



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

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
PORTSMOUTH REG. CHARITY NO. 246871



**13 DECEMBER 2015
THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
(GAUDETE)**

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



MISERICORDES SICUT PATER ... MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER

'Rejoice' (Gaudete) the Prophet Zephaniah announces today. 'Rejoice, exult with all your heart ... for the Lord has repealed your sentence...' And rejoice we should, because we are nearing the celebration of the birth of Salvation, the birth of Christ, the Incarnation: God taking on our humanity in the person of Jesus.

Jesus' mission was the inauguration of the Kingdom, the 'Reign of God', God in our midst. This is the 'Good News' that John the Baptist announces in today's Gospel: that in our midst stands the one who baptises 'with the Holy Spirit'. God 'became flesh' so that we could be raised up into the life of the Godhead. God, in Christ, reconciled us to the Father for all time.

Reconciliation is the key to us living 'Kingdom life'. We need to seek forgiveness from God, and be reconciled to our loving Father. In turn we need to forgive and reach out to others.

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, last Tuesday, Pope Francis by opening the 'Holy Door' in St Peter's began the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Speaking the day after, he said: "*Celebrating a Jubilee of Mercy means restoring the specifics of Christian faith to the centre of our personal life and of our communities. ... This Holy Year is offered to us so that we are able to experience in our life the sweet and gentle touch of God's forgiveness, His presence next to us and His closeness, especially in our moments of greatest need. ... This Jubilee is therefore a special moment for the Church to learn to choose solely 'what God likes the most'. ... Forgiving His children, having mercy on them, so that they can in turn forgive their brethren, to shine like beacons of God's mercy in the world.*

The necessary work of renewing institutions and structures of the Church is also a way that can lead us to a more lively and life-giving experience of God's mercy that alone can ensure that the Church is that city on the mount that cannot remain hidden. If we should forget, even for just a moment, that mercy is what God likes the most, all our efforts would be in vain, as we would become slaves to our institutions and our structures, no matter how reformed they may be."

So during this Year of Mercy let us 'untie' the knots that enslave us, assist others in doing likewise and be a Church that helps our wider world to 'untie' that which binds them from living life to the full (see elsewhere on this and in both churches, inside and out!).

Vincent Harvey

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:

1. Am I 'happy in the Lord'? (2nd reading). How do I show it?
2. How am I, and my faith, 'Good News' in today's world?

Vincent Harvey

TODAY: SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2015

TODAY: 'Inscription Masses' at 9am and 10am when the children just beginning their preparation for First Holy Communion 2016, express their commitment by writing their name on an 'Inscription Sheet'. Please pray for them, their families and the catechists.

THIS WEEKEND: **Medaille Trust** will be selling Christmas items and other goods at St Edmund's to raise funds.

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

GOSPEL CHOIR 7pm Mass; rehearsal at 6pm.

THIS WEEK

FOR INFO: Mon: Day off: VH/TC.

Tues: Hospital on call: VH. Clergy meeting: VH/TC

Wed: Team meeting: VH/TC.

Springhill Advent Concert: VH

'Love Southampton' Reference Group: VH

Thurs: Mass St George's: VH

Mayflower Court Christmas Ecumenical Cele: VH

Fri: Housebound visits: VH

Chaplaincy farewell to Sister Catherine: VH

SPRINGHILL SCHOOL VISIT TO MASS: 10am Tuesday 15 December in St Edmund's Church.

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.

SPRINGHILL YEAR 6 CAROL CONCERT 9:30am Wednesday 16 December in St Edmund's Church.

CCPG meet 7:45pm Wednesday 16 December in St Edmund's Presbytery.

HUNGER LUNCH 1pm Thursday 17 December at St Michael's (after Mass) Proceeds to CAFOD and Aid to the Church in Need.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA) meet 7:30pm Thursdays in St Edmund's Hall, Rockstone Place, SO15 2EQ.

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

NEXT WEEKEND

WELCOME TO FATHER DES celebrating 11am Mass and Confessions Saturday 19 December at St Edmund's.

FILIPINO CHOIR 7pm Mass Sunday 20 December.

NEXT WEEK

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE 7:30pm Monday 21 December ... **at St Edmund's Church.** An opportunity to stop in the midst of the Christmas rush and ponder where we are in our relationships: *with God, each other and the Faith Community.* As part of the celebration priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Come along and '*prepare for the coming of Christ!*'.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR YOUTH (16—25) Tuesday 22 December 10am—4pm at St Joseph's, Ashurst. Contact Tina tquinn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

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.



YEAR OF MERCY & ADVENT



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, to write what is 'tying us up' in terms of faith, relationships and life! Write

what it is and tie it to the available frame. When we come to Mass look at one or two and pray for whomever has written it and ask Our Lady to help them 'untie' it.

SACRAMENTAL RECONCILIATION available most Saturdays 11:30am in St Edmund's Church and 5:45pm St Joseph's; also 11:45am Thursdays in St Joseph's.

'YEAR OF MERCY', ADVENT 'DAY BY DAY' or 'WALK WITH ME' BOOKLETS (£1) & **CHRISTMAS CALENDARS** (50p) available at the back of the church.

ADVENT LADDER & EMPTY MANGER

To encourage our children to experience Advent and make Jesus' bed as "comfortable" as possible through their good deeds we suggest you look at the decoration in the front of our churches. The idea is, that when a child does an act of service, sacrifice, prayer or kindness, done in honour of Baby Jesus as a birthday present, they receive a piece of straw (*you can find it in the basket next to decoration of the Advent Ladder*). Then, with their mother or father the child is asked to come to the church and gently put a piece of straw into the manger and say a prayer to Jesus.



GENERAL ITEMS:



ANGELS & SHEPHERDS AT 6PM FAMILY MASS CHRISTMAS EVE:

children are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds on Thursday 24 December at the 6pm Family Mass.

FAREWELL TO SISTER CATHERINE CRUZ: Over the Christmas period we say 'farewell' to Sister Catherine from the Verbum Dei Community. Sister Catherine has been Chaplain to Southampton University for many years and has built up a good team of volunteers from within the Student Body. After a sabbatical, Sister Catherine will be reappointed to a community. No doubt we will still see Sr Catherine from time to time. Catherine: thank you and we wish you well.

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	
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GENERAL ITEMS

PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS ST EDMUND'S BIG CHURCH CLEAN:

****Tuesday 22 December from 2pm—4pm****

ALSO HELP REQUIRED TO put up and decorate the Christmas tree and prepare the Church for Christmas with candles, stars, flowers:

Friday	18 December	10:30am—4:00pm
Saturday	19 December	From 10:00am
Monday	21 December	From 10:30am
Tuesday	22 December	From 10:30am
Wednesday	23 December	From 10:30am
Thursday	24 December	From 10:30am

STAPLING OF CHRISTMAS MASS LEAFLETS: *Volunteers needed Monday—Friday 9am—1pm and 2pm—4pm from Wednesday 16 December. Call at the Parish Office if you can help.*

ALTAR SERVERS / STEWARDS / WELCOMERS

For Reconciliation Service and Christmas Masses
Please add your name to the sign-up list at the back of the Church. (Altar Servers' list in the Sacristy.)

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.



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.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR Jane Willcox, Joy Grant, Pat Feighery (op. recovery), Joanne Cunio, Paul Maleski, 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.

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 during in Advent.** Do support Edward if you can.

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

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED ASAP BY RELIABLE MALE (EX-STUDENT) KNOWN TO THE PARISH OFFICE—Please contact Ryan Copping directly if you can help. Email: ryan_copping@yahoo.com or Mob. No. 07931 308 587.



NEXT ALPHA COURSE STARTING 14 APRIL—30 JUNE 2016: 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 starting on 14 April 2016. Alpha Course from 7pm – 9:30pm on Thursdays 14 April – 30 June 2016. Venue 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. The Alpha talks are easy to listen to and cover the following topics:

- Is there more to life than this?
- Why did Jesus die?
- Why and how should I pray?
- Who is the Holy spirit and what does he do?
- How can I make the most of the rest of my life?
- How can I resist evil?
- Does God heal today?
- Who is Jesus?
- How can we have faith?
- Why and how should I read the Bible?
- How can I receive the Holy Spirit?
- How does God guide us?
- Why and how should I tell others?
- What about the Church?

JINGLING BELLS Christmas Carols event held last Sunday in St Edmund's Church raised £139.22 for Mary's Meals. Special thanks from Jenepher Parry Davies to Mary Berridge, Anushka, Hilary, Alan and Sarah; the Christmas-themed cupcakes were delicious!

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.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 13 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	12 DEC	VIGIL MASS	6:15PM *SJ SEAN, KATHLEEN & STEWART ADAMSON RIP (DC) 7:00PM SE MASS IN POLISH
SUN	13 DEC	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ('Gaudete')	9:00AM SE AGOSTINHO GONCALVES RIP (MG) 10:00AM SJ PEARL ROBINSON RIP—1ST ANNIVERSARY (JR) 11:00AM SE ALITIA McCONNELL RIP (JMCC) 7:00PM SE MARGARET TURKINGTON RIP (LJG)
TUES	15 DEC	OF THE 3rd WEEK OF ADVENT	10:00AM SE EILEEN & PETER COLES RIP (MB)
WED	16 DEC	OF THE 3rd WEEK OF ADVENT	7:00PM SE DOROTHY & BOB FLETCHER RIP (F)
THURS	17 DEC	LITURGY OF THE DAY	12:15PM SJ MARGARET & LESLIE RIP (MB)
FRI	18 DEC	LITURGY OF THE DAY	7:00PM SE TOM McENTEE RIP (PM & GM)
SAT	19 DEC	LITURGY OF THE DAY	11:00AM SE PADDY HANNIGAN RIP (F) 6:15PM SJ DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE HUGHES FAMILY (TH&VH) 7:00PM SE MASS IN POLISH
SUN	20 DEC	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9:00AM SE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE LENNON & KENNY FAMILIES (GL) 10:00AM SJ NIJOLE VILIME RIP, MARJORIE WHITEMAN RIP, CONRAD GREEN RIP & ADELAIDE McDONALD RIP (HG) 11:00AM SE CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING TO THE WHOLE UNIVERSE (ANUSHKA) 7:00PM SE BERNADETTE WISE RIP (LJG)

Contact Details:

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 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
 Pastoral Area Web: <http://www.catholic.co.uk/>

Apostleship of the Sea: Roger Stone Tel 07963 345 618
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PA Property Admin.: Chris Barber Tel 023 8033 3589
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Catholic Home Care: Anne Monaghan 023 8033 3589
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Hospital Chaplain: Fr Michael Cronin 023 8120 8517
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PA Pastoral Assistant: Tina Quinn Tel. No. 023 8033 3589
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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/
OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: Springhill Primary 023 8033 3954
 St Anne's School 023 8032 8200
 St George College 023 8032 2603

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.

Prayer of the Church Week 3

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2015 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

Psalm Response

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. **Alleluia!**

READINGS SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2015 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4
 2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10
 Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

2ND COLLECTION TODAY CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK CATHOLIC HOMECARE
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Collections	6/12/15 1st
Total	£2,091.90
Cash	£1051.66
S / O	832.19
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	208.05

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