

25 DECEMBER 2015
CHRISTMAS DAY

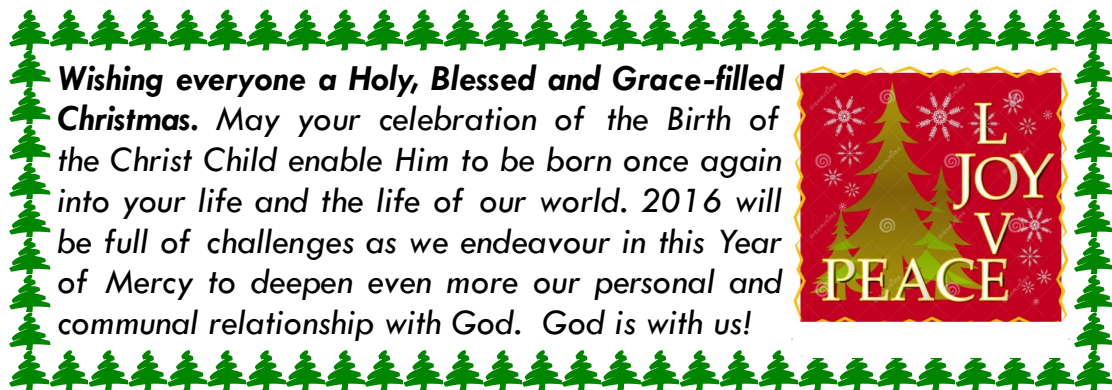
27 DECEMBER 2015
THE HOLY FAMILY
3 JANUARY 2016
THE EPIPHANY OF
THE LORD

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



Wishing everyone a Holy, Blessed and Grace-filled Christmas. May your celebration of the Birth of the Christ Child enable Him to be born once again into your life and the life of our world. 2016 will be full of challenges as we endeavour in this Year of Mercy to deepen even more our personal and communal relationship with God. God is with us!

THE MISSION OF THE FAMILY extracts *from the Bishop's Pastoral Letter:*

The message of Christmas is one of hope, that God the Son, Who once took flesh in Bethlehem and Who one day will come again, also comes to us here and now. Hope is not wishful thinking, mere optimism, staying positive. Christian hope is much more thrilling. It is a gift of God, a theological virtue, produced by the Holy Spirit. It is the desire for happiness, able to sustain us through misfortune. It is the utterly confident expectation that at any moment now, in answer to prayer, God will act with power to change things. As we enter the New Year, I wish each one of you to be a person of Christian hope.

We live under the shadow of death in a world of fear: think of the challenge of climate change, the terrorist threat, the complex migrant-refugee crisis, the war in Ukraine or the many other calamities humanity faces. St. Ignatius reputedly said: *'Pray as if everything depended on God, but work as if it all depends on you.'* So stop grumbling, moaning, complaining! In 2016 put hope into action. Let's counter cynicism and pessimism with words of hope. Let's become people of hope and Good News. Let us put our hope in God and live in the prayer-driven expectation that Jesus is going to act, and to act now

In becoming incarnate for us and for our salvation, Jesus assumed not only human nature but, under the authority of Mary and Joseph as today's Gospel recalls (Feast of Holy Family), He also assumed a history and a culture, a family and a trade. This is why, even in its sacred distinctiveness, the Holy Family is a true model for every Christian family today. It knew, for instance, what it was like to be a refugee fleeing violence whilst seeking welcome in a foreign land

Every human person is unique, 'loved into being' by God, yet because of Original Sin, we are also fallen, sinners who often fail miserably. But thanks be to God, Who sent His Son to redeem us! In the Diocese of Portsmouth, I am determined to do everything we can to value, accompany and send out on mission every baptised Catholic, whatever their status: married, divorced, widowed, single, those with same-sex attraction, the young and the old (full text: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/bishop/pastoral_letters)

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:

1. How do you develop and strengthen your 'hope' in God's promises?
2. What family values are 'sacred' for you? Why? How do you live them?
3. How, like the Wise Men, can you reveal Christ to 'your' world (family, friends, colleagues...)?
Father Vincent

THURSDAY/FRIDAY 24/25 DECEMBER,
SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2015 & SUNDAY
3 JANUARY 2016 (TWO WEEK NEWLETTER)

ALL CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS are for the benefit of our priests. It is the most substantial part of their personal annual income. *Thank you for your generosity!*

CRIB OFFERINGS: This year, with the encouragement of Bishop Philip, this parish will be donating crib offerings to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health and housing costs and initiatives. FHL is non-political and ecumenical. For info see website www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk or email friendsoftheholylan@btconnect.com. Please keep our fellow Christians in the Holy Land in your prayers.

