



Donate



DECEMBER 4TH 2022 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S

City Centre Catholic Parish Southampton



Website



Greeting God and Being Greeted by God

When visiting an overseas country it is good to learn the local greeting. I have been to Dublin just twice - my apologies to those of Irish heritage. The Gaelic for hello is: 'Dia is Muire dhuit', literally translated as 'Jesus and Mary be with you'. I read that the reply in Gaelic is: 'Jesus, Mary and Patrick be with you'. (Fortunately, although greeted often it was never in Gaelic). At school I learnt German and whilst cycling across the north German plain one greeted other cyclists with a cheery, 'Grüss Gott', literally 'God greet you'. As we know, after crossing ourselves as we begin Mass, the initial exchange between celebrant and people is 'The Lord be with you' to which is replied 'And with your spirit'.

A delightful year group of children from Maytree School visited St Edmund's last week when we explored the construction of our Advent Wreath by Richard and Teresa, and the meaning of Advent - God's coming as Jesus His Son, His arrival, His presence amongst us, and His presence in us.

Of course, Jesus does not come from afar, He stands at the door and knocks. Put "Light of the World by William Holden Hunt" into your favourite internet search engine and contemplate the painting. There we see Jesus knocking at the door where the only handle is on the inside where we are. It is not Jesus who is far from us, but we who are absent from Him. Our absence not measured in terms of distance but by desire. We have allowed our desires to carry us elsewhere, to estrange ourselves from our own heart. This is what Advent is all about, it is not a journey elsewhere, but a pilgrimage into the deserts of our own hearts.

To be a member of the Church is to celebrate this liturgy, a liturgy of praise and thanksgiving, to give beauty back to God, indeed to offer our lives as a liturgy of praise and thanksgiving, thereby becoming a sign of God's presence and a witness to hope.

Den Andy

Questions to Ponder for the Week...

1. "Prepare a way for the Lord", John the Baptist proclaims in today's Gospel, "make His paths straight". What 'paths' do you need to make straight (relationships; sinfulness; prayer...?)?
2. Isaiah (1st reading) says that the "shoot" will have "integrity....around his waist....and faithfulness.....about his hips". Would you describe yourself as a person of integrity and fidelity? When? When not?
3. St Paul (2nd reading) writes "...treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you". Do you? Always? When have you not?

Vincent Harvey

Today's Notices

Second Sunday of Advent

Family Mass where children participate more fully in the Mass at the 9am & 10am Masses

Christmas Fayre after the 9 & 11am & 7pm Masses in St Edmund's Hall

Joint URC/RC Service as we mark Advent in Avenue St Andrews at 3pm

Please continue to **sanitise hands** on entry to the church

Next Sunday Notices

Third Sunday of Advent

Baptisms in St Joseph's & St Edmund's

Second Collection for Parish Christmas Flowers

Last collection for gifts for the Catholic Home Care service to donate to their clients

A Few Words...

*Well Advent is picking up speed towards Christmas!! As you will be aware this Advent is the longest it can be: time to benefit through the preparation that Advent affords us. As I mentioned last week, we will, of course, have a **Penitential Service** on Monday, 19th December at 7.30pm... so put it in your diary! You might find this video helpful to 'get into' Advent: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mR87_dEJMc Have a look!*

Thursday (8th) is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** with Mass in St Joseph's at 12.15pm.

First Holy Communion registration is now closed. It's amazing that we have about 120 registered. The largest number ever on record! This does mean that we cannot, under any circumstances, accept any more applications.

Distribution and reception of Holy Communion: we are doing all we can to minimise risk of cross-infection of any respiratory disease, especially COVID: priest/deacon and Extraordinary Minister sanitising and wearing mask. To this end if you desire to receive **Holy Communion on your tongue** please make sure you are at the end of the queue! This is not being awkward, but if one person is infected (many like Father Johnpromise and me don't show any symptoms) then the next person risks infection and, quite possibly, the whole ciborium gets infected. Why take the risk? I will not take the risk so to protect the most vulnerable in our community and at Mass!

There is a good link on the **Bishops' Conference of England & Wales website:** <https://mailchi.mp/cbcew/230320-1185037?e=bee1bb47e7> It's worth a look! Also for Advent: <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>

Thank you to all who have returned a **response form** for 'You will be my Witnesses'. So far, though, only a few! Please, please let us know your views so it can go to the Diocese.

Have a good week... Vincent H

This Week...

Mon Baptism Prep on Zoom @ 7pm

Tues St Michael's Meditation Group @ 6pm
Alpha Course on Zoom @ 7pm

Wed Evening Prayer @ 6pm.... to join email Den Andy
Journey in Faith @ 7.30pm in St Ed's Hall

Thurs Richard Rohr Group on Zoom @ 5pm

For Info...

Mon VH/JP Day Off

Tues Advent Mass St George: VH
DR meet with Fr Mark: VH
St George Govs: VH

Wed Team meeting: VH/JP/AP
'Pudding Club' (clergy meet): VH

Thurs Funeral: VH

Fri: Confessions St George: VH
Jesu Caritas: VH/JP
Clergy Ministry Group: VH

Sacraments

Please remember especially in your prayers all those who have passed recently.

