



ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S

City Centre Catholic Parish Southampton

How two halfpennies can make more than a penny



Beyond their situation as widows we know little if at all about the two widows in this Sunday's readings. Not much he writes, beyond them both giving literally their all to others and thereby God. The widow in Sidon was on the verge of accepting her death and the death of her son because of malnutrition. Not apparent in our translation, Mark writes in his original Greek, that the widow in the temple gives 'once and for all', she too is on the very verge of death yet still gives to God.

Some might consider their giving, - laying their lives on the line with gifts which could be measured as paltry in comparison to their impact, - as consummate irrationality, giving to the point of self sacrifice. To those who are mindful of the Easter Triduum, the two widows are Christ-like, they have become icons of Christ, a living image of their Saviour.

It is not always easy to give as Christ might give. It is hard to learn that we and our gifts are not in competition. The importance of gifts needs to be recognised in order to grow, because they are often the fruit of the work of others as well as of ourselves.

Gifts like virtues need to be practised, need to be perfected as a relationship and dialogue with friends, spouses, strangers, and yes even enemies. And first and foremost, we have to accept the gifts that we've been given as gifts to all.

As Christians, we do not just emulate, or play the role of, the widows in this story, we also play the role of priests. We are washed not in the water located in the Temple's Court of Priests, but in the blood of the Christ. Each one of us is a priest of the heavenly temple, and are called to be a sign of God's mercy, called to give hope and give consolation. To give meaning and value to those who seek the presence of God.

Question to ponder for the Week...

Dcn Andy Philpott

1. "...she has put in put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on" Jesus says in the Gospel. When have you 'given' all you had? Time? Skill? Experience? Advice? Money? Compassion?
2. Although the widow was expecting to die (1st reading), Elijah told her "*not to be afraid*". That trust 'saved' her and her son. When have you put your trust in God, others, the future and found all was well? Ponder these occasions and thank God.
3. Christ, the author of the 'Letter to the Hebrews' says (2nd reading) that "*Christ offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself...*" Do you believe that? Have you 'left' your faults with Christ? He has done the 'job', trust him!

Vincent Harvey

Today's Notices

BAMENDA SUNDAY when we pray for our Sister Diocese of Bamenda in Cameroon.

Pastoral Letter from the Bishop on Climate Change

Bamenda announcement AND collection for the work of the Church in Bamenda.

First Holy Communion Registration at 9am, 10am and 11am Masses (see elsewhere).

Please continue to sanitise hands on entry to the churches and we strongly recommend **wearing face masks** (unless not possible for health reasons).

Evening Prayer @6pm.... to join email Dcn Andy

See elsewhere about the **distribution of Holy Communion**.

Masses are being streamed as usual on our YouTube.

Ongoing income is, as we know, vital. This can be done online, via BACS, cash/cheques to the Parish office.

A Few Words...

Thank you for the positive comments on the short front piece last week on the Synodal Approach. After considering responses from around the world the Vatican has extended the consultation period until 15th August next year!! That takes the pressure off us in organising a response to the questions raised. So the SLT and EST, and listening to other parishes and the diocese, will work out a way in which we can fully participate in the 'Synodal Way'. Remember the Synodal Way is not simply a consultation exercise it is about how we can listen to each other as Church! More later!

Please note the timings of Masses over Christmas elsewhere in the newsletter. Also the introduction of a Crib Service (if we can put together volunteers): this will be for the families only as we cannot risk an overfull church!! This will not be a Mass.

We are still looking for people to be involved with 'welcoming' at Mass and also 'Mass coordinators' (to set up the altar for Mass); also Children's Liturgy of the Word (during the 9am Mass) and refreshments after the 9am and 10am (the latter has already recommenced).

*Have a good weekend and **thank you for reading this.....***
Vincent H

This Week...

Week Information

Tues Mass for Deceased Clergy in the Cathedral:
VH/JP

SLT: VH/TQ/AP

Meditation Group 6pm @ St Michael's

Alpha @ 7pm Zoom

Wed Evening Prayer @ 6pm.... to join email Dcn Andy
Journey in Faith after 7pm Mass

Wed Team Meeting: VH/JP/AP

Thurs Springhill Chaplaincy: VH/JP/AP
Police IAG meeting: VH

Fri Unity 101: VH

Laudato Si: VH

Sacraments

Baptisms: A huge Congratulations to Laura Siwon and

Eileen Thomas who will be baptised today. Our whole

Parish extends a warm welcome to you all and prays for you on your faith journey.