ST STEPHEN'S FEAST DAY—Altar Servers Mass 11am Saturday 26 December in St Edmund's Church followed by refreshments in St Edmund's Hall. **Confessions cancelled.**



JANE WILLCOX RIP: please pray for Jane who died on the 21st December after a long illness. Jane was an active member of St Boniface Parish and known around the City parishes. As we pray for her, and thank God for her life, we pray also for Mike and the family at this difficult time. May our 'Infant Lord' embrace her into eternal life.

THIS WEEK

FOR INFO: Mon Day off: TC

Mon-Fri (4-8 Jan): VH away for Christmas break.

SHARE YOUR STORY: ***Final chance to respond! This survey closes on 1st January 2016*** Do you have a family member or friend, over 18, who is baptised Catholic but no longer practises their faith? Perhaps they no longer attend Mass regularly? As part of a campaign to listen to those who no longer practise, Bishop Philip would like to hear from them. Perhaps they feel let down by the Church or have something they would like to say to the Church. Or perhaps they have just drifted away. Whatever their story, they are invited to share it anonymously. The survey is available at www.mystoryshared.co.uk. Encourage them to share their story today!

NO ADORATION Monday 28 December 2015—Friday 1 January 2016.

NB: MASS AT ST EDMUND'S ON FRIDAY 1 JANUARY 2016 will take place at **10:30am** and not 7pm.

MIDNIGHT MASS—NEW YEAR'S EVE at **11:15pm** Thursday 31 December at Immaculate Conception Church, Portswood Road, Portswood.

NEXT WEEKEND

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD Sunday 3 January 2016.

NEXT WEEK

WELCOME TO FATHER DES celebrating 7pm Mass Wednesday 6 January at St Edmund's Church.

HILARY'S PILATES CLASS takes place 10am—10:45am on Fridays in St Edmund's Hall. Phone Hilary on 07786 617 302 to book. Start the New Year off afresh. The next 6 week session starts Friday 8 January 2016.


FROGZ JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP meet 6pm—7:15pm every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month in term time. Next meeting 8th January 2016 in St Boniface Church Hall.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION WORKSHOP for parents and children 10:30am—12noon Saturday 9 January at St Anne's School, Rockstone Place.

WELCOME RITE: 11am Mass Sunday 10 January 2016.

BAPTISM: We welcome into our faith community:

 **Olivia Gordon**, daughter of Mildred & Martin who is being baptised at 12:30pm in St Edmund's Church on Sunday 10 January 2016.

POETRY SHARE: YEAR OF MERCY: all welcome if you enjoy poetry on any level. They meet at St Joseph's Church, Bugle Street, 6 times a year; 2016 dates for your diary:

- Thursday 21 January – Opening the Door
- Thursday 17 March – Untying the Knots
- Thursday 19 May - Pilgrimage
- Thursday 21 July – Friendship (Courage)
- Thursday 15 September – The Outsider (Reaching Out)
- Thursday 17 November – Celebration

You are invited to bring a poem related to the theme of the meeting to share with the group - one of your own or somebody else's - or to simply come and listen. For more info email Francine francine.plunkett@btinternet.com.

GENERAL ITEMS:

THANK YOU TO ALL for the cards, gifts and messages of goodwill received by the Clergy over the Christmas period.

THANK YOU ALSO to all who enabled us to celebrate worthily the Birth of the Lord: cleaners, stewards, decorators, choirs & musicians, ministers the list is endless thank you!

A VERY BIG THANK YOU also from Tina Quinn, "to the 100's of parishioners who volunteer for so many programmes, activities, ministries and practical work in so many ways. Your help and commitment is so appreciated. I couldn't manage without your support. God Bless you this Christmas and in 2016. Keep volunteering!"


