

Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 7.00 pm. This is a beautiful practice which brings us into unity with the crucified Lord. *Stations of the Cross will be live streamed.*

8.30pm via the Cathedral Live Stream: The service is called Verso L'Alto: Reach to the Heights!

Community Support

From Wednesday 24th Feb during Lent - Mass at 6.30am. Come and celebrate Mass by candlelight before dawn. (No booking needed for this Mass)

Friday 26th Feb - Sat 27th Feb- 24 hours Passion of Christ at our church. Details to follow.

Saturday 20th Feb Big Walk for Water: This Lent, CAFOD invites you to join the Big Walk for Water. You can walk 5 miles or just around your garden. If you are a keen walker, then you can challenge yourself by walking 10,000 steps a day, every day, for 40 days to raise funds for CAFOD's Lent appeal. Find out more at <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Walk-for-Water>.

Lenten Retreat every Monday during Lent: 'Finding Hope in Scripture', the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph will lead the retreat to help us discover aspects of the virtue of hope from 6 different Bible passages. The reflection will be followed by a time of live-streamed adoration and Compline. Register here to participate: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZETc-2grjkiGtU8vPFJea2ktvR5U0Mz1mRl>

Pastoral News:

Prayer & Praise with Bishop Philip every Thursday during lockdown from 7.30pm -

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>. Also needed donations of Toiletries eg Toothpaste & Toothbrushes, Soap, Shower Gel, Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant and Household Cleaning Items

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. Please contact Mabel at enquiries@cirdic.org.uk or text 07817 373773 to arrange delivery first.

Offertory Collection 24th Jan 2021

Main Envelopes (3rd Jan-24th Jan)	£ 10.00
Loose Cash (3rd Jan-24th Jan)	£ 86.27
Online (3rd Jan-24th Jan)	£ 190.00
Standing Orders	£ 726.00

Thank you all for your kind donations

Christmas Crib Collection for Knights of the Holy Sepulcher: £28.27.

2nd Collection on 31st Jan is for Racial Justice

Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi

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

Parish Priest	The Rev Fr Stan Gibziński fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Secretary	Rachel Alexander 0118 966 3711 earley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Safeguarding Officer	Mable Thyveetil 07726 589624 earley.matters@gmail.com
Parish Team	earley.matters@gmail.com
Hall Bookings	Margaret Dias 07763 681072 hallbookingsolop@gmail.com



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

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Year B	31st January 2021
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Belonging to God always and everywhere

There is a fresco in the Santa Maria del Carmine Church in Florence by the Italian Early Renaissance artist Masaccio. It shows the difficult relationship between God and man. Shades of beige, dirty, yellow dominate the painting. Red and grey-blue create the background. On the foreground, there are naked people: Adam covers his face with his hands in shame, Eve's face, distorted by despair, is facing up. There is another figure: the angel clothed in a red dress, in his right hand there is a sword, the finger on the left hand shows the path out of Eden. On the left side of the picture, there is a fragment of the paradise gate.

The amazing story of the Almighty and Good Creator and His Creation, although marked by deep sadness, in fact opens another chapter of the promise of restoration and re-unity between God and man. This is the Bible! God's hope towards us is being stopped in many hearts by the Enemy of human race. Demons, who were also behind the Fall and drama of the Expulsion from the Garden of Eden, nowadays change the beautiful story of the Creation in our hearts into the story of the banished God, or the accused God. God is punished, indeed. He is portrayed as the guilty one of all misfortune. Behind the scene of that image of God, is Satan. God has been embracing the punishment of Adam and Eve, as well as their enormous unconditional rejection. He has done that with astonishing humility and serenity for the sake of love for each one of us. His humility and love towards us destroy demons and send them to hell which is their place. He teaches us that hating demons in that way is a virtue. It is important to hate them with absolute hate. We have to treat them with disgust. Otherwise, we are lost amongst their traps. If we treat them with politeness, we open our hearts to them.

Fr Stan

Psalm Response:

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Readings for Sunday 31st January 2021

1st Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20: *I will raise up a prophet and I will put my words into his mouth.*

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35 *An unmarried woman can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy.*

Gospel Mark 1: 21-28 *He taught them with authority.*

Catholics in Royal Berkshire Hospital

Contact duty priest: 0118 3227105.

