tues: Co-ordinating Pastors; Portsmouth: VH
Clergy Meeting: VH/TC

Thurs Bamenda Committee; Portsmouth: VH

Fri Confessions: St George: VH
24 hours for the Lord: Immaculate Conception: VH
Confessions: Immaculate Conception: VH

Sat Confessions: Immaculate Conception: VH

WELLSPRING PRAYER GROUP meet at 2pm Tuesdays in St Edmund's Hall. All welcome.

ANCHOR LENTEN COURSE ON RECONCILIATION meet in **St Joseph's Church** Tuesday 8 March 7:30pm-9pm.

6:30AM EARLY MORNING MASSES DURING LENT every **Wednesday** in St Edmund's Church.

LUNCH CLUB meet 12 noon Wednesdays in St Edmund's Hall. New members welcome!

HUNGER LUNCHESES Thursdays at 1:05pm in St Michael's Church during Lent. Proceeds to CAFOD and Christian Aid.

RCIA GROUP meet Thursdays at 7:30pm in St Edmund's Hall for those exploring the Catholic faith.

POETRY SHARE: YEAR OF MERCY 'UNTYING THE KNOTS' 7pm Thursday 10 March at St Joseph's Church.

ALPHA & YOUTH ALPHA COURSES—TASTER SESSIONS:

• **Adults Thursday 10 March St George Catholic College 7pm—9pm**

• **Youth Alpha Friday 11 March St Edmund's Hall.**

To book please call Tina on Tel. 023 8033 3589 or email: southamptoncitycentre@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.



PREPARATIONS FOR HOLY WEEK 2016

STAPLING OF MASS LEAFLETS: please call at the Parish Office anytime between 9am—1pm and 2pm—5pm **from Wednesday 9 March onwards**, if you can help.

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK—21 MARCH

7:30pm **Lent Penitential Service** in St. Edmund's Church. There will be 8 priests available to hear confessions *make the most of this annual opportunity.*

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK—22 MARCH

11am **Chrism Mass** — Portsmouth Cathedral

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK—23 MARCH

6:30am Mass St. Edmund's

7:00pm Mass St. Edmund's

ALTAR SERVERS, WELCOMERS & STEWARDS required for the Reconciliation Service and 3 Triduum Masses. *Please put your name on the list in the porches/Sacristy.*

BIG CLEAN starts 2pm in St. Edmund's on Tuesday 22 March, volunteers needed. Please add your name to the list in the porch.

ALTAR SERVERS' TRIDUUM PRACTICE Wednesday 23 March 5.30pm in St Edmund's Church. **NB: Altar Servers ... please note.**

EASTER PREPARATIONS OF ST. EDMUND'S CHURCH

Wednesday 23 March 10:30am—4:00pm

Thursday 24 March 10:30am—4:00pm

Saturday 26 March 11:30am—4:00pm

Please sign up for one hour, join the happy group—many hands make light work!!

JOINT TRIDUUM CHOIR PRACTICE 7:45pm Wednesday 23 March in St. Edmund's Church.

ADORATION ON HOLY THURSDAY 24 MARCH AFTER MASS up to 11:30pm. A half hour slot is offered for you to sign up to on the form at the back of the church. *Watch and pray before the Blessed Sacrament in the Lady Chapel in St. Edmund's. Please sign up.*

YOUTH GROUPS meet 2nd & 4th Fridays in **St Boniface Hall, Shirley (next meeting 11 March):**



'Frogz for juniors' ages 8—10 meet 6pm—7:15pm, topic 'Holy Week/Easter Collage'.

'Fanning the Flame' for Seniors ages 12-18 from 7:15pm-9pm. All welcome!



'24 HOURS FOR THE LORD' AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PORTSWOOD, UNITED WITH POPE FRANCIS AND ALL CATHOLICS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD:

Friday 11 March: 5pm – Midnight: a time for private prayer and opportunities to reflect on the Sacred Scriptures; engage in facilitated meditation; and experience stillness in reflective music.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated by:
Fr. Vincent... 6pm—7pm; Fr. Claro..... 7pm—8pm
Fr. Blaise.... 8pm—10pm; Fr James...7:30pm—8:30 pm
Fr. Antony... 8:30pm—9:30pm.

Saturday 12 March: 10:30am – 5pm: a time for private prayer, opportunities to reflect on the Sacred Scriptures, engage in facilitated meditation and experience stillness in reflective music.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated by:
Fr. Antony...10:30am—11:30am; Fr. Des ...1pm—3pm;
Fr. Vincent...3pm—4pm; Fr. Antony ... 4pm—5pm.

DEMENTIA – PRAYER WEEK 12-19 March is organised by the Pastoral Care Project. This is an invitation to everyone to pray for and with those who live among us with dementia. The prayer leaflet is available on www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk to download.

NEXT WEEK

PASSOVER MEAL 7pm for 7:30pm
Thursday 17 March in St Joseph's Church,
Bugle Street. *Vegetarian options available.*
Tickets £10 for sale after all Masses.