FINAL THANK YOU from the Parish Team to everyone who gets involved in whatever way stapling, 'manning' the Parish Office during sickness and holidays, counting, banking

ST ANNE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL: As required by regulations the Governing Body of St Anne's will be conducting a consultation on its proposed admission policy for the school year 2017/18. The consultation runs from 18 December 2015 to 22 January 2016. Copies of the proposed policy can be obtained from the school office. See also www.st-annes.uk.com.

ST MARY'S COLLEGE—ENTRANCE EXAM 9am—12:15pm Saturday 16 January 2016. Tel. 023 8067 1267 or [email stmaryscollege.co.uk](mailto:stmaryscollege.co.uk) for more info.

CAFOD PORTSMOUTH SUPPORTERS' MEETING Saturday 23 January 2016 from 10am until 1:30pm at St Bede's RC Primary School (Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX) To book a place please ring 01252329385. or email portsmouth@cafod.org.uk by 15 January 2016.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE LATEST NEWS! The Diocese of Portsmouth now issues a weekly e-news with photos, news, and information from around the Diocese. Go to www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk and add your email address to receive these updates. Are you on Facebook? Like 'Diocese of Portsmouth' to get all the latest info as it happens. You can also follow @BishopEgan and @PortsmouthRC on Twitter.

 **ALPHA COURSE Taster Session Thursday 10 March 2016 St George's 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's Catholic College, Swaythling. To book Tel. 023 8033 3589 or email the Parish Office at southamptoncitycentre@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. As well as covering the basics of Christianity it provides an introduction to the specifically Catholic way of living out our Christian faith. Each evening consists of a meal, a talk, and a chance to discuss with others on your table what you have heard.

FATIMA PILGRIMAGE 2017—13 May 2017 marks 100 years since the first apparition of Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary to the 3 children of Fatima, Portugal. *Father Des Connolly SMM will be leading a pilgrimage to this incredible place from 10—16 May 2017. As an added bonus and to underline the importance of this Shrine and its message for our world today, His Holiness Pope Francis will also be present during these festive days.* Pilgrimage cost incl. travel to and from airports £940pp. Call Tony or Lillian 07977 734 814 or 07929 946 835 to book.

WORLD YOUTH DAY AND MINCEPIES! *Thank you* for the tremendous support that was given to Edward Quinn over the last few weeks; £425 has been raised toward the £1,000 that Edward needs to raise for the trip to Krakow.

LAUNCH OF CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION IN THE DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH: Bishop Philip warmly invites all grandparents to join him in the Cathedral for a special Mass to inaugurate the Catholic Grandparents Association in our Diocese. **The Mass will take place at 12:15pm on Friday 12 February 2016** and will be followed by an address from Catherine Wiley, Founder of the CGA. Refreshments will be provided afterwards in the Cathedral Discovery Centre. All welcome. For more info call 013 2856 0333 or email info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org. Visit the website www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org.



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.

SACRAMENTAL RECONCILIATION next available on Thursday, 31st December 2015 and Saturday, 2nd January 2016.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY—Bishop Philip has now opened the Door of Mercy at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. There is a second Door of Mercy 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.



PROMISES AUCTION—WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016 FUNDRAISING EVENT:

Can you bake a special cake? Give an hour of professional time? Cook a meal for four people? Offer an hour's babysitting? Offer your holiday apartment? Iron a basket load of washing? Offer a free ticket to a Southampton football match? A massage or beauty treatment? Or do you have an unwanted item of value to auction? We will be compiling lots for our *Parish Promises* auction to be held at 7:45pm on Friday 29 January 2016 in St Edmund's Hall. **Proceeds will go to support Edward Quinn who is joining the World Youth Day Diocesan Pilgrimage in Krakow 2016**, and to a local charity. Please email any offers for lots to the Parish Office or call 8033 3589.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Joy Grant, Pat Feighery (op. recovery), Joanne Cunio, Shane Wing (stroke recovery), Mr. Kruger (stroke recovery), Ludwig Basisty, Irene Green, Rachel de Melo (op. recovery), Karen Nugent, Dame Sheila Quinn, John Redhead, Pat Friters (op. recovery), Jayanthi Jayasinghe, Maria Mhonda (stroke recovery), Joan Moore, Pat Cummings, JL, Malcolm Cross, Irene Cartledge, Teresa Adams (stroke recovery), Judy Brown, O'Hanlon family, John Morris, Paul Sassu, Isabel Bradshaw, 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 or having surgery and all listed in the Lady Chapel Prayer Book at St Edmund's. Thank you for keeping them all in your prayers.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK BEGINNING THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER 2015

