



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

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
PORTSMOUTH REG. CHARITY NO. 246871



**6 DECEMBER 2015**

**SECOND  
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



**JOHN THE BAPTIST AND THE PARADOXES HE PRESENTS**

For the next two weeks we are invited to join with John the Baptist in the desert. This is not to suggest that supermarkets will be increasing their stocks of locusts, and the new lines in West Quay are centered on camel hide, because that is not how we join with the Baptist. We join with him in prayer and contemplation as we journey toward Christmastide.

In the stresses of our times, we could become a people of fear – of redundancies, finance, family. We can be afraid of the future for our children, and of our old age. Fear is like the wilderness. The first reading this weekend is a message of hope for a people who were a bit lost. Telling them that whilst they may feel lost, all is not really lost. And it refers to God ... here, not in the old holy city nor the old villages they were thrown out of or expelled from – but here, right now.

We will have learnt from David Attenborough, that if even the driest of deserts is given the slightest of rain showers, it is transformed within hours to a place of beauty, of colour, and of refreshment. John the Baptist is a bit like that refreshing rain. The message of Advent is not that everything is falling to pieces. Nor is it that God is in heaven and all is therefore well with the world.

Rather the message of Advent is that when every fixed star on the moral compass is wavering, when political stability and peace at home and overseas seems to be fast disappearing, we hear once again the Baptist's consoling message, we make the paths straight for the Lord, as we smooth out the wrinkles in our lives, we shall find the salvation of God.



Advent is a mystery that transforms and not simply informs. Advent remains with its paradoxical combination of waiting and hastening, suffering and joy, judgment and deliverance, apocalyptic woe and hope in the end times. Unfortunately for our culture of instant gratification, hope requires incompleteness. To hope, in the true Advent fashion, is to live with the certainty of unfulfilled desire.

For this time of year, we are pilgrims with God who walks with us in our wilderness and desert. God wants to walk our journey with us. He is the pilgrim God who has left heaven to walk with his people.

Andy Philpott

**THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:**

1. What must I do to 'prepare' for the Lord in my life?
2. For what do I need to seek forgiveness?

Vincent Harvey

## TODAY: SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER 2015

**MEDAILLE TRUST** will be selling Christmas items and other goods to raise funds for their work at all Masses.

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

**ECUMENICAL FAMILY RAMBLE** 2pm today (Sunday) at Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley. Meet at Netley shore entrance.

**JINGLING BELLS—Christmas carols for Mary's Meals** 3:30pm-4:30pm today (Sunday) in St Edmund's Church followed by Christmas tea in the hall. *Gifts for distribution by the Homecare team to be collected during carols.*

**STUDENT BAND** 7pm Mass; rehearsal at 6pm. *The band welcome you to meet them and each other in St Edmunds Hall after Mass; there will be light refreshments.*

### **THIS WEEK**

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

Tues: Brother Anthony's Diamond Jubilee: VH

Wed: SSSR: VH

Thurs: Springhill visit to St Edmund: Deacon Andy

Housebound visits: VH. Bamenda Committee: VH

Fri: Requiem for Canon Richard Hind: VH

Teams of Our Lady: VH

**BROTHER ANTHONY, SMM** (De Montfort) from St Joseph in Ashurst, celebrates his 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Religious Profession on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. We congratulate Brother Anthony, thank God for his 60 years of fidelity, commitment and dedication to religious life. Ad Multus Annos (many more years of ministry .....).

**CONFRATERNITY OF THE ROSARY—SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS** 12:15pm Tuesday 8 December St John's Cathedral.

**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.

**WELLSPRING PRAYER GROUP** meet Tuesdays 7:30pm — 8:30pm St Edmund's Hall. *Tuesday 8 December will be the last meeting before the Christmas holidays; recommencing Tuesday 5 January 2016.*

**BAMENDA COMMITTEE MEETING** 7pm Thursday 10 December in St Edmund's Presbytery.

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

**FROGZ JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP** (for school years 3—8) meet at 6pm Friday 11 December at St Boniface Church hall for their Advent Party.

