

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
PORTSMOUTH REG. CHARITY NO. 246871



**20 DECEMBER 2015
4TH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

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



THE PROMISE BEING FULFILLED

I have just sat down after attending, and participating in, the Springhill Year 6 'Christmas Carol Service' in St Edmund. It is the first, and only, Carol Service I have attended this year. I am glad I did.

Not only were the children well prepared to lead the Carol Service, they read, sang and acted out the Christmas Story excellently. They did themselves and the School proud. What a great beginning for me, and those who attended, as we commence the final run up to Christmas.

We prayed asking Jesus to enter our hearts with His light, so that we can put Him and others before ourselves, and so comfort those in need by sharing the love and humanity that He gave us. Like Mary, confused and frightened that she must have been with the message from the angel, we prayed that we may trust in God no matter what 'troubles and turbulences life throws' at us. Also that, like the Shepherds and the Wise Men, we may follow the 'Way' which is Jesus throughout our lives.

We ended glorifying the 'new-born King' together with the angels but also asking 'what can I give Him' I can give him 'my heart' (*In the bleak midwinter.....*).

We are on the threshold of Christmas. The door is opening to the birth of Christ to Mary and Joseph, to the Shepherds, the Wise men, to the world and to you and me. The door is opening to reveal the fulfilment of the 'promise made' to Mary. The promise which Mary believed would be fulfilled.

We need to put our trust in that promise. We need to put our hope in the fulfilment of that promise. We need to live that promise: that God is with us because God loves us; that God is with us in the here and now; that God is with us until the end of time. Celebrate, believe and live!

Vincent Harvey

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:

1. Do you sense the Holy Spirit in your life? When? How? Have you ever felt that what you have said and done was definitely of God?
 2. Do you 'leap for joy' at the nearness of Christ to you, as John the Baptist did? When.....at Mass, with the family, with your loved one, through nature?.....when?
 3. What more must you do to prepare for the fulfilment of God's promise?
- Vincent Harvey*

TODAY: SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2015

ALTAR SERVERS please pick up a letter about Christmas and St Stephen's Day in the Sacristies.

FILIPINO CHOIR 7pm Mass; rehearsal at 6pm.

THIS WEEK

FOR INFO:

Monday: Day off: VH/TC. Penitential Service: VH/TC

Tuesday: Wedding: VH

Wednesday: Team meeting: VH/TC/AP

DECORATE THE CHRISTMAS TREE AND PREPARE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

with candles, stars, flowers. Monday 21—Thursday 24 December from 10:30am. Sign up in the porch if you can help or just come along.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE: 7:30pm Monday 21 December in St Edmund Church. Priests available to celebrate sacramental reconciliation. Come along to receive God's loving mercy and compassion and so be enabled to more fully allow Christ to be 'reborn' in your life this Christmas. **Penitential Service this Monday.**

BIG CHURCH CLEAN AT ST EDMUND'S from 2pm—4pm Tuesday 22 December. All help most welcome!

DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR YOUTH (16—25)

Tuesday 22 December 10am—4pm at St Joseph's, Ashurst. Contact Tina tqinn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to book.



WEDDING BELLS: Congratulations to **Tim Guyer** and **Claire Blackmore** who are getting married at 12:30pm Tuesday 22 December in St Joseph's Church. May God bless them all the days of their lives.

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!*

MEDITATIVE / CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP

inspired by the teaching of the late John Main meet from 6pm—6:45pm Tuesday nights in St Michael's Church in the winter months (north door entrance). All welcome.

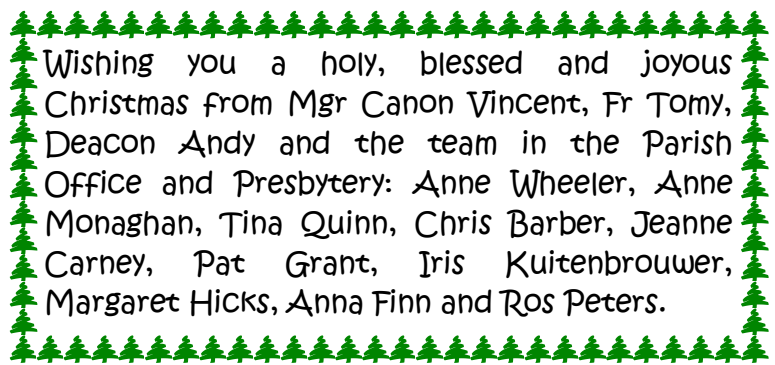
THERE WILL BE NO 12:15PM MASS AT ST JOSEPH'S ON THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER (CHRISTMAS EVE)—due to midnight Mass.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED from 12noon Thursday 24 December 2015 (Christmas Eve) to Monday 4 January 2016. 'Thank you to all who work in the Office: employed and volunteers. Without you the Parish would grind to a halt!! Happy Christmas'. Father Vincent.



ANGELS & SHEPHERDS 6PM FAMILY MASS CHRISTMAS EVE: children are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds Thursday 24 December at the 6pm Family Mass.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all our school staff, pupils and families. We are blessed with excellent faith schools. See you in the New Year.



Wishing you a holy, blessed and joyous Christmas from Mgr Canon Vincent, Fr Tomy, Deacon Andy and the team in the Parish Office and Presbytery: Anne Wheeler, Anne Monaghan, Tina Quinn, Chris Barber, Jeanne Carney, Pat Grant, Iris Kuitenbrouwer, Margaret Hicks, Anna Finn and Ros Peters.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES		
Christmas Eve Thursday 24 December 2015		
6:00 pm	Christmas Family Mass	St Edmund's
9:00 pm	Christmas Mass in Polish	St Edmund's
11:30 pm	Christmas Night Mass	St Joseph's
11:30 pm	Christmas Night Mass	St Edmund's
Christmas Day Friday 25 December 2015		
9:00 am	Christmas Day Mass	St Edmund's
10:00 am	Christmas Day Mass	St Joseph's
11:00 am	Christmas Day Mass	St Edmund's
St Stephen's Feast Day Saturday 26 December 2015		
11:00am	Mass at St Edmund's Church	

NEXT WEEKEND

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 STEVEN'S FEAST DAY—Altar Servers Mass 11am Saturday 26 December in St Edmund's Church followed by refreshments in St Edmund's Hall.

HOLY FAMILY FEAST DAY Sunday 27 December.

SACRAMENTAL RECONCILIATION after the Penitential Service next available on Thursday, 31st December and Saturday 2nd January.

NEXT WEEK

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

GENERAL ITEMS:

PROMISES AUCTION—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 to support Edward Quinn's World Youth Day Diocesan Pilgrimage in Krakow 2016**, and to a local charity. Email offers for lots to the Parish Office by 30 December or call 023 8033 3589.

★ **NAME A STAR** to hang in the church at Christmas in memory of a loved one. £1.50 per star. Available at Masses. All proceeds to HCPT.

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.

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

SAINT GEORGE CATHOLIC COLLEGE CONSULTATION—Admission Arrangements September 2017.

As required by regulations, the Governing Body of St George Voluntary Aided Catholic College, Southampton will be conducting a consultation of its proposed admission arrangements for the school year 2017—2018. *The consultation period runs for a minimum period of 6 weeks from 8 December 2015—19 January 2016. Copies of the proposed arrangements can be obtained from the college office or from the Admissions page on the website: www.st-george.southampton.sch.uk. Comments on the arrangements should be sent to the clerk of the governing body by 20 January 2016. Email jbonavia@stgcc.co.uk. The Governing Body will consider all comments received before determining its admission arrangements by 28 February 2016.*

BANNS OF MARRIAGE FOR: Peter Ngonjoh Momah and Joyce Meji Sofa to be married in the Cameroon in January.

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, Southampton. Email southamptoncitycentre@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or phone 023 8033 3589 to book. 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.

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.

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.*

FUNDRAISING FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY—KRAKOW, POLAND: In the summer (2016) **Edward Quinn** will be going to World Youth Day. Please support him in his fundraising ventures. The cost to him will be £1,000.



