

Parish News:

Joan Dils resignation as leader of 9.00am choir. Last week Joan Dils contacted Father Stan to advise him of her decision to step down as the leader of the 9.00am choir. Her decision is based on the current situation as she is 87 years old and is in the "at risk" group. We are very grateful for her long service to our Parish. We sincerely pray for an end to this pandemic. We hope to see Joan in our Parish soon but till then, we wish her well and hope that she continues to stay safe and well.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on request. Please contact Fr Stan on email fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Please maintain a safe distance.

Helping those most Vulnerable in our Parish. If you know of anyone, or are yourself lonely and/or vulnerable, please consider giving details to the parish office.

Update on Parish projects

Live Streaming: Everything is set for our live streaming. Live stream can be accessed via Youtube and then type olop earley in the search button. Please subscribe to our channel, as the more subscriptions we have, the more upgrades we get from youtube for our live streaming.

Catholics in Royal Berkshire Hospital

Contact duty priest: 0118 3227105.

Catholics in RBH: Catholic patients at the RBH, relatives or friends should explain to staff that they request a visit from a Catholic priest in cases of serious illness. Due to recent changes, Priests can now more readily respond to requests to visit the sick in hospital. We have a team of Catholic priests in Reading who are available for this Ministry, so it is hoped that no Catholic patient at the RBH will die without the Last Rites.

Reading Catholic Churches

Christ the King, Whitley	Fr. Pat Madden	0118 931 4469
St. John Bosco, Woodley	Fr. Bill Wilson	0118 969 3423
St. James	Fr Chris Heaps	0118 957 4171
English Martyrs, Tilehurst	Cn. Michael Dennehy	0118 957 2149
St. Joseph, Tilehurst	Fr Peter Glas	0118 942 8632
St. William of York	Fr. Mathew Goddard / Fr. Patrick O'Donohue	0118 966 5284
Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham	Msgr. Patrick Daly	0118 947 1787

Decoration of Lady Chapel: thank you for your financial support for this project. We have nearly completed the decoration. We hope that it will be done by next week.

Community Support

Readifood (Reading's Foodbank) You can drop off the items in the Advent room. Information on list of items can be found on <https://readifood.org.uk>.

CIRDIC: Items for packed lunches are needed to feed the homeless. Please take them directly to CIRDIC (St Saviours Church Hall, 1, Berkeley Ave, Reading RG1 6JT) from 8.30am on Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays.

CAFOD World Gifts: This Christmas why not buy gifts that will change lives and bring happiness! CAFOD's World Gifts are a range of virtual gifts that transform the lives of those living in poverty overseas. New gifts this year included Keep Clean (£6 - soap and washing powder for family) and Emergency Food (£50) so, please look online <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

Weekly donation:

Thank you to all those who make their weekly donations by standing orders and to those who have increased their donations. Thank you for supporting our parish during this difficult time.

Our Lady of Peace & BI Dominic Barberi

338 Wokingham Road Earley Reading RG6 7DA Website www.olop.org.uk
 Portsmouth Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No 246871

Parish Priest

The Rev Fr Stan Gibziński
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Parish Secretary

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Parish Team

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Hall Bookings

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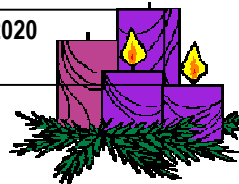


The Church office is open Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 11am-2.00pm

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year B

6th Dec 2020



What is special about Advent?

Advent is focused on Christ who is coming back in His glory, and it is a season when we are getting ready for Christmas. Why are we excited about these days? It is because it is God who has entered our dwelling place, and our hope of His return and Christmas.

In practice, our Advent is often disturbed by too many parties mixed with business and tiredness, irritations and secondary matters. Perhaps at the time of Covid we would be able to everything in different light. Usually, during Advent we hardly see God, who is really the only person entirely focused on each one of us. Maybe at this very year we will learn how to love the one who is Love and is sustainer of our lives. As we cannot be certain about it, let us learn that Love is misunderstood and put aside. Even the natural trust and love of Joseph towards Mary was not sufficient to greet her with joy after the Annunciation. When Joseph first heard the Gospel from Mary, he was heartbroken. Bitter tears remained in him until the moment when an Angel came and opened his heart. Only then did beautiful tears appear on his cheeks. His Christmas started when he returned to Mary. She amazingly embraced his heart with unconditional love. Christ, who was already with them in the womb of Mary, now permeated their relationship and enlightened the journey to Bethlehem. Christmas was at hand.

Exactly the same happens to you and me. We need angels to soften us and open our hearts for the great mysteries of His return in glory as well as at His Birth in Bethlehem and at the Holy Mass. Behind our preparations for Christmas lies the awareness of why we should also celebrate these special days with a good spiritual dimension and find time of prayer, especially if we were unable to make the sacrament of confession. We have the crucial support of angels. Without them we would not have been consoled, the Gospel would not have been fully delivered, Christmas would not be our time of joy.