### **NEXT WEEKEND**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION WORKSHOP** for parents and children 10:30am—12 noon Saturday 12 December

\*\*\* **NB note change of venue—St Anne's School, Rockstone Place, SO15 2WZ in the Performing Art Centre. Entrance through the car park gates. Plenty of free parking.**

**MASS OF INSCRIPTION—FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CANDIDATES** at 9am Mass at St Edmund's and 10am Mass at St Joseph's on Sunday 13 December.

### **NEXT WEEK**

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

## YEAR OF MERCY & ADVENT



**YEAR OF MERCY** commences *Tuesday 8 December*; the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. **There will be two Masses in the Parish: 10am in St Edmund and 7pm in St Joseph.**

**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.



**ADVENT REFLECTION DAY**—To celebrate the start of His Holiness Pope Francis's proclaimed 'Year of Mercy'. Hosted by Father Des; refreshments served from **10:00am for a 10:30am start Saturday 12 December at Saint Joseph's, 8 Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, SO40 7DU.** The day includes the celebration of Holy Mass and lunch. To book email Father Des [frdes@montfort.org.uk](mailto:frdes@montfort.org.uk) or phone 023 8029 2337. A donation of £17.50 suggested.

**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!*'

**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 CALENDAR** (50p) available at the back of the church.

**ADVENT LADDER & EMPTY MANGER—ST EDMUND'S:** 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 the church at St Edmund's. 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.

**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) where they will explore our Lenten resources and hear more about CAFOD's water programmes in Uganda. To book a place please ring 01252 329385 or email [portsmouth@cafod.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk) by 15 January 2016.

## 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

**All offers of help greatly appreciated. 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 from next weekend. All proceeds towards HCPT.

#### HOME CARE CLIENTS' CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Whilst out shopping, please consider picking up a small gift or two for us to pass on to our elderly clients. These gifts do make a big difference each year and many of the Christmas offerings now in the shops would be suitable, along with stationery, stamps, jams, toiletries etc. Gifts should be new and **unwrapped** to allow us to consider clients' individual health and dietary requirements. *Collection box will be available in the porches this weekend. Many thanks for your support.*



**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** The new rota for Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist is due soon. This ministry is a valuable one as it enables us, in a dignified and reverent way, to receive the Presence of Christ under the form of Bread and Wine. Thank you to all who exercise this ministry both at Mass and taking Holy Communion to the housebound.

Sadly we do not have enough ministers for all our Sunday Masses to create a rota which has a good spread of commitment. Because of this we are reducing the number of ministers at the 7pm St Edmund Mass to three (one the Consecrated Host and two the Precious Blood). We do this reluctantly as by so doing we could create a queue for the Precious Blood. We only plan to do this for the next rota. Hopefully before the rota next year we will have a few more volunteers who will have been trained. Think about putting your name forward ... or suggesting someone else!

Who is 'eligible'? Many people say they are not worthy. None of us is worthy to distribute, to receive (even to celebrate). We are made worthy by the action of Christ himself. We are made worthy by Christ's life, death and resurrection. Requirements for being an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist:

- a parishioner
- a practising Catholic
- regular at the Mass they are volunteering for
- a frequent communicant

Knowledge of the Eucharist, and the practicalities of being a Minister will be learnt through a short course that all ministers go through. There is an urgent need for Extraordinary ministers at the 6:15pm and 11am Masses also (so if you are regular at these Masses ..... do consider the above).

**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 and **sell them after the 11am Mass during in Advent.** Do support Edward if you can.

**CANON RICHARD HIND (1938 – 2015) RIP.** Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Canon Richard Hind, who died on Thursday 19 November 2015. Canon Hind was born on 30 July 1938, ordained to the Sacred Priesthood for the Society of the Divine Saviour (Salvatorian Fathers) on 29 June 1963 and incardinated into the Diocese of Portsmouth on 30 December 1967. He served in 7 parishes and was Chancellor of the Diocese from 1976-77 and again from 1996 – 2013 and a Trustee from 1998 until his retirement in 2013. His Requiem is in the Cathedral this coming Friday at 11 am. May he rest in peace.

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE:** *Hamilton Umunnakwe* and *Sophia Nwachukwu* to be married in December in Nigeria. **11AM MASS CO-ORDINATORS ROTAS** for January—July 2016 now available in the Sacristy at St Edmund's.

#### NEXT ALPHA COURSE STARTING 14 APRIL—

**30 JUNE 2016: Taster Session Thursday 10 March 2016 St Georges 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 Georges Catholic College, Swaythling, Southampton. Email [southamptoncitycentre@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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.

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR VALUABLES SAFE** at all times during Mass and in the halls. Handbags have been stolen in the past.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Joanne Cunio, Paul Maleski, Shane Wing (stroke recovery), Mr. Kruger (op. 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), Pat Feighery (op. 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, Carlene Metcalf, Bosco & Myra Andrade, Joe Sculley, Tegar Marriott, Josie Franklin, Joy Grant, 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 6 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	5 DEC	<b>VIGIL MASS</b>	6:15PM	*SJ	<b>MARIE ADAMS 90th BIRTHDAY—THANKSGIVING &amp; CELEBRATIONS (ROUSE FAMILY)</b>
			7:00PM	SE	<b>MASS IN POLISH</b>
SUN	6 DEC	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	9:00AM	SE	<b>PATRICK FINLAY RIP (GP&amp;DP)</b>
			10:00AM	SJ	<b>ETHELDREDA CONWAY (F)</b>
			11:00AM	SE	<b>DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE CURTIS HAYWARD FAMILY (F)</b>
			7:00PM	SE	<b>SALOMEY SELORM MENSAH—BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS &amp; THANKSGIVING (RM)</b>
TUES	8 DEC	<b>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>	10:00AM	SE	<b>BENEDICT ANTHONY RIP (CANADA) ANUSHKA &amp; FRANCIS PONNIAH</b>
			7:00PM	SJ	<b>ROBERT'S VOCATION GUIDANCE &amp; DEEPER FAITH</b>
WED	9 DEC	<b>OF THE 2nd WEEK OF ADVENT</b>	7:00PM	SE	<b>JOE DAVIES RIP (PM &amp;GM)</b>
THURS	10 DEC	<b>ST SWITHUN WELLS</b>	12:15PM	SJ	<b>HANNY WIJMAN—WELLBEING (IK)</b>
FRI	11 DEC	<b>OF THE 2nd WEEK OF ADVENT</b>	7:00PM	SE	<b>MARY JOSEPHINE SHANAHAN RIP (NK)</b>
SAT	12 DEC	<b>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</b>	11:00AM	SE	<b>ERIC CLARKE RIP (MC)</b>
			6:15PM	SJ	<b>SEAN, KATHLEEN &amp; STEWART ADAMSON RIP (DC)</b>
			7:00PM	SE	<b>MASS IN POLISH</b>
SUN	13 DEC	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ('Gaudate')</b>	9:00AM	SE	<b>AGOSTINHO GONCALVES RIP (MG)</b>
			10:00AM	SJ	<b>PEARL ROBINSON RIP—1ST ANNIVERSARY (JR)</b>
			11:00AM	SE	<b>ALITIA McCONNELL RIP (JMCC)</b>
			7:00PM	SE	<b>MARGARET TURKINGTON RIP (LJG)</b>

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 Pastoral Area Web: http://www.catholic.co.uk/  
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**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  
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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 2

### SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER 2015 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

#### Psalm Response

What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad.

#### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight. And all mankind shall  
see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

### READINGS SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2015 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

### NO 2ND COLLECTION TODAY 2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Collections	29/11/15 1st	29/11/15 2nd CHURCH MAINT.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,939.17</b>	<b>£222.57</b>
Cash	£898.93	115.68
S / O	832.19	85.50
Gift Aid Tax Rebate	208.05	21.38

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