



Donate



FEBRUARY 12TH 2023 | 6TH SUNDAY IN OT

ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S

City Centre Catholic Parish Southampton



Website



A deeper and higher commitment together

Two weeks ago, our gospel reading presented us with the Beatitudes as a model for Christian Living. We were reminded that we are required to go to a higher level than simply obeying the Ten commandments (which is a challenge in itself). We are expected to show mercy to those who struggle with the demands of life and keeping the law, to remain pure in heart even if those around us blaspheme and dishonour us, to pursue justice in all circumstances and to weep with those who weep. Our current social and economic climate makes these principles even more challenging and urgent when we are surrounded by dishonesty, infighting and violence. Last Sunday in our readings Jesus challenged us to be that salt and light.

In our gospel reading today Jesus confronts not only the scribes and the Pharisees but each one of us. We might think that we sign up to the law of the land and the commandments of God, but we need to ask ourselves whether our whole life and attitude reflect these principles at a deeper level. It is not enough to say that we do not physically end a life or jeopardise a marriage; Jesus questions us as to what is in our mind and heart. To consider ending a life or destroying a marriage is as great a sin as in doing the act itself. But Jesus in His teaching is very clear. The Spirit scrutinises everything and sees into the depths of our hearts.

Our present culture and society has opened the door to legalised assisted suicide, abortion on demand and no-fault divorces. There is a constant bending of the rules and rejection of the truth. We can find ourselves drawn deeper and deeper into complacency and mediocracy. The Psalmist reminds us that 'those who follow God's law and who live a life that is blameless will be happy in the Lord'.

This is not something that we can uphold and strive for on our own and the writer of Ecclesiasticus reminds us that God gives those who belong to Him Wisdom and the ability to live a blameless life and follow God's law. Following the letter of the law takes courage and strength, but to exceed the righteousness mandated in the law takes us to a higher and deeper level.

The Church provides us with a community of like-minded people to support us and journey with us. This weekend we are promoting parish cell groups and encouraging everyone to consider joining such a group. These groups have three essential elements: prayer, pastoral support and spiritual growth. It is these foundations that will enable us to meet and share with fellow Christians who will be facing similar challenges to ourselves as we all strive 'to do His will seeking Him with all our hearts'

Tina Quinn

Questions to Ponder for the Week...

1. "If your virtue goes no deeper than....." Jesus says in the Gospel. How do you judge your 'virtue'? Deep? Shallow? God orientated?
2. "To behave faithfully is within your power" Ecclesiasticus says (1st reading). How do you judge your fidelity to.....?
3. The 'wisdom' we have, St Paul writes (2nd reading) ultimately comes from God! How do you 'grasp' the things of God? How does that affect your living?

Vincent Harvey

Today's Notices

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Promotion of 'Cell Groups' by Fathers Vincent & Johnpromise

Vocation Intention: *For all married couples: that they may continue to give, be able to forgive, and find happiness deepen with the passing of each day. We pray to the Lord.*

Baptism in St Edmund's

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

Next Sunday Notices

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Blessing of pre-marriage couples at the 7pm Mass

Second Collection for Catholic Home Care

This Week...

Tues St Michael's Meditation Group @ 6pm

Pre-Marriage Course on Zoom

Parish Finance Meeting in the Presbytery

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

Journey in Faith @ 7.30pm St Edmund's Hall

Thurs EST meeting in the Presbytery

Sat Confirmation Group meet in Ashurst

For Info...

Mon Day off: JP / VH

Tues Study Day on New Lectionary: VH

Wed Team Meeting: VH/JP/AP

Thurs Cathedral Chapter: VH

Fri Teams of Our Lady: VH

Clergy Ministry Group: VH

Sat Confirmation: JP/VH (after Confessions!)

Sacraments

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



Pray for Kimberley Slater who died recently, remembering also her parents & family in your prayers. Her funeral will be in St Joseph's on the 24th February.

Pray for Maureen Zamojska who died recently, remembering her family in your prayers also. Her funeral will be in St Edmund's on the 28th February.

Pray for Simon Parry who died suddenly last weekend. Remember also in your prayers his mother Jenepher Parry Davies and his partner Sue at this time.

Please remember in your prayers Fanny Shek whose one year anniversary falls on the 14th February. We shall pray for Fanny at Mass this Wednesday. Please keep in your prayers her husband Rami and family.



Baptism

Please pray for Ariella who will be baptised this weekend. We remember her in our prayers as she enters the Faith, and also remember her parents and godparents as they undertake the promises involved in baptism.

This will be the last baptism in the Parish before Easter, as we enter Lent in a few weeks. The ancient model of Lent is a desert period of dryness and preparation, where we avoid sacraments like baptism to allow us to reflect on the privilege it is to have the sacraments throughout the rest of the year.

A Few Words...

Wishing all our children, their families and our school staff, a happy and relaxed half-term. With prayers for a good week.

Today Father Johnpromise and I will talk about **Cell Groups in the Parish:** their importance for Parish Life and personal faith development. For Lent we will have the **Stations of the Cross** (led by groups); a **'Lectio Divina'** group; a **'Plenty' group** (about the environment from a spiritual perspective) and a CaFE course **'Belong & Believe'** (see the website or today's handout). Watch this space and see elsewhere for Lent!

What tragic news of the **earthquakes in Turkey & Syria:** as I write the death-toll is rising fast, despite the efforts of the rescue workers from Turkey, Syria and abroad. We pray for the dead; pray for the survivors; pray for those who have lost loved ones; pray for all who have worked hard, and continue to work hard, to do what they can amidst the destruction. CAFOD are, together with other agencies, working in the area and donations can be made to CAFOD via <http://cafod.org.uk/> Please see if you can donate (see elsewhere in this newsletter for more detail).

Bring in your palms from last year so that we can burn them on Shrove Tuesday for ashes to be used on Ash Wednesday (22nd February).

You will notice the **Contactless Machine** has been removed from St Joseph's. We are having some issues with the connection, hopefully we shall have a new machine in a few weeks.

Thank you to all who have been completing/updating Standing Orders and Gift Aid for the Parish. If you have not done so yet may I encourage you to do so!

Have a good week... Vincent H

Prayers

Adoration We are in need of more parishioners to cover the following days and times: **Mondays 3-6pm, Tuesdays 1-3pm, Wednesdays 2-6pm & Fri 12-2pm.**

Please contact Anna on **07956 379 542** if you feel able to join Adoration during the week in St Edmund's!



The Pope's Prayer Intentions:

February - For parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Please remember especially in your prayers Michaela, Sr Maria Innocenta, Mary Mullen, Christopher Browne, Peter Scott, Vasile, Sue and all in the Parish who are ill, dying, undergoing treatment or experiencing distress.

What's going on?

How is CAFOD responding to the Earthquakes in Turkey-Syria? CAFOD's local experts are already on the ground and assessing the needs of those affected by the earthquake. CAFOD has committed £100,000 to support our local experts on the ground providing urgent humanitarian support to survivors of the earthquake.

Before the earthquake, CAFOD was already working with local experts providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable families across Syria that have been affected by the 12 year long conflict.

For Syrians, this is yet another devastating crisis they need to face. Even before the earthquake, the situation in the region was already bad with 80% of people living in poverty. The results of the conflict are still felt today with a collapsing economy and millions who have been forced to leave their homes.

The people of Syria and neighbouring countries continue to need your donations and prayers: <http://cafod.org.uk/>

If you're looking for a focus for Lent, the Dominican Sisters are running 6 online sessions explaining the sacrament of **Reconciliation** to adults through scripture and art, which will also serve as a **Lenten retreat**, every Tuesday evening during Lent. The details are here: <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/event-details/reconciliation-anchoring-you-in-happiness-2023-02-28-19-30>

Poetry Share. We are hoping to restart Poetry Share in March 2023, and if you are interested in this group we would be delighted to hear from you.

To find out more about the Poetry Share group, and register an interest in joining us, please email Kate Greaves at poetryshare@btinternet.com

Lenten Lectio Divina Course "Turn to the Lord with all your heart" Starting on Wednesday the 1st of March this 5 week Lenten course aims to introduce participants to prayer with the scriptures. Each session will last around an hour and include a short input, some helpful background information and tips, and a time of prayer. We would love for you to join us. The meetings will be in the parish hall of the Immaculate Conception Church each Wednesday at 7pm. The address is 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB and free, unlimited roadside parking is available in the road behind the hall. This is wonderful opportunity to come and pray with another Parish in our Pastoral area. For more info please contact Issy & Dom from the Verbum Dei community on verbumdei.soton@gmail.com

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.

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



Lent 2023

Lent Day by Day Prayer Booklets: £1

Children's Lenten Activity Calendars: 50p

Ash Wednesday 22nd February Masses

6.30am & 7.30pm in St Edmund's

12.15pm in St Joseph's

Stations of the Cross

St Edmund's: 6.10pm on Fridays and Sundays

St Joseph's: 11.30am on Thursdays

Family Fast Day Friday 3rd March

CAFOD appeal on 25th/26th February

! Bring in last year's palms by 19th !