Mr Michael Alister Temple-Nidd whose funeral takes place at Hollybrook on Thursday. May he rest in peace. Pray also for his wife, Kathleen.

Pray also for Mrs Jean Mooney whose funeral will be at St Joseph's on Wednesday, 21st December at 11am. May she rest in peace. Pray also for the family, especially Theresa, Paul, Suzanne and Sean.

Please keep in your prayers all those who are due to be baptised this month Francesca, Marnie, Harley, Niall, Maia, Alora and Arna. We pray for them and their families as they enter the faith!



First Holy Communion Update. Registration has now closed. Anyone who missed this year's registration will be given the opportunity to register next year for the next course. Please direct FHC queries to fhc@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org

Prayers

Adoration Please contact Anna on 07956 379 542 if you feel able to join Adoration during the week in St Edmund's. New Adorers are always needed.



In this Season of Advent, as we expectantly wait for the Christ child to enter our hearts, let us pray for all expecting mothers, that they would have all they need to joyfully welcome their new child into the world.



Lord hear us

Please remember especially in your prayers Laneisha Vaz, Sr Maria Innocenta, Jack, Jannette & Robert Keith, Margaret Hicks, Margaret Murray, Mary Mullen, John, Mary O'Reilly, Valerie, Dennis Reading, Christopher Browne, Oliver, Carmen Escorcio, Simon, Bernadette, Sue, Clifford Cross, Kelly, Val Perry, Peter Scott, Ivanka Roberts, Maro P, John Morris, Fr Tom Singleton, Jane Skeets and all in the Parish who are ill, dying, undergoing treatment or experiencing distress.

What's going on?

CAFOD World Gifts. Catalogues are available from the back of both churches showcasing the variety of gifts on offer, such as Chickens, Emergency Shelter and Water. These gifts are a great way to contribute towards CAFOD while at the same time marking Christmas for our friends and family.

Mary's Meals – Double the Love From 1 November 2022 to 31 January 2023, donations made to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.5million. Today, we face some of our greatest challenges yet in a world devastated by conflict, food insecurity and the cost of living crisis, which we know is affecting people here in the UK as well as in the countries where we work. With Double the Love, your donation will be matched and your kindness will go even further – meaning we can reach even more desperately hungry children with a life-changing school meal. There are many ways to get involved, see marysmeals.org.uk

Pope's Prayer Intention for the month is for **volunteer not-for-profit organisations.** *We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.*

CATHSOC Christmas Carols - all are welcome! CATHSOC will be using St Edmund's Church to host a carol service with hymns, carols, some short prayers and readings. It would be lovely to have some of our parishioners come along to support them. **10th December 4.30-5.30pm.**

Journey in Faith / RCIA Course For anyone looking to find out more about the Catholic Faith - come along and ask your questions, find out what the church teaches and what it means to live as a Catholic. This group also offers preparation for adult (18+) Baptism, Confirmation or Reception as a Catholic. Meetings are **Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm in St Edmund's Hall.** Just turn up!

Food Banks Please consider donating to Southampton City Mission Food Bank if you are able to. You can do this by making use of the collection baskets in supermarkets when you go shopping, or by bringing items with you to church to place in the boxes in the porches.

To check on the current out of stock items please see:

<https://southamptoncitymission.co.uk/get-involved/how-to-donate>

Most needed currently are:

Jams & Spreads, Sugar (Small Bags), **Tinned Cold Meat** (Ham, Spam, etc.), **Tinned Hot Meat** (Curry, Pies, Stew, etc.), Male & Female **Deodorant, Toilet Rolls, Shampoo, Soap & Shower Gel, Sanitary Products, Treats** (Chocolate, Crisps, etc.), **UHT Milk, Coffee** (Small Jars), **Cook-In Sauces** (Jars & Packets), **Custard, Hot Chocolate, Tinned Carrots, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Macaroni Cheese, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Tomatoes, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Tinned Sweetcorn, Tinned Fish, Vegetarian, Vegan**



Today! Parish Christmas 'Warm Up' Event after each of the Masses at St Ed's. Do come along for an opportunity to see one another, enjoy some cakes and purchase Christmas gifts. We will have a bottle tombola, children's lucky dip and much more. Starting after the 9am in St Edmund's Hall, and continuing on all day until after the 7pm Mass. All proceeds will go towards our church maintenance, focusing on the cost of St Edmund's boilers and the roof issues at St Joseph's. Thanks to all those who have donated, and to those bringing cakes :)

United Reform Church & Roman Catholic Joint Advent Service at 3pm today in Avenue St Andrews. Do join as we reflect on Advent 'with a difference' refreshments will be part of the Service. Come along and join with our Christian Sisters & Brothers. Bring food to share!