First Holy Communion 2022 During November we will be

inviting registration for First Holy Communion preparation.

Children must be 8-9 years old (e.g.: Year 4 at school) or

above. They should be parishioners who come to Mass at

St Joseph's or St Edmund's (6.15pm, 9, 10, 11am or 7pm).

Registration will take place after the 9am, 10am and 11am

on Sundays the 7th, 14th, 21st or 28th November. You

must register in person.

If you have already approached the Parish Office you must

still come to one of these registration mornings. These

days/times are the official registration. **Please note that**

there is a thirty-five pound fee for this course so please

bring correct change when you come.

Distribution of Holy Communion at Mass

We are gradually adjusting to life with Covid. The preferred

and safest means of distributing Holy Communion

continues to be on the hand. Reception of Holy

Communion 'on the tongue' will now resume for those

who, understandably, prefer this way of receiving.

We ask that those seeking to receive Holy Communion on

the tongue come forward when the rest of the

congregation has received. There is no offence intended

by this distinction but a respect of the health of the

minister and of the rest of the congregation. We would

remind all Mass attenders of the health risks from cross

contamination. This possibility is heightened when more

than one person receives on the tongue!

What's going on?

Alpha has started! If you have already attended then why not invite someone else? Everyone is welcome.

It's not too late to sign up, contact the parish office or register on alpha.org.



Make me a Channel of Your Peace: Reflections on Peace by the Conchord Singers 3 – 4 pm Saturday November 13th 2021 Christ Church, Freemantle Waterloo Road, Southampton, SO15 3BS.

<http://www.conchordsingers.co.uk/>

Entry free but there will be a collection in aid of the Peace Pledge Union.

CHRISTMAS 2022

This Christmas we are planning the following Masses:

Christmas Eve/Day:

St Joseph's 8pm Christmas Eve
10am Christmas Day

St Edmund's 10.30pm Christmas Eve
9am & 11am Christmas Day



Boxing Day (Sunday 26th): Feast of the Holy Family

St Edmund's 9 & 11am and 7pm

St Joseph's 10am

Children's Christmas Crib Service: Christmas Eve (Friday 24th) at 4pm in St Edmund's Church; a Service by and for children (not a Mass).....[this is providing we manage to get volunteers to plan and run the celebration].

Decoration of St Joseph's & St Edmund's: we would like children/families/individuals to create tree and other decorations from natural products (to reduce our reliance on plastic and the like). Things like: Fir cones/sprayed gold or silver/with a ribbon to tie onto the tree in the churches. And any other ideas!!

Christmas Stars will be available during Advent for £1 for Catholic Home Care: put the name of a loved

Prayer Corner

*We pray for our Government, that their ability to support pregnant women would increase and that they would anchor themselves on the desire to protect all human life.
Lord hear us.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR Margaret Hicks, Joe and Maureen Lee, Marissa Tellegen, Zeljko Uvanovic, Margaret ('Molly') Jarvis and all in the Parish who are ill, undergoing treatment or are experiencing distress.

Deaths

Martin Ryan Please pray for Martin Ryan who died unexpectedly last Monday morning. May he rest in peace. Pray for Moira and the family during this difficult time. The date and time of his Requiem in St Edmund will be announced when finalised.

COP 26: Recycling Bins: at the back of both churches for: Blister packs, plastic milk bottle tops, coloured bottle tops, and stamps and postcards.

Lobby your MP. You will find a template letter on the website, with bullet points and suggestions of those to target. Please send a letter to your MP to raise their awareness. **CLIMATE CHANGE: ACT NOW**

Rotary Shoebox extends a thank you to all who donated shoeboxes at the recent appeal. A grand total of 65 boxes were donated which will go to assist

CATHSOC Students are raising money for a Defibrillator to be placed outside St Edmund's. Please support them if you can.



JINGLING BELLS 2021 POSTBOX in both churches ready for Christmas cards for NHS Staff. We will sing carols on **Sunday 12th December** at 1500h followed by tea in St Edmund's. Your cards will be delivered before Christmas.

HOME CARE CLIENTS' CHRISTMAS GIFTS It's that time of year again when we ask parishioners, while out shopping in the next two to three weeks, to please consider picking up a small gift or two for us to pass on to our elderly clients. The carers choose a gift to suit the individual; for some it's an extra treat, however we have some who have very little in their lives, for whom the gift needs to be practical – so no gift is too small. Many of the Christmas offerings now in the shops would be suitable – toiletries, chocolates, biscuits, socks, scarves etc. Gifts should be new and unwrapped so that individual health and dietary requirements can be considered when our Carers select for their clients. If you are unable to shop, or attend Mass, you may like to donate a monetary gift for us to buy on your behalf?

Baskets will be available in the porches weekends of 28 November and 5 & 12 December.

These gifts make a big difference - thank you!



Breakthrough workshop The Marriage and Family Life team would like to invite you to the next Breakthrough Workshop on Saturday 27th November 2021 at the Church of the Holy Family, Southampton.

To register or for further enquiries on group discounts please contact Aba Shields at marriagefamilylife@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Thursday Soup Lunch Returns. Volunteers wanted to make soup on an occasional basis for soup lunches in aid of CAFOD and Christian aid. These take place at Stella Maris on Thursday after the 12:15 Mass, once a month and every week in Lent. We are looking for a small team to take turns to make soup, or help with serving & washing up. Contact the Parish Office or Sue McCall if you are willing to be involved.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 7TH NOV

(CHURCH KEY TO CITY CENTRE CATHOLIC MASSES BELOW: SJ = ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, BUGLE STREET, SO14 2AH AND SE = ST EDMUND'S CHURCH, THE AVENUE, SO17 1XJ)

Prayer of the Church
Week 4

Saturday 6th Nov *Our Lady on Saturday*

6:15pm SJ Anson Vales - 1st Birthday God's Blessings & Thanksgiving

7:00pm SE Msza Polska / Mass in Polish

Sunday 7th Nov *32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

9:00am SE Peggy Freeland RIP

10:00am SJ John Foley

11:00am SE All those in security forces who died to leave us a safe tomorrow

7:00pm SE Nellie Baxter RIP

Tuesday 9th Nov *The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*

10:00am SE Christina Complin RIP

Wednesday 10th Nov *St Leo the Great*

7pm SE Agnus & Dolly McKinnon RIP

Thursday 11th Nov *St Martin of Tours*

12:15pm SJ Cristina Peregrino RIP / Innocentia B'day & Novena End

Friday 12th Nov *St Josaphat*

7:00pm SE Deceased Catenian Brothers RIP

Saturday 13th Nov *Our Lady on Saturday*

11:00am SE Jan Rojko RIP

6:15pm James O'Reilly RIP & Family

7:00pm SE Msza Polska / Mass in Polish

Sunday 14th Nov *33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

9:00am SE PJ Phelan RIP

10:00am SJ Joe Crofton RIP

11:00am SE Joseph Paes RIP

7:00pm SE Patrick Moran RIP 14th Anniversary

Process of Conversion

In a message to a conference on promoting child safeguarding, Pope Francis urged the people of God to continue in "the journey of personal and community conversion."

"It is a journey that we are called to undertake together as a Church, urged on by the pain and shame of not having always been good guardians, protecting the minors entrusted to us in our educational and social activities," the pope said in the message published on Nov. 4. The pope said that "the culture of death" leads to sexual abuse, the abuse of conscience, and the abuse of power.

Pope John Paul II popularized the phrase the "culture of death" in his 1995 encyclical *Evangelium vitae*, describing it as "a war of the powerful against the weak."

31st October Weekly Collection

Standing Orders: £1,700

Cash Donations: £476.51

Total: £2,176.51

Second Collections:

This week: **Bamenda Sunday**

No second collection ext week

CONTACT DETAILS:

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Father Benjamin Theobald btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Solent Chaplain: Isabelle Kirby ilkv10@soton.ac.uk

7th Nov 32nd Sunday in OT

Psalm Response:

My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Alleluia!

"Confession heals, confession justifies, confession grants pardon of sin, all hope consists in confession; in confession there is a chance for mercy."

- *St. Isidore of Seville.*

Confessions resume as usual next week 13th November at 11am

St Edmund's

Alternative Confessions Available

St Boniface Saturdays 11am

Immaculate Conception 10.30am Saturdays

St Patrick's Woolston Friday 6-6.40pm /

Saturday 5-5.40pm