

## Parish News

**Do you donate to our parish/Diocese?** We would like to thank all those who donate to the parish/Diocese via Standing order / Direct Debit. Your contributions are truly valued and appreciated. They enable the parish/Diocese to function. The Diocese will change from a Trust to Charitable Incorporated Organisation from 1st January 2023, which is a change of legal status. If you donate to our Parish/Diocese, we need to have the up-to-date contact details for each donor, including your address or email address, so that we can inform you of what is happening and any next steps to take.

Please would all donors e mail/ contact the Parish office with the following contact details by Monday 12th December: *(If you receive the newsletter by e mail then please do not send the details as we have your information already in the system.)*

Name:

Address (including postcode):

Telephone number:

Email address:

We thank you for your co-operation

**Visitors to the Parish are reminded that photography/video recording is not permitted at any time during mass services unless authorised by the Parish. Photography of children and young people is prohibited.**

To keep up to date with the news of the Diocese and the Bishop please follow :

Facebook: @PortsmouthRC

Twitter: @PortsmouthRC

The Diocese website:

LinkedIn: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/>

**Catholic Chaplaincy in Royal Berkshire Hospital** Contact duty priest: 0118 3227105.

On admission, all Catholics should inform the hospital staff that they are Roman Catholic & wish to receive Communion or see a priest. All arrangements in RBH are "Patient Led".

Fr. Daniel Agber will now coordinate the Hospital Chaplaincy. On call Hospital Chaplains are the priests from the FSSP (07445106330) Fr. Seth Phipps and Fr. Matthew Goddard

## Reading Catholic Churches

Christ the King, Whitley	Fr. Daniel Agber	0118 931 4469
St. John Bosco, Woodley	Fr. Leo Odomeja	0118 969 3423
St. James	Fr Chris Heaps	0118 957 4171
English Martyrs, Tilehurst	Fr. Gaston Forbah	0118 957 2149
St. Joseph, Tilehurst	Fr Peter Glas	0118 942 8632
St. William of York	Fr. Mathew Goddard / Fr. Seth Phipps	0118 966 5284
Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham	Fr Joe McLoughlin	0118 947 1787

## Pastoral News:

**Vacancy** - Please visit the jobs page on the Diocesan website, which lists vacancies . For full details and how to apply please contact: [recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## Resources

**Day by Day - Advent edition is in the Advent Room £1.00/book:** Please leave money in the box next to the books in the Advent room.

## Offertory Collection 27th November 2022

Envelopes	£ 18.00
Loose Cash	£419.84
Contactless payment	£ 69.00
Standing Orders	£588.86

Thank you all for your kind donations.

# Our Lady of Peace & BI Dominic Barberi

338 Wokingham Road Earley Reading RG6 7DA Website [www.olop.org.uk](http://www.olop.org.uk)  
Portsmouth Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No 246871

## Parish Priest

The Rev Fr Stan Gibziński  
[fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## Parish Secretary

Rachel Alexander 0118 966 3711

[office@olop.org.uk](mailto:office@olop.org.uk)

## Safeguarding Officer

Harish Chander  
[safeguarding@olop.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@olop.org.uk)

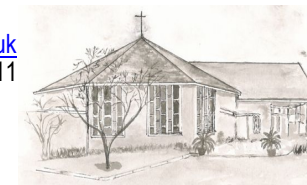
## Parish Team

[earley.matters@gmail.com](mailto:earley.matters@gmail.com)

## Hall Bookings

Zuzanna Bochenek 07763 681072

[hall@olop.org.uk](mailto:hall@olop.org.uk)



Parish office opening hours Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 11.00am-2.00pm.

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year A

4th December 2022

Psalm Response:

"In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails"



**'Even now the axe lies at the root of the trees' Mt 3:10**

We are incomplete without God. In this life, we are destined to live in tension between things on earth and in heaven. In this sense, we are people of Advent. Advent characterised people of the Old Testament and it is one of the main descriptions of people of the New Testament. Advent is a time of yearning for God, for the second coming of Christ. 'My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. (Ps 42:2-4)

However, Advent is not only a time of our inner desire for God, it is also the time of God's action towards us. Today we are taught about an axe. The axe is a simple tool, which allows us to chop wood. For centuries, axes reduced the efforts of woodcutters. The axe simply splits the wood into two parts by the pressure concentrated at the blade, leaving no stump behind. It is particularly helpful when roots need cutting. One must use much strength to be able to do it but the axe cuts to the very roots. The handle of the axe allows the user to increase the force at the cutting edge.

The Lord wants a total change in our lives. He uses the axe of love to cut the roots of our sin, moral and spiritual destitutions. If your private life is full of pride or fear, violence and anger then Christ will put the axe of His LOVE to the roots of your problem. The same applies to your professional life and sexual life. If you are corrupted or if your conscience is asleep, Christ's love will awaken it. His LOVE is enough to change us. Jesus Christ, the one who is amongst us, loves us and embraces us but He also splits the soul from the spirit so that we are overtaken by the love of God. One of the best fruits of Advent is a good and deep sacramental confession. In this way, the Divine axe is a blessed gift to us  
Fr Stan

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sun 4th December 2nd Sunday of Advent 	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary Ken Mansfield RIP Rosary For Parishioners Holy Souls
Mon 5th Dec	No Mass	
Tues 6th Dec St Nicholas	No Mass	
Wed 7th Dec St Ambrose	No Mass 4.15pm	Rosary
Thur 8th Dec The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	6.30pm	Conception Mez RIP
Friday 9th Dec St John Diego Cuahtlatotzin	11.00am 6.00pm 6.30pm	Adoration from 11.00am to 6.00pm Rosary Joseph & Maria Stocker RIP
Sat 10th Dec Our Lady of Loreto	10.00am	Advent Penitential Service
Sun 11th December 3rd Sunday of Advent 	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 2.30pm 5.00pm	Rosary For Parishioners Rosary Elsie Roche RIP rec. dec Divine Mercy Holy Hour Luciladel Carpio Meza RIP

### Now Accepting Contactless Donations

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Before Sunday & Weekday Masses. On Fridays and Holy Days of Obligation 5.30pm-6.30pm or by private appointment with Fr Stan.

**Baptism:** If you wish to celebrate the baptism (of a child) here, please contact Father Stan.

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

### Anniversaries: Please keep in your prayers

4th Dec: Mary Carter (2009);  
5th Dec: Eric Watson (1997); Diane Smith (2001);  
6th Dec: James Eighteen (2005) ;  
8th Dec: Lilian Neville (2010);  
9th Dec: Peter Carmichel (2012); Mona Botherel (2013);

We keep in our prayers our parishioners who are sick and housebound. We pray for God's mercy and healing for the sick and for health and strength for all who care for them.

**If you would like to add a name to this list, or if you have any queries, please contact Rachel at the Parish Office**

## Advent

**Pre Advent Parish Party:** A big thank you from the organisers to all who took part in our parish party. You have been so generous with your support and for the delicious food. Thank you for your openness towards each other and fun time on the dance floor. We hope that you will also come in the same large numbers for our next event. God bless.

**Sunday 4th December:** We welcome Fr Aldo Tapparo from Oxford who will celebrate all 3 Sunday Masses.

**Monday 5th, Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th December:** There will be no weekday Mass as Fr Stan will be away on a retreat.

**Thursday 8th December is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady.** Holy Mass at 6.30pm.

**Advent Confession in our Pastoral Area.** Please spare some time for prayer and reflection, this Advent. Start planning now to keep a sense of true perspective during this holy season. Confession in our church is on Saturday 10th December at 10.00am. All are welcome.

### Advent Penitential Services

Date	Time	Venue
Fri 9th	7.00pm	Christ the King
<b>Sat 10th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Our Lady of Peace</b>
Mon 12th	7.00pm	St John Bosco
Thu 15th	7.00pm	St Joseph's
Fri 16th	7.00pm	St James
Sat 17th	10.00am	English Martyrs

**Advent Giving:** During Advent as a Parish, we will, as usual, be collecting gifts to donate to a good cause. This year, we have decided to donate to Woodley food bank, who are struggling to meet increased and unprecedented demand at the moment. We will place receptacles in the Advent room to collect your gifts. Items required include: Tinned vegetables, fruit, meats and fish. Coffee, sugar, tea bags ( packets of 40) Cereals, biscuits , custard, tinned puddings, Squash. Cash

donations are also welcome. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**Christmas Cards:** The Parish Christmas cards are on sale in Advent Room. £2.00 for pack of ten cards or £5 for pack of 30.

**"Retreat for Youth "Advent Crusaders continues every Saturday at 10.00am** for 1 hour for youths aged 11-25 in Dominic Barberi Hall. Short course/retreat reconnecting the Youth to Christ celebrating the feast of the Nativity - God becoming Man.

**Poem Competition** All Children and Youth are encouraged to enter the Christmas Poem competition. The topic could be anything relating to Christmas, such as the star or the stable. Entries need to be in by Sat 10th Dec - please send to the church office, ideally by email

**The Angelus** will be said before all Advent Masses.

**Friday Adoration.** Friday 16th Dec will be the last Adoration for 2022, Adoration will start again after the Christmas break on Friday 6th January 2023.

**Introduction to Men's Formation group continues on Thursday 8th (after Mass), 15th & 22nd December - 19.00- 20:30** in Blessed Dominic Barberi room. We invite all men who have a desire to develop their spiritual growth.

### Christmas services

**Sat 24th Dec**, 5.00pm-Children's short service followed by Christmas Vigil Holy Mass.

**Sat 24th Dec**, 11.00pm Vigil Service followed by Midnight mass.

**Sun 25th Dec** - 8.30am & 11am - Holy Mass.

*No weekday Mass during 26th Dec to 31st Dec.*

**Sun 1st Jan 2023:** 8.30am, 11.00am & 5.00pm Holy Mass

*No weekday Mass on 2nd, 3rd & 4th Jan 2023.*

**Fri 6th January 23: The Epiphany of the Lord. Holy Day of Obligation.** Holy Mass at 6.30pm