

The Sacrament of God's Mercy

(Extracts from the Bishop's Pastoral Letter)

Pope Francis, in the document establishing the Year of Mercy, said: "During the Jubilee Year, the season of Lent should be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy."

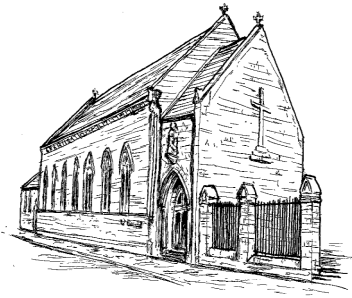
A true disciple of Jesus is always aware of their failings, their distance from God, their need to grow in holiness, prayer and the spiritual life. The closer we are to the Light - to God - the more evident our dark sides. It's like saying to God: "*I don't need you. I am sinless - like the Blessed Virgin!*" Let's be candid: Jesus did not come to call virtuous people. This is why we all need regularly to examine our consciences, to review our thoughts, words and deeds, to take stock of our attitudes and life-style. Sin is not like a stain to be dry-cleaned or a law infringed. Sin is a lack of love or lovelessness. Sin is often an omission rather than a commission. Think of it like 'missing the mark'. It is a wound to be healed. In our night prayers, we should review the day, thanking God for His love, but identifying too our failings, expressing our sorrow, and making a firm purpose of amendment not to sin again.

Someone asked me: "*Why do we need to confess our sins to a priest?*" But I asked them: If you felt sick, would you not go to the doctor? Would you not have a check-up? Would it not be risky doing a self-diagnosis? Humans are not angels. We are bodily; we need physical contact and communication, which is why Jesus instituted sacraments. Only God can forgive sins but in the Sacrament of Reconciliation Jesus gives the priest authority to speak to us personally. Just as in Mass when the priest says, "This is my Body; this is my Blood", the bread and wine are changed, so too when the priest says, "*Ego te absolvo ... I absolve you from your sins*", I am liberated. Without this encounter with a priest, how could we know for sure that our sins have been forgiven? For this is the Sacrament that brings us personally across space-time the mercy of Jesus, Who laid down His life for us on the Cross of Calvary.

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:

1. When has 'the Lord' heard your voice and seen your struggle (1st reading)? What happened?
2. Is your faith 'on your lips and in your heart'? If not, why? If it is, how do you reveal it to others?
3. When have you been tempted 'by the devil'; by things that draw you away from God? Did you succumb? Did you resist? How did you deal with it?

Vincent Harvey



14 FEBRUARY 2016

**FIRST SUNDAY
OF LENT**



**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



TODAY SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2016

RETIRING COLLECTION—Church Maintenance Fund.

WELCOME TO FATHER DES celebrating 9am and 11am Masses today. Also Masses next week in St Joseph's and St Edmund's whilst Father Vincent is in Bamenda.

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: Congratulations to Brendan & Nuala Keany who celebrate 50 years of marriage today.

PLEASE PRAY FOR YOUNG ALEX BOYLE (St Joseph 10am and HCPT Group 201) undergoing major surgery this week. Pray also for Mary and the family.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Sundays at 6:10pm during Lent; Sunday 14 February will be led by the Parish Office group.

YOUTH CHOIR 7pm Mass, rehearsal at 6pm *in St Edmund's Hall.*



EILEEN AITKEN RIP—*interment of ashes* on Friday 12 noon at Hollybrook Cemetery. *Please remember Annemarie and family in your prayers.*

THIS WEEK (half term 15—19 February)

FOR INFORMATION:

Mon (until 19th Feb): Fr Tomy home to India

Mon (until 27th Feb): Fr Vincent in Bamenda (Cameroon).

WELLSPRING PRAYER GROUP meet at the **new time of 2pm—3pm** on Tuesdays in St Edmund's Hall. All welcome.

LENT 6 WEEK COURSE ON RECONCILIATION: 7:30pm—9pm Tuesdays 16 February to 22 March in the Stella Maris Hall, Bugle Street, SO14 2AH. **Tina will be leading and facilitating the 'Anchor Programme' on Reconciliation.** To book tquinn@portsmouthdiocese.org.

CANCELLED: EARLY 6:30AM MASS 17 FEBRUARY in St Edmund's is cancelled.

WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB meet 12 noon Wednesdays in St Edmund's Hall. New members welcome! Contact Anne Monaghan in the Parish Office (023 8033 3589) if you wish to join.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP meet in central Southampton on Wednesdays for anyone whose life is, or has been affected by someone else's drinking. Call 020 7403 0888 for more info. See noticeboard.

HUNGER LUNCHES DURING LENT every Thursday at 1pm in St Michael's Church **starting Thursday 18 February.** All proceeds in aid of Mongu and Christian Aid.

ALPHA TEAM meet 7pm Thursday 18 February in St Edmund's Lodge.

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

CHANGING THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT - DOES IT MATTER?