Green Living Update...

A course for Lent. Plenty (Joy in Enough) is a six week small group discussion resource for churches equipping Christians to understand more about the economic drivers of the current ecological crisis such as climate change and biodiversity loss. It looks at why we are facing these crises and what we can do about it. Plenty is a Christian initiative which works through churches to advocate for a fair and green economy.

We will be running this course jointly with ASA on zoom on Monday evenings during Lent commencing on Monday 27th February.

If you would like to find out more please email Tina tquinn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or to sign up or register your interest please fill in this form

<https://forms.office.com/e/SVdrGYngng>

'Reducing the causes of climate change is essential to the life of faith' - Archbishop Justin Welby

Donating to the Parish

Bank Account Name CDP SOUJE

Number 00888223

Sort Code 30-93-04



1) Standing Orders are reliable predictable income which helps the parish to budget. You can easily set up a standing order with your bank: online, by telephone, by post or by visiting a local branch.

2) Bank Transfers are equally easy as long as the bank account reference is clearly in your name.

3) Cash in the Collection during Mass. The Parish then counts this money whereas via bank transfer the money is paid directly to the account and easier for us to process.

4) Cheques (made payable to CDP SOUJE) put in the collection or sent to the Parish Office.

5) Contactless Machines at the back of each church.

6) Online via the link on the website or the QR code on the front page of the Newsletter.

Gift aid can be claimed on all of the above where appropriate, which brings an additional 25% to the donations!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

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

Saturday 11th Feb	6:15pm	SJ	Thanksgiving
<i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>			
Sunday 12th Feb	9:00am	SE	Tony Patterson & John Freeman RIP & Ellen & George Patterson RIP & Bernadette Kerr RIP
<i>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>			
	10:00am	SJ	Sarah Kennedy-Donnelly RIP
	11.00am	SE	People of the Parish
	7:00pm	SE	Birthday Blessings Leegy
Tuesday 14th Feb	10:00am	SE	All deceased members of Spaminato family
<i>St Cyril & St Methodius</i>			
Wednesday 15th Feb	7.00pm	SE	Maria Popiela RIP Anniversary
Thursday 16th Feb	12.15pm	SJ	Mrs Mary C Hubbard's Intentions
Friday 17th Feb	7.00pm	SE	Barbara Waas RIP Birthday Anniversary
Saturday 18th Feb	11.00am	SE	Mark George RIP
<i>Our Lady on Saturday</i>	6:15pm	SJ	Birthday Blessings for Olive Cook People of the Parish
Sunday 19th Feb	9:00am	SE	Erlinda Cruz Flores RIP
<i>7th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	10:00am	SJ	Anushka & Francis' family, siblings & friends, Prayers & Blessings
	11.00am	SE	Thanksgiving
	7:00pm	SE	

12th February

Psalm Response:

They are happy who follow God's law!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening: You have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

29th Jan 1st Collection

SO: £2,377.25 Cash: £1008.74

Contactless: £61

Gift Aid: £480.06

TOTAL: £3,927.05

Thank you.

19th February

1st Reading:

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

Psalm: 102

2nd Reading:

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Gospel:

Matthew 5:38-48

CONTACT DETAILS

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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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Father Benjamin Theobald btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Solent Chaplain:

Sr Issy Kirby volunteer239@solent.ac.uk 07414 462636

Vocations: www.portsmouthvocations.org/

Diocesan Website: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

We are part of Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth,

Registered Charity Number 1199568.

Prayer Diary for Church Action on Climate & Sustainable Living

"Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40

Thanksgiving for:

- Eco Church Bronze Award granted to ASA, and action plan for 2023, 'Going for Silver', agreed.
- Our support for those in parts of the world most impacted by climate change via CAFOD & Christian Aid.

Needing Prayer Support:

- Our joint Lent course: Plenty! starting Feb 27th,
- Communion collection this month at ASA for A Rocha, Christian environmental charity & Eco Church organiser
- CCP working on Eco Church survey and hoping to apply for Bronze before Easter, also looking at Live Simply.
- ASA moving forward on implementing action plan.

The Wider Scene: Show the Love this February

<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love>
For dates and times see each church's notices, and for content see <https://joyinenough.org/resources/plenty/>

Confessions

St Joseph's on Thursdays at 11.45am & Saturdays 5.45pm

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!