

Friday 2nd January: Rosary at 6.00pm followed by Holy Mass at 6.30pm

Saturday 4th January : 1st Saturday of every month at 10am: (Dedication to our Lady) Adoration, Rosary, Reconciliation followed by Holy Mass.

Sunday 5th January: Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Holy Mass at 08:30am, 11:00 am and 5:00pm

Please note that 6th January 2025 is not a Holy Day of Obligation, as the Epiphany is transferred to the day before.

Sunday 12th January, 2.30pm - Divine Mercy Holy Hour

Parish News

Guidelines for Catholic Funerals: The diocese has made a leaflet for guidelines to Catholic Funerals. It also has a page for Instructions for planning your own funeral. Please take a copy from the Advent room.

Money Counters We need volunteers to join our Money Counters' Rota. The commitment is approximately for 30 minutes after 5.00pm Sunday Mass. Training will be provided. If you feel you are able to help in this way, please inform Rachel in the Parish office.

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

LinkedIn: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
The Diocese website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/>

Catholic Chaplaincy in Royal Berkshire Hospital

All arrangements in RBH are "Patient Led". If you or a loved one are taken into hospital, please inform the Catholic Chaplaincy. Hospital staff are not allowed to ask you. Ring the hospital on 0118 322 7105 to let them know that you or your loved one would like a visit from a priest.

Reading Catholic Churches

Christ the King, Whitley	Fr. Daniel Agber
St. John Bosco, Woodley	Fr. Leo Odomeja
St. James	Fr Chris Heaps
English Martyrs, Tilehurst	Fr. Gaston Forbah
St. Joseph, Tilehurst	Fr. Henry Nkop
St. William of York	Fr. Seth Phipps
Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham	Fr Joe McLoughlin

Community Support

Woodley food bank List of items needed are:- Pasta, rice, toilet paper./Kitchen rolls, Cooking oil./Tinned meats, Tea bags./ Sugar, Coffee./ Puddings. (sweet), Tinned stewing steak, Tinned chicken in sauce, Long life milk. Items for food bank can be left in the Advent room.

Offertory Collection 24th November 2024

Loose Cash	£ 399.90
Contactless payment	£ 99.00
Standing Orders	£ 521.50

Thank you all for your kind donations

Offertory Donations: To make your regular offertory donation via standing order, please contact the parish office for details.

Pastoral Area

Saturday 14th December 10.00am - 1.00pm: St James is hosting an Advent event "Becoming an Advent People". Fr Chris Heap and the Carmelite Community invite you to an opportunity to reflect, share and pray together. See poster for more details.

Emergency numbers for a Priest –

Please call your own priest first

0118 931 4469
0118 969 3423
0118 957 4171
0118 957 2149
0118 942 8632
0118 966 5284
0118 947 1787

Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi

338 Wokingham Road Earley Reading RG6 7DA Website www.olo.org.uk
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No 1199568

Parish Priest

The Rev Fr Stan Gibziński
fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary

Rachel Alexander 0118 966 3711

office@olo.org.uk

Harish Chander

safeguarding@olo.org.uk

Zuzanna Bochenek

hall@olo.org.uk

Hall Bookings

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



First Sunday of Advent

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1st December 2024

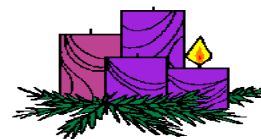
Psalm: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.



We experience Christmas when we experience Advent

We are given entire weeks to prepare our hearts for the special graces of Christmas. During this time, the Church prays incessantly for the coming of Jesus. Advent is then a special period to focus our hearts for His coming down to earth: "Let justice descend, O heavens, like dew from above" (Is 45:8). The Church focuses on the hunger for Jesus and for His coming. We can even say that the process of growing in faith depends on our hunger for God. The hunger, the desire of Jesus, the desire for His coming to us, to our family, to our parish, to our broken world, is the key to the great banquet of Christmas. Advent is then the period of awareness that, although Jesus is present amongst us, there are areas in us where there is a lack of Jesus. The lack of His presence brings a strong hope that His rebirth will come within our hearts at Christmas. He comes to match the extent of our preparation and our openness. We can say, to match the extent of our faith. "If there is no Advent, then... Christmas is only a beautiful but empty celebration. The danger of Christmas is then that it can become an artificial celebration", it will be a time full of shopping, rushing, carols and even a boring meal, only because there is not much meaning, no preparation. If you do not experience the message of Advent, then do not be surprised that Christmas seems to be always the same.

Advent is then a period when I allow myself to see all areas where the Lord is outside of me, knocking on the door of my heart, asking for my attention. Let us use the lack of Jesus and Jesus' lack of us to bring the deeper desire of Communion with Him – Holy Communion with Him – Most Holy Communion with Him. He waits for us to receive Holy Communion. He wants to give Himself to you fully and His heart there beats for you.