Tina is making **delicious mince pies** for Christmas; **Edward will be selling them after the 11am Mass in Advent.** Do support Edward if you can.



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.

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Jane Willcox, 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 SUNDAY 20 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)

SAT	19 DEC	VIGIL MASS	6:15PM *SJ 7:00PM SE	DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE HUGHES FAMILY (V&TH) MASS IN POLISH
SUN	20 DEC	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9:00AM SE 10:00AM SJ 11:00AM SE 7:00PM SE	DECEASED MEMBERS—LENNON & KENNY FAMILIES (GL) NIJOLE VILIME RIP, MARJORIE WHITEMAN RIP, CONRAD GREEN RIP & ADELAIDE McDONALD RIP (HG) CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING TO THE WHOLE UNIVERSE (ANUSHKA) BERNADETTE WISE RIP (LJG)
MON	21 DEC		7:30PM SE	ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE
TUES	22 DEC	LITURGY OF THE DAY	10:00AM SE	GRACE BAXTER RIP (VP)
WED	23 DEC	LITURGY OF THE DAY	7:00PM SE	JOY POULOSE RIP (JS)
THURS	24 DEC	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	6:00PM SE 9:00PM SE 11:30PM SJ 11:30PM SE	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH MASS IN POLISH PEOPLE OF THE PARISH KATIE AND WILLIE COADY RIP (SC)
FRI	25 DEC	CHRISTMAS DAY	9:00AM SE 10:00AM SJ 11:00AM SE	MARGARET SINCLAIR RIP (MY) PEOPLE OF THE PARISH PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
SAT	26 DEC	ST STEPHEN	11:00AM SE 6:15PM SJ 7:00PM SE	ALTAR SERVERS MASS HELENA, ANIELA, KATARINA MASLANKA RIP (HN) MASS IN POLISH
SUN	27 DEC	THE HOLY FAMILY	9:00AM SE 10:00AM SJ 11:00AM SE 7:00PM SE	PJ PHELAN RIP (HP&GC) RICKY JOHNSON RIP (MC) GEORGE MANSER RIP (MB) SPECIAL INTENTIONS (LJG)

Contact Details:
E-mail address: vharvey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Assistant Priest:
E-mail address: fathertomy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Presbytery Tel. No: 023 8033 4891
Presbytery Address: 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton, SO15 2EQ
Deacon:
E-mail address: andrew.philpott@virginmedia.com
Parish Secretary:
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
Pastoral Area Web: http://www.catholic.co.uk/
Apostleship of the Sea:
E-mail address: rogerstone@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk
PA Property Admin.:
Email Address: cbarber@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Catholic Home Care:
E-mail address: catholichomecare@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
EU Welcomer's Project:
E-mail address: euwelcome@yahoo.co.uk
Hospital Chaplain:
Martha's Gift Shop:
PA Pastoral Assistant:
Tina Quinn Tel. No. 023 8033 3589
Mobile 07827 810 457 email: tqinn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Poitiers Project
Polish Chaplaincy:
E-mail address: southampton@tchr.org
Address: 15 Languard Road, Southampton, SO15 5DL
Safeguarding Rep.:
Albie Escorcio 07757 512 551
S'oton Uni. Chaplain:
Sister Catherine 07811 107 046
Solent Uni. Chaplain:
Sister Valentina 07983 883 377
Vocations to Priesthood: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/vocation/

Prayer of the Church Week 4
SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2015
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C
Psalm Response
God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.
Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me.
Alleluia!

READINGS SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2015
THE HOLY FAMILY, YEAR C
1st Reading: 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28
2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

2ND COLLECTION TODAY: CATHOLIC HOMECARE
CHRISTMAS 2ND COLLECTIONS: FOR OUR PRIESTS
2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK: CHURCH MAINTENANCE

Collections	13/12/15 1st	13/12/15 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
Total	£2,126.99	£348.09
Cash	£1086.75	193.71
S / O	832.19	123.50
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	208.05	30.88

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