A discussion of the implications of retaining or replacing the Human Rights Act chaired by Jessica Parker BBC South Reporter & Presenter with Dr Claire Lougarre, University of Southampton, Dr Alan Whitehead, MP Southampton Test at 7pm Friday 19 February, Avenue St. Andrew's Church, Southampton, SO17 1XQ. Website for Amnesty International Romsey & Southampton Groups www.amnesty-volunteer.org/uk/southampton-city/HRA.

LENT 2016

Make Lent a true 'desert experience' where you can encounter the 'God of Mercy'.

1. Use the **booklets or calendars** available ... not many left
2. Come along to '**Stations of the Cross**' on Fridays (6.30 pm) and Sundays (6.10 pm).
3. Attend the '**Lent Course**' on Reconciliation on Tuesdays at Stella Maris (first on 16th Feb)
4. Pop into St Edmund's during the day for '**Adoration**'
5. Come along to the **6.30 am** Wednesday Masses (except 17th Feb)
6. **Mongu Jars:** to support the work of Fr Pat and the parish in Mongu. Take a label in the porches.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY Friday 19 February. This Lent we have an opportunity to come together as a Catholic community to ensure girls living in the world's poorest countries are free to change their lives by getting an education. *CAFOD is working with the local expert organisations around the world to bring water to family homes, so girls who used to spend hours collecting it every day, now have time for school, study and to play with their friends.* Fast Days are our opportunity to support that vital work. Your Fast Day envelope is attached to this Newsletter. *More good news: the UK government has promised to match every pound and penny you give this Lent! Please give as much as you can in next week's collection, so that more girls around the world are able to live lives free from the burden of the long walk for water.* CAFOD will process your info and may contact you about their work. For details, visit cafod.org.uk/privacy.

HILARY'S PILATES CLASS 10am—10:45am Fridays in St Edmund's Hall. Phone Hilary on 07786 617 302.

EU INFO EVENING 6pm Friday 19 February in St Edmund's Lodge.

NEXT WEEKEND

WELCOME TO Fr Michael Cronin celebrating 10am Mass Sunday 21 February in St Joseph's Church.

NIGERIAN AND AFRICAN MASS at 2pm on Sunday 21 February at St. Patrick's Church, 45 Portsmouth Road, Southampton, SO19 9BD.

NEXT WEEK

'WORDS AND MUSIC' an illustrated talk at 7pm on Thursday 25 February in St John's Hall, St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth by Raymond Calcraft (*former head of Spanish at the University of Portsmouth*) on aspects of Shakespeare's and Cervantes' writings on the 400th anniversary of their deaths. (They died 10 days apart). All welcome. See noticeboards.

MASS FOR PEACE and the rosary 7pm Friday 26 February in St Edmund's Church during the Year of Mercy.

'WHAT NEXT FOR THE FAMILY?' Join Bishop Peter Doyle and Father Daniel O'Leary as they give their thoughts on the recent synod. **Saturday 27 February** 9:30am—3pm at St Peter's Church, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY. More info on noticeboards. Contact Robin Correa 07825 392 925.

RCIA FIRST SCRUTINY 10am Mass Sunday 28 February at St Joseph's Church.

GENERAL ITEMS

ST EDMUND'S GARDENS: *Thank you* to the 16 people who helped a week ago to give the gardens around the church and presbytery a good clear. We are not planting anything yet as we plan major work to the external of 13/14 Rockstone Place and the Church.

FEMALE ITALIAN STUDENT seeks accommodation whilst studying English for 3/4 months. Either to live with a family or other young people. Contact Sister Valentina on email: stilovat@hotmail.co.uk if you can help.

MALE SPANISH STUDENT seeks accommodation whilst studying English in Southampton. Contact Miguel Jorquera on email jorqueragarcilopez@gmail.com or Mob 07756 938 882 if you can help.

VOCATIONS: There are a number of events on the diocesan website to help young adults discern a possible vocation to religious life. One of these upcoming events is a Monastic Experience Weekend at Quarr Abbey, a Benedictine monastery on the Isle of Wight. Catholic men aged 18-35 are invited to sample and find out about monastic life. It runs from the evening of Friday 4 March to the afternoon of Sunday 6 March 2016. Email novicemaster@quarr.org if interested.

ALPHA COURSES: Taster Session Thursday 10 March St George Catholic College 7pm—9pm. Explore the meaning of life. Listen, Learn, Discuss, Discover, Ask. What can I expect at the Taster session? A hot meal provided free of charge. An interesting introductory talk. The opportunity to learn more about *the Alpha Course taking place 7pm – 9:30pm Thursdays 14 April – 30 June 2016 at St George Catholic College, Swaythling.* To book Tel. 023 8033 3589 or email the Parish Office at southamptoncitycentre@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

YOUTH ALPHA for 18-25 year olds every Friday 8pm—9:30pm from 22 April at St. Edmunds Hall, Rockstone Place, SO15 2EQ. Come along to the **Taster Session Friday 11 March** for a free hot meal and introductory talk. As well as covering the basics of Christianity, 'Alpha' also provides an introduction to the Catholic way of living out our Christian faith. For info contact Adrienne 07710 529 535 or Tina 07827 810 457.

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

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2016—Join Father Vincent and others from the Parish in the Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 19th-26th August. Flying direct from Southampton to Lourdes! The Pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Philip. Brochures available online (Diocesan website), or by email from Father Vincent, or at the back of the churches.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE: *Maria De Las Mercedes Real Rodriguez & Dean Tony Christie* to marry in Spain in May.

MARTHA'S CHARITY SHOP—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Are you retired? Do you have kids at School? Do you have a few hours each week where you want to do something to benefit the community? Martha's in Bedford Place are looking for volunteers to join their team. Contact Fiona on 023 8033 3400 Mondays to Thursdays 10am—3pm.

YEAR OF MERCY



OUR LADY, 'UNTIER OF KNOTS'

During the 'Year of Mercy' ribbons will be available inside and outside both St Joseph and St Edmund Churches for us, and others:



- Write what is 'tying us up' in terms of faith, relationships and life! Write what it is and tie it to the available frame.
- Encourage others to do likewise ... maybe members of your family or friends who are struggling with faith or life.
- When you come to Mass look at one or two and pray for whomever has written it and ask Our Lady to help them 'untie' it.
- If you pop into the church for Adoration ... take some of the intentions into your prayer.

MASSES FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION take place at 7pm on the last Friday of the month.

HOLY DOOR: At St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth, also at Our Lady and St Edmund's, Abingdon. All are invited to go on pilgrimage to these Holy Doors during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. A plenary indulgence may be obtained. To find out more, including about indulgences, go to: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/holyyearofmercy.

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN "DON BOSCO" BOYS CAMP 2016 Sunday 7 - Saturday 13 August 2016 at St Cassian's Kintbury. Fr Mark Hogan will again be leading the camp for boys of secondary school age. There will be plenty of sport, outings, competitions and fun and games to ensure that boys will have a fantastic few days. This will continue to take place within the context of the celebration of the Catholic Faith, including daily Mass and Morning Prayer. Cost £190 (though full or part bursaries available). To book, please contact c/o Mr and Mrs Mulkerns, 23 Pardown, East Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 7DY or email dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Celia Axton, (op. recovery), Hilary Parker, Tony McCall, Alex Boyle (op. recovery), Ruth Spencer (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), Karen Nugent, 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 14 FEBRUARY 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	13 FEB	VIGIL MASS	6:15PM SJ	LEEGY VARGHESE—GOD'S BLESSINGS (SV)
			7:00PM SE	MASS IN POLISH
SUN	14 FEB	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	9:00AM SE	AGOSTINHO GONCALVES RIP (MG)
			10:00AM SJ	SARAH KENNEDY-DONNELLY RIP (F)
			11:00AM SE	BLOSSOM & VYVILLE'S 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY & RUKIE'S 90th BIRTHDAY—GOD'S BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING (ANUSHKA & FRANCIS)
			7:00PM SE	ELLEN, GEORGE & TONY PATTERSON RIP & BERNADETTE KERR RIP (F)
TUES	16 FEB	OF THE 1st WEEK OF LENT	10:00AM SE	MRS. MARY C HUBBARD'S INTENTION (F)
WED	17 FEB	OF THE 1st WEEK OF LENT	7:00PM SE	PERSONAL INTENTIONS (IK & FAMILY)
THURS	18 FEB	OF THE 1st WEEK OF LENT	12:15PM SJ	AGNES MARY FALLON RIP (F)
FRI	19 FEB	OF THE 1st WEEK OF LENT	7:00PM SE	PERSONAL INTENTIONS (JK & FAMILY)
SAT	20 FEB	OF THE 1st WEEK OF LENT	11:00AM SE	DR. WALTER FOLEY RIP (CUMMINGS FAMILY)
			6:15PM SJ	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			7:00PM SE	MASS IN POLISH
SUN	21 FEB	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	9:00AM SE	ELIZABETH & JOHN WARD RIP (F)
			10:00AM SJ	YVONNE MONICA FIDELIS ZANELLOTTI RIP (MG)
			11:00AM SE	ANTHONY CECIL ('CESS') WOOD RIP (AW)
			7:00PM SE	THOMAS PETER DAVIDSON RIP—(DIED 7.1.2016) (SANDRA & DIANNE)

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:

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
Safeguarding Rep.: Albie Escorcio 07757 512 551
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 1

SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2016 **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR C**

Psalm Response

Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

READINGS SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2016

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR C

1st Reading: Genesis 15:5-12; 17-18

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:17-4.1

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

2ND COLLECTION TODAY 2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

CHURCH MAINTENANCE FUND

CAFOD

COLLECTIONS

7/2/16

1ST

Total

£3,038.63

Cash

1,467.87

S / O

1256.61

Gift Aid Tax Rebate

314.15

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