Thank you for your patience this week with the Parish Office while I have been out sick. I received a large volume of emails, so please be assured that I will get back to you all as soon as I can! Anna :)

Catholic Home Care Gifts. While you're out shopping may we ask you to think of their elderly clients who are often lonely & without friends or family around them, so to receive a special gift means so much to them. Please consider picking up a small item or two for us to give on your behalf. Gifts can be toiletries, chocolates, biscuits, socks, scarves etc. They should be new and unwrapped so that individual health & dietary requirements can be considered when our carers select gifts for their clients. If you would like to give a financial contribution towards the gifts then please do so, and our team will use the money to purchase gifts on your behalf.

Baskets will be available in each porch on the weekends of 4th and 11th December. These gifts make a big difference, and for some of our clients they might be the only gift they receive. Thank you for your kindness!

Green Living Update...

It would be great if everyone looked ahead to their choice of **Christmas Cards and Gift Wrap.** There is an increasingly good choice of recyclable items in both categories. The simpler the look the better. Shiny paper, glazed paper, cards with glitter or plastic embellishment and also Sellotape or equivalent are not able to be recycled. The Hampshire Refillery and Lemon and Jinja both stock recyclable wrapping paper and sticky tape or coloured string. But you can get all this in a number of shops these days usually clearly labelled as recyclable. We have probably all noticed that Christmas cards which reflect the true meaning of Christmas can be harder to find but hopefully we will all search out those!

Please also **save your stamps** for the leprosy mission and Alzheimer's Society (buckets as ever at the back of both churches.) **It is important to cut them from the envelope with a decent margin of paper to ensure perforations are undamaged.** Torn stamps are valueless.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER

SJ REFERS TO ST JOSEPH'S (BUGLE STREET, SO14 2AH) & SE IS ST EDMUND'S (THE AVENUE, SO17 1XJ)

Saturday 3rd December	6:15pm SJ	Sean, Kathleen and Stewart Adamson RIP
<i>St Francis Xavier</i>	7:00pm SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 4th December	9:00am SE	Etheldreda Conway RIP
<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	10:00am SJ	PJ Phelan RIP 12 yr Anniversary
	11.00am SE	Margaret (Peggy) Walsh RIP 80th B'Day
	7:00pm SE	Romeo & Jean Zanellotti RIP
Tuesday 6th December	10:00am SE	Chevalier M B Dissanayake RIP &
<i>St Nicholas</i>		Christmas & New Year Blessings to all
Wednesday 7th Dec	7.00pm SE	For the Healing of the Heart of the World,
<i>St Ambrose</i>		Divine Help, for Faith, Hope & Love
Thursday 8th December	12.15pm SJ	Tina Quinn B'Day Blessings
<i>Immaculate Conception</i>		
Friday 9th December	7.00pm SE	Anna Ayles RIP B'Day Ann.
Saturday 10th December	11:00am SE	For the Repose of the souls who died in
<i>Our Lady of Loreto</i>	6:15pm SJ	Donegal's explosion
	7:00pm SE	People of the Parish
		Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 11th December	9:00am SE	Christopher Wong RIP
<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	10:00am SJ	Thanksgiving for all Answered Prayers
<i>'Gaudete'</i>	11.00am SE	Deceased Members of the Curtis Hayward
	7:00pm SE	Family
		Shaun Murphy RIP

4th December

Psalm Response:

In His days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord, make His paths straight. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Readings 11th December

First Reading:

Isaiah 35: 1-6.10

Second Reading:

James 5: 7-10

Gospel:

Matthew 11: 2-11

27th Nov

2nd Collection

for **Catholic Home Care**

SO: £37.50

Cash: £250.92

TOTAL: £288.42

Thank you.

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Monsignor Canon Vincent Harvey

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Assistant Priest: Father Johnpromise Umeozuru

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Presbytery Address: 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton, SO15 2EQ.

Deacon: Deacon Andy Philpott aphilpott@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Miss Anna Smyllie 023 8033 3589

Parish Office Address: St Edmund's Lodge, The Avenue, SO17 1XJ

Parish Email: office@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org

Parish Website: www.southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org

Our Instagram: [SouthamptonCityCentreCatholics](https://www.instagram.com/SouthamptonCityCentreCatholics)

Our Facebook: [@SotonCatholicsCityCentre](https://www.facebook.com/SotonCatholicsCityCentre)

Our Twitter: [@SotonCatholics](https://twitter.com/SotonCatholics)

Safeguarding: safeguarding@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org

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Vocations: www.portsmouthvocations.org/

Diocesan Website: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Diocesan Facebook & Twitter: [@PortsmouthRC](https://www.facebook.com/PortsmouthRC)

Email: communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

27th Nov 1st Collection

SO: £404.66 Cash: £793.75 TOTAL: £1,198.41

Thank you.



Thank you to Sr Maisy for this lovely image!

Confessions are at **St Joseph's** on Thursdays at 11.45am & Saturdays 5.45pm and at **St Edmund's** on Saturdays after the 11am Mass

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

We the people of St Joseph's and St Edmund's City Centre Catholic Parish, Southampton, sisters and brothers in Christ, accept as our mission, in the service of God and as a community of disciples:

- to share God's love with all those we meet

- to welcome all so as to help others find and recognise Christ in their lives

- to exercise mercy and

understanding with ourselves and others.



Join the Parish!