Fr. Stan



Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sun 1st December 2024 First Sunday of Advent 	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	<i>Rosary</i> Regina RIP <i>Rosary</i> Antonio Napolitano RIP For Parishioners
Mon 2nd Dec	6.00pm 6.30pm	<i>Rosary</i> Alice Willson RIP Foundation Mass
Tues 3rd Dec St Francis Xavier	8.00am	Fr Swinton RIP
Wed 4th Dec St John Damascene	6.30am 4.15pm 6.30pm	Fr Eamon Walsh RIP <i>Rosary</i> <i>Talk by Fr Stan on "Spiritual Journey towards Nativity"</i>
Thur 5th Dec		
Fri 6th Dec St Nicholas	11.00am - 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Adoration <i>Rosary</i> Mick Adams RIP
Sat 7th Dec St Ambrose	10.00am - 1.00pm 12 noon	<i>Adoration, Rosary, Reconciliation followed by Holy Mass</i> George Johnson RIP
Sun 8th December 2024 2nd Sunday of Advent 	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	<i>Rosary</i> Regina & Waclaw RIP <i>Rosary</i> Christina Owens RIP For Parishioners

Sacrament of Reconciliation: On Mondays, 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

2nd Dec: Helen Nolan (1984); Alice Willson (1999);
3rd Dec: Michael Clarridge (1993); 4th Dec: Mary Carter (2009);
5th Dec: Eric Watson (1997); Diane Smith (2001);
6th Dec: James Eighteen (2005);
8th Dec: Lilian Neville (2010);

We keep in our prayers our parishioners who are sick and housebound. We pray for Jeyarani Sivaganeshan, who is in hospital and for Cedric Dias as he recovers at home. We pray for God's mercy and healing for the sick and for health and strength for all who care for them. **If you or someone you know is sick and housebound and would like to mention them here, or if you have any queries, please contact Rachel at the Parish Office**

Events in Advent

This Sunday, 1st December, is the First Sunday of Advent - the first Sunday of the new liturgical year, as we begin Cycle C. It is also the first time in over forty years that we begin using a new translation of the Holy Scriptures at Mass - the English Standard Version: Catholic Edition.

New Sunday Missals: A few parishioners have expressed an interest in purchasing the New Sunday Missal. Please can you contact the Parish office. The price is £22/ Missal.

Advent Giving: During Advent as a Parish, we will, as usual, be collecting gifts to donate to a good cause. Like last year, we have decided to donate to New Beginnings, which offers support, food and accommodation for the homeless in town. Receptacles are in the Tree in the Advent room for your gifts. Items required include: socks, underwear, anoraks, shower gel, shampoos, deodorants, disposable razors, shaving foam/gels, loo rolls, pillows and sleeping bags. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Angelus will be said before all Advent Masses

Rorate Mass at 6.30am every Wednesday during Advent - Come and celebrate Mass by candlelight before dawn. Rorate is a candlelit Mass in the dark so please bring lantern.

Wednesday 4th December at 6.30pm: Advent service in our Church with talk by Fr Stan on "Spiritual Journey towards Nativity".

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

Monday 9th December is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. Holy Mass at 6.30pm.

Wednesday 11th December: Visiting of the Sick and housebound. Fr Stan will be visiting our Parishioners who are unable to come to Church. If you wish Fr Stan to visit you or your relatives then please contact the parish office.

Carol singing in the local neighbourhood, Saturday 14th December 3.30pm-5.30pm This is to fundraise for the parish.

Sunday 15th December, 2.30pm - Divine Mercy Holy Hour

Friday 13th December will be the last Friday Adoration for 2024. Friday Adoration will start again on 17th January 2025.

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

CAFOD World Gifts for Christmas: The catalogues are available in the Advent Room. Please take a copy.

Christmas Services

Sat 21st December: 09:00am-12:00 Confessions. Please spare some time for prayer and reflection, this Advent. Start planning now to keep a sense of true perspective during this holy season. All are welcome.

Tues 24th December: The Nativity of the Lord 4.30pm-Children's short service followed by Christmas Vigil Holy Mass at 5.00pm.
11.45pm: Carols singing followed by Midnight mass of Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Wed 25th December : 9.00am & 11.00am - Holy Mass.

Thur 26th December: St Stephen Holy Mass at 10.00am.

Fri 27th December: Feast of St John the Evangelist Holy Mass at 6.30pm.

Sun 29th December: Feast of the Holy Family (The renewal of marriage vows are celebrated at all Masses this day). Holy Mass at 08:30am, 11:00 am and 5:00pm

Mon 30th December: Rosary at 6.00pm followed by Holy Mass at 6.30pm (Novus Ordo in Latin)

Tues 31st December: :Holy Hour at 5.30pm followed by Holy Mass at 6.30pm in Thanksgiving for 2024

Wed 1st January: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Holy Mass at 11.00am