*(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)

THURS	24 DEC	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	6:00PM SE	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			9:00PM SE	MASS IN POLISH
			11:30PM SJ	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			11:30PM SE	KATIE AND WILLIE COADY RIP (SC)
FRI	25 DEC	CHRISTMAS DAY	9:00AM SE	MARGARET SINCLAIR RIP (MY)
			10:00AM SJ	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			11:00AM SE	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
SAT	26 DEC	ST STEPHEN	11:00AM SE	ALTAR SERVERS MASS
			6:15PM SJ	HELENA, ANIELA, KATARINA MASLANKA RIP (HN)
			7:00PM SE	MASS IN POLISH
SUN	27 DEC	THE HOLY FAMILY	9:00AM SE	PJ PHELAN RIP (HP&GC)
			10:00AM SJ	RICKY JOHNSON RIP (MC)
			11:00AM SE	GEORGE MANSER RIP (MB)
			7:00PM SE	SPECIAL INTENTIONS (LJG)
TUES	29 DEC	ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY	10:00AM SE	BERNARD RIP (MB)
WED	30 DEC	LITURGY OF THE DAY	7:00PM SE	DANIEL DAVID RIP (ELIZABETH & FAMILY)
THURS	31 DEC	LITURGY OF THE DAY	12:15PM SJ	JON—THANKSGIVING & PROTECTION (MM)
FRI	1 JAN 2016	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	<u>10:30AM</u> SE	NEW YEAR BLESSINGS, PRAYERS & THANKSGIVING FOR THE WHOLE UNIVERSE (ANUSHKA)
SAT	2 JAN	SS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN	11:00AM SE	MISS ANN AHERN RIP (JH)
			6:15PM SJ	SOTOS ANTONIOU RIP (PM)
			7:00PM SE	MASS IN POLISH
SUN	3 JAN	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	9:00AM SE	KAREN NUGENT—HEALING & STRENGTH (N+AW)
			10:00AM SJ	BRIAN KEANY RIP (EK)
			11:00AM SE	KATHLEEN BRENNAN RIP (EB)
			7:00PM SE	PETER CARNEY RIP (F)

DEANERY 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.

<p>SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2015 THE HOLY FAMILY, YEAR C</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Psalm Response</u> <i>They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gospel Acclamation</u> Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!</p>	<p>SUNDAY 3 JANUARY 2016 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, YEAR C</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Psalm Response</u> All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gospel Acclamation</u> Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!</p>	<p>READINGS SUNDAY 3 JANUARY 2015 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, YEAR C</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12</p> <hr/> <p>READINGS SUNDAY 10 JANUARY 2016 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, YEAR C</p> <p>1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Gospel: Luke 3:5-16. 21-22</p>
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CHRISTMAS 2ND COLLECTIONS: FOR OUR PRIESTS	2ND COLLECTION SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER: CHURCH MAINTENANCE	2ND COLLECTION SUNDAY 3 JANUARY CATHOLIC CARE
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<p>Contact Details: 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 E-mail address: 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, Southampton, SO17 1XJ Parish Website: www.southampton-city-catholics.org.uk</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Collections</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">20/12/15 1st</td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">20/12/15 CATHOLIC HOMECARE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£1,893.53</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">£514.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cash</td> <td style="text-align: center;">853.29</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">311.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S / O</td> <td style="text-align: center;">832.19</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">162.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gift Aid Tax Rebate</td> <td style="text-align: center;">208.05</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">40.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">Thank you for your generous contributions. Your donations make the life and work of the Parish possible.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">CONFESSION TIMES:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St. Edmund's:</td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Saturdays 11:30am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St. Joseph's:</td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Thursdays 11:45am</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Saturdays 5:45pm</td> </tr> </table>	Collections	20/12/15 1st		20/12/15 CATHOLIC HOMECARE	Total	£1,893.53		£514.14	Cash	853.29		311.64	S / O	832.19		162.00	Gift Aid Tax Rebate	208.05		40.50	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		
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