

Pastoral News:

Resources for Advent: The Bible Society has produced some inspirational resources for Advent- www.godwhospeaks.uk/advent/. More Bible Society Christmas resources are available at www.godwhospeaks.uk/saints-seasons-christmas-celebrate-christmas-with-bible-society/

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

Resources

Day by Day - Advent / January 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 11th December 2022

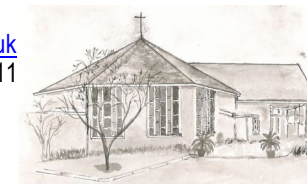
Envelopes £ 3.00
Loose Cash £380.95
Contactless payment £193.00
Standing Orders £606.15
Thank you all for your kind donations.

Christmas Crib Collection: In the Diocese, we alternate our annual Christmas Crib offerings between Friends of the Holy Land and the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. This year, the Christmas Crib offerings will go to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. The Order of the Holy Sepulchre is rooted in tradition and the past, but it strives every day to make a future possible for those living in the very birthplace of the Catholic faith.

Our Lady of Peace & BI Dominic Barberi

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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No 246871

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

4th Sunday of Advent	Year A	18th December 2022
Psalm Response: "Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory."		

Joseph made up his mind when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

We need people who help us to see Jesus. There are key moments in the life of others which help our faith to grow. The moment when the Angel Gabriel came to Our Mother, the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth and the time when St Joseph made up his mind to take Mary home as his wife, after a long period of deep confusion, are brilliant examples of how to see Jesus in daily life.

As for Mary, her acceptance of God's words enters a new chapter of her life and a new area of mankind. She is the first who embraced Christ - and her faith and the fact of real conception being interlinked to the unbelievable mystery of God's presence in the midst of people. Although we find continuity of God's presence and leadership of the Chosen Nation, in the scene of Annunciation we see the radically different presence of God. The incarnation challenged every human mind. The angels and Mary were open to that mystery.

As for Mary and Elisabeth, neither of them wanted to impress others or win their esteem. Both of them simply shared the joy of the coming Messiah. Mary helped Elizabeth with ongoing house

duties, keeping Jesus in her heart all the time. Her faith was joyfully shared with the elderly relative who also kept the hope.

As for Joseph, it was the time when he was afraid to take Mary home as his wife, because she had been found pregnant and Joseph knew nothing about it. One must be brave to believe that Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit and she was to give birth to the Messiah.

Let me stress again: we do need people who help us to see Jesus. When we reflect on the life of Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah in the relationship to Jesus, we find a link between God's grace and our effort of faith. We also learn how to keep a balance between daily duties, tensions and relationships with others and with God.

Wishing you great preparation for Christmas,

Fr Stan



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 LinkedIn: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Twitter: @PortsmouthRC The Diocese website: <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

Emergency numbers for a Priest –

Please call your own priest first

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sun 18th December 4th Sunday of Advent 	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary Bartlomiej Golinski Rosary M Harding's Intention For Parishioners
Mon 19th Dec	6.00pm 6.30pm in Latin	Rosary Earnest Fernando RIP
Tues 20th Dec	8.00am	Jacek Herman with family
Wed 21st Dec	6.30am 4.15pm	Eva Nora intention Rosary
Thur 22nd Dec	No Mass	
Friday 23rd Dec	6.00pm 6.30pm	Rosary George Bentley RIP Foundation Mass
Sat 24th December The Nativity of the Lord Solemnity with octave	4.30pm 5.00pm Holy Mass 11.00pm	Children's Nativity followed by Holy Mass For The Parish Vigil prayers (Office of Readings)
Sun 25th December The Nativity of the Lord	Midnight Mass 8.30am Mass 11.00 am Mass	For The Parish For The Parish For The Parish

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

19th Dec: Ted Aldridge (2016);
20th Dec: Peter Tilton (1991); Gladys Arnold (2001); Armando Massi (2019)
22nd Dec: Martha Franks (1998); Margaret Sellers (1998);
23rd Dec: Maureen Chapman (2000); George Bentley (2003);
24th Dec: Muriel Bowman-Smith (1976); Pauline Thackram (2001); 25th Dec: Donald Wignall (1996);

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

Maintenance update: The freezing cold weather led to burst pipes in Wilderness Road. This led to flooding of part of the car park and hall. Our Maintenance manager, Dawid would like to thank Colin Brooks and Emilio Villas for all the hard work in preventing our complex from being affected by flood damage.

Advent

Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter: The letter will be read out on Sunday Mass and also copies are available in Advent room. In his previous letter, he spoke about the Future of the Church in our Diocese, and promised to return to this topic in another letter. The letter addresses the 'six holy habits' which he spoke about in the last letter and also the prayer book "Lord I am not Worthy" that he is sending out to everyone next week for their use.

Lord I am Not Worthy The prayer book, which is a gift from the Bishop is designed to fit into your pocket and to fit into the back of benches in church, is designed to help you to prepare for Mass. It contains many well-known Catholic prayers and others too.

Advent Giving Tree : The response to the appeal for gifts for our local charity Woodley Food Bank has been wonderful. Thank you to all who gave so generously.

Outdoor Christmas Crib: We will have our Outdoor Crib ready this week. The Christmas crib is a sign of hope that the goodness is in us and near us as we greet the new-born child. Please spread the word and encourage everyone to visit our outdoor crib and spread the joy of Nativity.

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.

Wednesday morning at 6.30am: Last Rorate Mass for Advent this Wednesday morning at 6.30am. Rorate is a candlelit Mass in the dark so please bring lantern.

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: *Holy Day of Obligation*

The Epiphany of the Lord: Holy Mass at 6.30pm

Christmas day collection: The collections from all the Christmas Masses are a gift for Fr Stan's ministry amongst us. Please either use our contactless payment or the envelope provided

The Christmas newsletter will cover the 3 Sundays while the parish office is closed (25th Dec, 1st Jan & 8th Jan.) - so please keep your copy!

Parish office will be closed from Friday 23rd December 2022 to Tuesday 10th January 2023.

Friday Adoration. Adoration will start again after the Christmas break on Friday 6th January 2023.

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

Saturday 7th January 23 : 1st Saturday of every month at 10am- (Dedication to our Lady) Adoration, Rosary, Reconciliation followed by Holy Mass

Sunday 8th January 23- 2nd Sunday of the Month – Divine Mercy prayers from 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm.