



Donate



DECEMBER 11TH 2022 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 'GAUDETE'

ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S

City Centre Catholic Parish Southampton



Website

REJOICE, FOR TEN THOUSAND DIFFICULTIES DO NOT MAKE ONE DOUBT



In 2007, the New York publication company – Doubleday, published the book – **“Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light”**, which shocked the whole world. This book contains the private writings of Mother Teresa to her spiritual advisors over several years. What shocked the world regarding the book, was the revelation that Saint Teresa of Calcutta had been battling with **SPIRITUAL DARKNESS/SPIRITUAL ARIDITY/DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL** for **nearly 50 years**, from 1949/50 till her death in 1997. To make matters worse, even those closest to her did not notice she was suffering internally and spiritually. In one of the correspondences published in that book, Mother Teresa wrote: **“The pain within is so great... Please ask Our Lady to be my Mother in this darkness. The place of God in my soul is blank – There is no God in me. In the darkness... Lord, my God, who am I that You should forsake me? The darkness is so dark, and I am alone.”** Mother Teresa prayed for her spiritual darkness to be lifted; however, she accepted her cross, resigned herself to God’s will and stated: “The greater the pain and the darker the darkness, the sweeter will be my smile.”

In today’s Gospel Reading, we encounter the same ‘Spiritual Darkness’ in John the Baptist who sent his disciples to ask Christ one crucial question – “Are you the Expected One or are we to expect another?”. Although John the Baptist was the precursor of Christ and a close family relation of Jesus, he had his doubts on whether Christ was the REAL DEAL or not. Christ answered the question by asking John’s messengers to bring glad tidings (*Apagello*) back to him that the prophecies of Isaiah 61:1; 29:18 and 35:5 are being fulfilled in Him. These same glad tidings are echoed in today’s First Reading from Proto-Isaiah encouraging the Israelites to rejoice and exult in their present condition for God was coming to save them, heal their sick and restore their glory. My friends, on this Gaudete Sunday, with the example of John the Baptist, we are reminded that our closeness to God does not exonerate us from sufferings, pains, and doubts; however, amid the many turbulences of our lives, like Mother Teresa of Calcutta, we should always heed the words of St James in today’s Second Reading to be patient and never lose heart. As Christ stated today – Blessed are those who are not scandalised by His style of servant leadership.

Gaudete in Domino Semper – Rejoice in the Lord always!!!

Fr Johnpromise

Questions to Ponder for the Week...

1. Does God always come into your life the way you expect? John the Baptist (Gospel) might have expected a mighty one and was confused by the gentle, healing Jesus. Was he called to conversion? Can Advent be a time of conversion for us to recognise new or different ways Jesus comes into our lives?
2. Reflecting on Isaiah’s words (1st reading), who does God use to transform the world now? Is there anything you could do, small or large, in the areas of racial or ecological justice, or of ending the war in Ukraine?
3. St James (2nd reading) writes about patience: What are some qualities that patience brings with it? What does impatience bring? St James warns his community about complaining about one another. Is this a fault peculiar to James’ community? How does it relate to patience?

Vincent Harvey (adapted from Anne Osdieck)

Today's Notices

Third Sunday of Advent

Baptisms in St Joseph's & St Edmund's

Second Collection for Parish Christmas Flowers

Vocation Reflection "I send my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way before you." Are you called to be sent by Jesus as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? To explore further: contact Canon John Cooke: 01329 318 869 or vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

Next Sunday Notices

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pastoral Letter from Bishop Philip

Vocation reflection "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord directed him." Are you prayerfully vigilant about discovering your vocation in Christ? Might He be inviting you to the priesthood or consecrated life? To explore further, contact Canon John Cooke

This Week...

Tues St Michael's Meditation Group @ 6pm

Springhill Carol Concert in St Edmund's @ 6pm

Alpha on Zoom @ 7pm

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

Journey in Faith @ 7.30pm in St Ed's Hall

Thurs EST 'Christmas gathering' @ 7pm

Fri Young Adults Group meet after 7pm Mass for 'social'

Sat Children meet to 'rehearse' Crib Service @ 4pm St Ed's

For Info...

Mon VH/JP Day Off

Tues SLT meeting VH/TQ/JP/AP/LS

Wed Team meeting: VH/JP/AP

Fri: Meeting with Bishop: VH
Clergy Ministry Group: VH

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 welcome.



On Thursday, we celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Like the Blessed Virgin Mary, God has lovingly and specially prepared a mission for each of us. Let us pray that all unborn children would be welcomed and cherished so that they, too, may set out to fulfil the mission the Lord has planned for them. **Lord hear us**

ADoRE Online Christmas Worship Sat 17th December

11am-12pm "O come, let us ADoRE Him." In a 1 hour programme of seasonal Scripture readings, prayers, carols and other worship songs, we remind ourselves that GOD IS WITH US to support us in every aspect of our lives. Go to bit.ly/ADOREDEC2022 and using the passcode 171602.

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.

A Few Words...

Thank you, thank you:

- To Anna and all involved with the **Christmas Fayre**; also all who visited and supported it. It was a great success and was lovely to be able to meet so many from around the Parish. We raised over £1,500!
- To all who have returned the 'response form' for **You will be my Witnesses**. Not as many as I would have liked, but to those who did, or tried to, thank you.
- Thank you to Julie Jack** for continuing to make cards and donate the sales to the Parish. This month £100 for the 'Poor Box'! Thanks everyone.

As already mentioned we 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: Advent Week 3: Joy: <https://youtu.be/gfKsh2TMXFQ>
Have a look!

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.

On the 30th November the '**Interfaith Covenant**' with the City Council was renewed and signed. See: <https://www.southampton-faiths.org/scof-signs-covenant>

Children.....do come and get involved with the **Christmas Eve Crib Service**: come to the practice this Saturday, 17th (see elsewhere).

Have a good week... Vincent H

Sacraments

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



Please pray for Mary Christina Firth whose funeral takes place at St Joseph's on Wednesday 14th at 11am. May she rest in peace. Pray also for her family.

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.

Pray also for Roslyn Weston whose funeral will be on the 22nd December. Remember also her husband, Lee, and their small child, George. May Roslyn rest in peace.

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. Please direct all FHC queries to fhc@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org

Christmas Timetable

Monday 19th Dec

7.30pm **Penitential Service** in St Ed's

Christmas Eve (Sat 24th Dec):

St Joseph's: 8pm Mass.

St Ed's: 4pm Crib Service led by the children and
10.30pm 'Midnight' Mass

Christmas Day (25th):

St Ed's: 9 & 11am. St Jo's: 10am

Boxing Day (St Stephen's Day) Monday 26th Dec:

St Ed's at 11am Mass (together with our Altar Servers)

What's going on?

Perhaps you could consider a gift from **Cafod World Gifts** this Christmas. There is a range of affordable gifts which help the environment as well as the people concerned.

For instance, £4 Buys A Happy Queen Bee pack; £5 buys a Vegetable Garden Pack or an Emergency Water Pack and £8 buys a Trees For Life Pack. Of course, there is a range of other Green Living gifts for those who can afford it. Check out the website: worldgifts.cafod.org.uk

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.*

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>

What's going on?

A huge thank you to all who helped, organised, donated and bought at the Parish Christmas Fayre! It was lovely to see so many people from each of our Masses - a great opportunity to connect while supporting the Parish. This event **raised over £1,500 which goes towards our boiler and roof repairs at both churches**. We will definitely host another, hopefully with just as much success, next year.

Children's Crib Service Saturday 24th December 2022 @ 4pm St Edmund's: We would like to invite all Primary School children AND younger to join us in taking part in the play. There will be a **rehearsal on Saturday 17th December 2022 @ 4pm in St Ed's**.

We need shepherds, angels, kings, inn keepers, sheep and a Mary and Joseph. If you would like to support us please just turn up on Saturday 17th Dec @ 4pm!

Catholic Home Care Gifts. While you're out shopping please consider picking up a small item or two for their clients if you can. Gifts can be toiletries, chocolates, biscuits, socks, scarves etc. **Baskets will be available this weekend the 11th December.** These gifts make a big difference, so thank you for your kindness!

Sadly, due to matters beyond my control, **JINGLING BELLS** will not take place this year. Many thanks to you all for your generous support in previous years. Happy Christmas, Jenepher

Thursday 15th Soup Lunch in St Joseph's after 12.15pm Mass in aid of CAFOD & Christian Aid. Do come along!

The Universe Catholic Weekly is true to its mission of being "a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it". Keeping Catholics informed about their faith, and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription. Order your Digital 4 weeks FREE introductory offer by calling Michelle on **0743 661 7650** or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

Green Living Update...

Hopefully many of you will have watched **The Letter**, the film which was mentioned in the newsletter and at Masses recently and which some of us were able to share with the congregation of Avenue St Andrews. Further to that consider having a look at the Laudato Si' Goals mini film. The film is very short (it lasts about 30 seconds!!) and very accessible but the goals go by so quickly that watching two or three times is a good idea or even, as I did, pausing it on each section. These goals help guide actions in relationship with each other and Our Common Home. They offer a response to the Cry of the Earth and a response to the Cry of the Poor in a variety of ways including through Sustainable Lifestyles, and with a closer look at aspects of ecology.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER

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

Saturday 10th Dec	6:15pm SJ	People of the Parish
<i>Our Lady of Loreto</i>	7:00pm SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 11th Dec	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	For Deceased Members of the Curtis Hayward Family
	7:00pm SE	Shaun Murphy RIP
Tuesday 13th Dec	10:00am SE	Jan Rojko RIP
<i>St Lucy</i>		
Wednesday 14th Dec	7.00pm SE	For the Conversion of Putin
<i>St John of the Cross</i>		
Thursday 15th Dec	12.15pm SJ	Terry Clarke RIP
Friday 16th Dec		
<i>3rd Week of Advent</i>	7.00pm SE	Dorothy and Bob Fletcher RIP
Saturday 17th Dec	11:00am SE	Special Intentions
<i>'O Wisdom'</i>	6:15pm SJ	Sister Maria Innocenta God's Protection & Wellbeing
	7:00pm SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 18th Dec	9:00am SE	Pat Flannghan RIP
<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	10:00am SJ	Amy Pearl Robinson RIP
<i>'O Adonai'</i>	11.00am SE	Michael Hogan and Joan Hall RIP
	7:00pm SE	Paddy Hannigan RIP

11th December**Psalm Response:**

Come, Lord, and save us.

Gospel Acclamation:*Alleluia, alleluia!*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

*Alleluia!***Readings 18th December****First Reading:** Isaiah 7: 10-14**Second Reading:** Romans 1: 1-7**Gospel:** Matthew 1: 18-24

"Mary sustains our journey toward Christmas, for she teaches us how to live this Advent Season in expectation of the Lord. For this time of Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will visit us all on the feast, but also, each one, in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for Him!"

-Pope Francis, Angelus,

8 December 2013

CONTACT DETAILS**Parish Priest:** Monsignor Canon Vincent HarveyEmail Address: vharvey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk 023 8033 4891**Assistant Priest:** Father Johnpromise UmeozuruEmail Address: jumeozuru@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk 02380 172 104**Presbytery Address:** 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton, SO15 2EQ**Deacon:** Deacon Andy Philpott aphilpott@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk**Parish Secretary:** Miss Anna Smyllie 023 8033 3589

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*Sing praises, all you peoples, Sing praises to the Lord***Offertory:** Wait for the Lord, His day is near.

Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart.

Communion: Stay With Me, Remain here with Me, Watch and pray.**Recessional:** Jubilate Deo, omnis terra, servite

Domino in laetitia. Alleluia, alleluia, in laetitia.

*Sing joyfully to God, all the earth, serve the**Lord with gladness. Alleluia, alleluia with**gladness***4th Dec 1st Collection**

SO: £3,826.06 Cash: £942.55 TOTAL: £4,768.61

Thank you.

Confessions are at **St Joseph's** on Thursdays at11.45am & 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!