TWO HUNDRED CLUB MARCH WINNERS

Jeanne Carney 1st Prize £20
P & G Gibbs 2nd Prize £10

PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND SILENT RETREAT to enter in the experience of God's Mercy and Grace poured out during Holy week. 18—20 March at the Verbum Dei Centre, Isle of Wight. Email verbumdei.iow@gmail.com / Tel 01983 529 554.


EU WELCOME INFO EVENING 6pm Friday 18 March in St Edmund's Lodge.

MASS FOR PEACE & ROSARY 7pm Mass Friday 18 March in St Edmund's.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION—RECONCILIATION MASS 9:30am Saturday 19 March in St Edmund's Church. **Please note: 11am Mass and confessions are cancelled on Saturday 19 March.**

'UNTYING OF KNOTS' LITURGY 5:30pm Sunday 20 March in St Edmund's Church.

EASTER RETREAT 'EVERLASTING LOVE' OR PILGRIMAGE AROUND THE ISLE OF WIGHT Thurs 24 March—Sun 27 March. For more info and to book email: verbumdei.iow@gmail.com (retreat)/ v.adnan@soton.ac.uk (pilgrimage). See noticeboard.

**DAY OF REFLECTION—PREPARE FOR DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY** led by Fr Des at Saint Joseph's, 8 Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, SO40 7DU on Saturday 2 April; refreshments at 10am for a 10:30am start, the day will finish at 4pm. The cost of the day: £18pp (includes lunch and the celebration of Holy Mass). Since devotion to the Divine Mercy is one of the pivotal aspects of the Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis we encourage you to attend. Contact Fr Des by email: frdes@montfort.org.uk or phone 023 8029 2337 to book.

**INTERNATIONAL LUNCH: FUNDRAISER FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY—SOUTHAMPTON & SOLENT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS:** 12:30pm—2pm Saturday 23 April at Immaculate Conception Hall, 346 Portswood Road. £20pp contact Sister Virginia 07413 557 751 or email v.adnan@soton.ac.uk to book (prepaid tickets only). See noticeboards for the menu.

GENERAL ITEMS

BAMENDA: Six of us went to Bamenda (North-West Cameroon) on behalf of the Diocese to visit projects we support (health centres, hospitals, schools, water projects, parishes ...). It was a hard 10 days with early starts and being on the road for countless hours. But we were blessed in so many ways. Pray for them; they are praying for us! *Vincent Harvey.*

FOR THE DIARY ... FUTURE EVENT: Corpus Christi Procession after the 11am Mass at St Edmund's Sunday 29 May ... make a note.

CAR PARKING: we have had complaints from residents in the Estate behind St Edmund's re parking on siteand parking in such a way as to create issues for them coming and going. **The Estate is private and no parking allowed** There is no justification blocking people in or preventing them returning. **No parking!** There is plenty of parking around St Edmund's on a Sunday morning ... Rockstone Place, Carlton Crescent and many of the streets in 'Inner Avenue'.

A NEW STATE OF THE ART PA SYSTEM is being installed at St Joseph's Church which includes a loop system and bluetooth connectivity. This will be operational from the weekend of 19/20 March. A demonstration of the system will take place at 11:30am on Friday 18 March. Parishioners are welcome to join Father Vincent especially parishioners who use the hearing aid loop system, members of the choir or readers.

CALLED & GIFTED: Do you want to understand better what God wants to do with your life? Do you want to know how God is calling you to reach out to others? How does God invite you to serve him? Do you want to grow in your personal relationship with Christ? These and other questions will be looked at during the Called and Gifted weekend which is coming to New Forest Pastoral Area (St. Theresa's Totton). Please consider coming and being with others in the area for this Called and Gifted workshop on Friday 7pm to 9pm & Saturday 9am to 4.30pm 13/14 May at St. Theresa's Church Hall, Totton. You will find it inspiring and personal to you, and there is no cost. To book Tel: 023 8086 2270 to totton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.



APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA—Deacon Roger is asking for donations of Easter eggs to be distributed to some of the 540,000 seafarers who visit the port of Southampton each year. Please leave them in the Church clearly marked for Apostleship of the Sea or "AoS", Roger will collect them and distribute to the ships.