Chaplaincy at the RBH is covered and shared by Fr. Pat Madden and the priests from the FSSP. Fr. Pat covers every Monday from 12 Noon until Thursday 12 Noon. The priests from FSSP cover from Thursday 12 Noon until Monday 12 Noon. Priests on call are only allowed into the hospital to give the last rites in danger of death as this is the Hospital policy due to the ongoing current COVID 19 pandemic

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	Mmgr. Patrick Daly	0118 947 1787

Emergency numbers for a Priest –

Please call your own priest first

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sat 30th Jan	No Mass	
Sun 31st Jan 4th Sunday in Ordinary Times	8.30am *11.00 am *5.00pm	Vera Gorman RIP Paul Thyveetil thanksgiving Yakov birthday thanksgiving
Mon 1st Feb	7.30pm Extra Ordinary Form	Alan Cutsforth RIP rec. dec.
Tues 2nd Feb The Presentation of the Lord	1.00pm - 4.00pm 7.30pm	The church is open for private prayers Clements and Hardy families (living & dead) Foundation Mass
Wed 3rd Feb St Blaise	Daily Mass without congregation 1.00pm - 4.00pm	Nikita thanksgiving The church is open for private prayers
Thur 4th Feb St Thomas Aquinas	Daily Mass without congregation 1.00pm - 4.00pm	Richard & Paul Johnston RIP The church is open for private prayers
Fri 5th Feb St Agatha	11.00am -7.00pm 7.30pm	Adoration Jerzy Fieber RIP (85th birthday)
Sat 6th Feb St Paul Miki & Companion	10.00am-12.00 noon 1st Sat Devotion to our Lady	Holy Souls
Sun 7th Feb 5th Sunday in Ordinary Times	8.30am *11.00 am *5.00pm	Methsiri Fernando RIP Donna Brogan RIP rec. dec Intention available

* Mass will be live streamed via YouTube (olop earley).

Please note that the dispensation from obligatory attendance of Sunday Mass remains valid.

Sunday Masses can be booked via our website www.olop.org.uk (latest by 8.00pm Friday) 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 and Friday is open to the congregation and booking is not necessary.

**Church is open for private prayer : Tuesday - Thursday : 1.00pm - 4.00pm
Friday with Adoration from 11.00am -7.00pm.**

Anniversaries: Please keep in your prayers

30th Jan: Joseph Haughton (1973);
1st Feb: Edyth Cameron (1979); Mary Tompkins (2001); Sue Rose (2001); and Joseph Fernando (1984).
2nd Feb: Elizabeth Ballard (1986); Elena Atkinson (2015)
4th Feb: Maria Bryant (1977); Richard Johnston (2009);
5th Feb: Monica Carroll (1997); Renza Manning (2014); **7th Feb:** Anna Pelickan (1978)

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

Parish News:

Message from Fr Stan: As few of the volunteers are unable to come to Mass. I have decided to keep the set up for each Mass as *Ad Orientem*. I am also deeply grateful for the support of those who come over for Masses. For those who are unable to come, you are in my prayers. Let us pray together for end to this pandemic, for the sick and for the souls of all those who have died.

Tuesday 2nd Feb 7.30pm: Presentation of the Lord (feast). Holy Mass at our church at 7.30pm. Father Stan will conduct the Candlemass procession privately. Those attending Mass may bring their own candles and also candles to be blessed. **Please book online for this Mass.** (Booking for this Mass will close on Monday 1st Feb at 7.30pm)

Saturday 6th Feb: 1st Saturday of every month - 10am-12.00.(Dedication to our Lady) Adoration, Rosary followed by Holy Mass.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is open to people who are discerning whether to join or come into full communion with the Catholic Church; new sessions to start soon. To find out more, please see Fr. Stan after Mass or contact Parish office.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on request. Please contact Fr Stan by 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.

The Parish Bereavement Support Group can be contacted via the Parish Office.

Lent preparation

Last Year's Palm Crosses: Sadly, last year we went into national lockdown in the 3rd week of

Lent and missed receiving our palms on Palm Sunday. If you have any old palms at home then please bring them to church and place them on the basket provided in Advent Room . On Tuesday 16th Feb after morning Mass, Fr Stan will burn them and save the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Wed 17th Feb (Ash Wednesday) 10.00am & 7.30pm Mass. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday. **Please book online for these Masses.** (Booking will close on Monday 15th Feb at 7.30pm). *Both the Mass will be live streamed.* As per guidelines from the Bishop, when distributing ashes, Fr Stan will sprinkle the ashes on the top of parishioners heads.

Prayer at 12 noon: During the November lockdown, we started a parish initiative to say the Angelus every day. We shall start this practice again during Lent. A message will be put up in our Whatsapp group at 12 noon and we can

Change in Mass times on Friday due to Lent: Weekday Friday Mass will be at 10.00 am during Lent.

Lenten Read: Father Stan recommends two books for Lent. "The fourth cup. Unveiling the Mystery of the Last Supper and the Cross" by Scott Hahn. His re-discovery of the Holy Mass has had the profound effect in his spiritual lives. At the time when we see the loss of faith the Church has experienced in the last half century, this book might be for us a stepping stone to see clearer Christ and His real presence in the Eucharist, where we are to receive Him and worship Him with the utmost solemnity and adoration.

Another, alternative book by Scott Hahn (written together with Brandon McGinley) I would suggest: "It Is Right and Just. Why the future of civilisation depends on true religion." The book challenges popular idea of religion and its role in society. Hahn and McGinley argue that to answer questions over religious liberty, justice, and peace, we must first reject the insidious lie perpetuated by secular-liberal culture: that religion is a private matter.