Fr. Stan

Psalm Response: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Readings for Sunday 6th Dec

1st Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 :*Prepare a way for the Lord.*

2nd Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14 *We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth.*

Gospel Mark 1: 1-8: *Make his paths straight.*

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sat 5th Dec	10.00am-12.00 noon 1st Sat Devotion to our Lady 4.00pm Sunday Vigil Mass (Facing Congregation)	Aniya Maheswaran Thanksgiving Kathleen Mongan's intention
Sun 6th Dec 2nd Sunday of Advent (11.00am & 5.00pm Mass will be live-streamed)	8.30am Ad Orientem 11.00 am (Facing Congregation) 5.00pm Ad Orientem	Parishioners Intention Intention available Intention available
Mon 7th Dec St Ambrose	7.30pm Extraordinary Form	Intention available
Tues 8th Dec The Immaculate Conception of the BI Virgin Mary	1.00pm - 4.00pm 7.00pm	The church is open for private prayers Everlyne Fernandes recovery
Wed 9th Dec	7.00am (on-line streaming) 1.00pm - 4.00pm	Miles Webber RIP The church is open for private prayers
Thurs 10th Dec	Daily Mass without congregation 1.00pm - 4.00pm	Amanda Webber's Intention The church is open for private prayers
Fri 11th Dec	11.00am -7.00pm 7.30pm Ad Orientem	Adoration Intention available
Sat 12th Dec	4.00pm Sunday Vigil Mass (Facing Congregation)	Intention available
Sun 13th Dec 3rd Sunday of Advent 11.00am & 5.00pm Mass will be live-streamed)	8.30am Ad Orientem 11.00 am (Facing Congregation) 3.00pm 5.00pm Ad Orientem	Parishioners Intention Intention available Divine Mercy Peggie Bentley RIP Foundation Mass

Please keep in your prayers all the faithful departed, especially those in our "Book of Remembrance" for this week.

5th Dec: Eric Watson (1997); Diane Smith (2001); **6th Dec:** James Eighteen (2005);
8th Dec: Lilian Neville (2010); **9th Dec:** Peter Carmichel (2012); Mona Botharel (2013);
12th Dec: Bernadette Joyce (1984) Peggy Bentley (1989)

Please pray for members of the parish and their family who are sick or housebound, especially: Margaret Browne (Parishioner).

OLOP Parish Live Stream Link for 11am Mass & 5.00pm via Youtube (olop earley)
Please note that the dispensation from obligatory attendance of Sunday Mass remains valid.

Parish News:

Booking is now available for Sunday Masses. Masses can be booked via our website www.olop.org.uk (latest by 8.00pm the previous day) or by calling the Parish Office on 0118 9663711. If you are booking via telephone then please call by Friday 3.00pm at the latest as messages will not be accessed after this time.

Please note: Weekday mass on Monday, Wednesday and Friday will be public Mass and you do not need to book for these Mass.

Private prayer in our church:

Tuesday - Thursday : 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Friday with Adoration from 11.00am -7.00pm. followed by 7.30pm Mass.

Stewards for Sunday Mass: Before the current lockdown, we had a few Stewards for Sunday and weekday Mass. We would like to thank them for their valuable contribution. It would be really lovely if we could have a few more stewards for Sunday Mass. This will enable us to set a rota. Please think about this, the more volunteers we have, the easier it is to look after our church. Please contact Fr Stan or the Parish office, if you would like to volunteer to be a Steward. Training will be provided.

Tuesday December 8th - Feast of the Immaculate Conception: Mass at 7.00pm. "On this day, let us remember all unborn children, especially those recently conceived. That safety, protection and love would be granted to them, and that we, the Church, with the intercession of Our Lady, would take on the call to support these precious children of God. Lord hear us".

Advent 2020

Angelus Prayer at 12 noon: During Advent, let us embrace a parish initiative to say the Angelus every day and pray for an end to this pandemic and for each of us to grow in faith and holiness.

Rorate Mass during Advent on Wednesday at 7.00 am will be livestreamed via Youtube - olop earley.

Advent giving - Our Parish chosen Charity is "First Days": This year due to COVID-19, we are unable to accommodate our usual "Giving Tree", but we still wish to make donations. The charity we will be supporting is First Days, which provides help and support for young families. The charity has asked that we give:

Warm hats, gloves, scarves
Feeding bottles,
Nappies (especially sizes 6 and 7)
Children's toilet items - toothpaste and toothbrushes, baby wipes, soaps, towels etc.
Please bring items to Advent room during church opening times and we will deliver to the charity.

Christmas period Mass times 2020/2021:

(Booking will be available from 12 noon Tuesday 8th December online via our website & also booking can be made by calling the parish office on 0118 9663711).

Christmas Eve 24th Dec:

5.00pm: Holy Mass for families with young children (primary & pre school)

8.00pm: Holy Mass

11.30pm Vespa followed by Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 25th Dec

8.30am: Holy Mass

11.00am: Holy Mass

Sat 26th St Stephens 10.00 am Holy Mass

Sat 26th (Sunday Vigil) 4.00pm Holy Mass

Sunday 27th The Holy Family

8.30, 11.00am & 5.00pm: Holy Mass

Thursday 31st 6.30pm: Thanksgiving Mass for 2020

Friday 1st January: 11am & 5.00pm - Holy Mass

Christmas Eve Zoom Session for children (primary school) on 24th Dec at 4.45pm:

Please register with the Parish office for this Zoom session. The 5.00pm Mass will be live streamed, so in case you are unable to come to church, the children can still participate in Mass online.