THANK YOU FROM CAFOD FOR THE LENTEN APPEAL: Together our parish raised £1,509.52. With UK Aid Match Funding, the amount doubles to £3,019.04 which will be used to bring water to the villages of even more of the world's poorest families. *Thank you for your generous compassion for those living in poverty and for fasting in solidarity with them.*

TWO HUNDRED CLUB 2016 FEES ARE NOW DUE for existing club members. Would you like to increase your chances and have an extra entry? Would you like to join the club with the possibility of winning two monthly prizes drawn for the small amount of £12pa (£1 per month)? *All proceeds go towards the building up of the parish.* See Father Vincent after Mass or phone the Parish Office **if you would like to join or are keen to run the club with a view to increasing membership.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR Valerie Summerton (op. recovery), Simon Parry, Sue Tutton, Karen Nugent (op. recovery), Noreen Beaumont (op. recovery), Celia Axton (op. recovery), Hilary Parker, Tony McCall, Alex Boyle (op. recovery), James McConnell (op. recovery), Elvira Davidson, Janette Brookes, Bernie Murray, Joy Grant, Pat Feighery (op. recovery), Joanne Cunio, Shane Wing (stroke recovery), Ludwig Basisty, Irene Green, Rachel de Melo (op. recovery), Dame Sheila Quinn, John Redhead, Pat Friters (op. recovery), Jayanthi Jayasinghe, Joan Moore, Pat Cummings, JL, Malcolm Cross, Irene Cartledge, Teresa Adams (stroke recovery), Judy Brown, O'Hanlon family, John Morris, Paul Sassu, Moyra Clearkin, Peter Scott, Phyllis Grattan, HE, Virginia Monteiro, Patricia Penny, Joyce Mnguni, James Adie, Maria Annunziata, Jean Kaye, Vera Morris, Perry Cunio, Mike Mantle, Maria Farrao, NW, Bosco & Myra Andrade, Joe Sculley, Tegar Marriott, Josie Franklin, John O'Reilly, Bridget Busk, Tony O'Donnell, Pam Bennett, Pauldia Grant, Laura Pinson, Evelyn Nolan, parishioners who are ill, having surgery and all listed in the Lady Chapel Prayer Book at St Edmund's.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 6 MARCH 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	5 MARCH	VIGIL MASS	6:15PM	SJ	JAMES & GABRIELLE HALL RIP (F)
			7:00PM	SE	MASS IN POLISH
SUN	6 MARCH	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9:00AM	SE	KATHLEEN ROGERS RIP (MP&CP)
			10:00AM	SJ	PATRICIA LIVETT—THANKSGIVING (F)
			11:00AM	SE	EASTER BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING TO POPE FRANCIS, THE PRIESTS & CLERGY, OFFICE STAFF & ALL PEOPLE (ANUSHKA)
			7:00PM	SE	DARREN NEWCOMBE RIP (BN)
TUES	8 MARCH	OF THE 4th WEEK OF LENT	10:00AM	SE	HILARY PARKER—HEALING & WELLBEING (DP&GP)
WED	9 MARCH	OF THE 4th WEEK OF LENT	6:30AM	SE	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			11:00AM	SE	FUNERAL SERVICE: SHAUN PATRICK LEAHY RIP
			7:00PM	SE	GERHARD HAUSCHILD RIP (HH)
THURS	10 MARCH	OF THE 4th WEEK OF LENT	12:15PM	SJ	JEAN PRESTON—WELLBEING & OP. RECOVERY (IK)
FRI	11 MARCH	OF THE 4th WEEK OF LENT	7:00PM	SE	HILARY PARKER—HEALING & WELLBEING (KN, SH&RH)
SAT	12 MARCH	OF THE 4th WEEK OF LENT	11:00AM	SE	GIUSEPPE ATTANASIO RIP (RO)
			6:15PM	SJ	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			7:00PM	SE	MASS IN POLISH
SUN	13 MARCH	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9:00AM	SE	AGOSTINHO GONCALVES RIP (MG)
			10:00AM	SJ	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			11:00AM	SE	EDGARS PILANS RIP (ED)
			7:00PM	SE	LEON, CORINA & GAVIN REBEIRO— THANKSGIVING (LR&,GR)

READINGS SUNDAY 13 MARCH 2016—5th SUNDAY OF LENT

1st Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:8-14 ● Gospel: John 8:1-11

Contact Details:

Parish Priest:	Monsignor Canon Vincent Harvey
E-mail address:	vharvey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Assistant Priest:	Father Tomy Chirackalmanavalan
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
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 8033 3589
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 Pastoral Assistant:	Tina Quinn Tel. No. 023 8033 3589
Mobile 07827 810 457	email: tquinn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
PA Property Admin.:	Chris Barber Tel 023 8033 3589
Email Address:	cbarber@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Poitiers Project	Graham Alldred 07980 933 828
Polish Chaplaincy:	Father Zbigniew Budyn
	Tel. 023 8178 6316
E-mail address:	southampton@tchr.org
Address:	15 Languard Road, Southampton, SO15 5DL
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 4

SUNDAY 6 MARCH 2016—4th SUNDAY OF LENT

Psalm Response

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

*I will leave this place and go to my father
and say: "Father, I have sinned
against heaven and against you."*

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

7PM MASS ONLY—YEAR A

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!

2ND COLLECTION TODAY	2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK
CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND	EASTER FLOWERS

COLLECTIONS	28/2/16 1st	28/2/16—2nd CATHOLIC CARE
Total	£2,443.06	£467.59
Cash	872.30	261.34
S / O	1256.61	165.00
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	314.15	41.25

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