



DECEMBER 12TH 2021 | THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S

City Centre Catholic Parish Southampton



BEING JOYFUL ON JOYFUL SUNDAY



The 5th of December 2020 was the first time I officiated at a wedding both as the Church's minister and the legal representative of the States of Jersey. By the time I left Jersey on the 1st of September 2021, I had officiated at a total of 10 weddings. Of all the wonderful memories I have of those ten weddings, one of them stands out – All the couples chose the hymn **“Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising”**, as their offertory hymn. Each time I asked them the reason behind that choice, they all recalled how they sang it with gusto while in primary and secondary schools and how they would like to go back to those good old days, when they were so joyful that nothing and nobody could take away their joy. Today being Gaudete Sunday, the Church calls on all of us to rediscover what gives us joy and to embrace it. The one person who gives us profound joy that is not fleeting but durable is Jesus Christ whose advent we observe with eager longing. When He, who is the Holy One of Israel comes, He will repeal our sentences, drive away our enemies and vanish our fears as we read in this Sunday's First Reading. When our joy and happiness are threatened and we are filled with worries, we only need to call on God in prayer and thanksgiving and He will restore our peace as we read in today's Second Reading. However, for this joy to be a constant feature in our lives, we ought to heed the advice given in today's Gospel by John the Baptist to the three different categories of people who approached him – We need to Give Generously to the poor, Work Honestly for our employers and Act Integrally with all. When we have done the above, these words of Robert Louis Stevenson will become manifest in our lives: “...Find out where joy resides and give it a voice far beyond singing. For to miss the joy is to miss all.” **Gaudete in Domino semper; iterum dico, Gaudete! Keep Being Joyful!!!**

Father Johnpromise

Questions to ponder for the Week...



1. What kind of people went to hear John the Baptist and then repented? Would you show up to hear someone like John today? What would you want to see and hear? What are today's prophets talking about? Anti-racial problems? Starving immigrants? Climate crisis?
2. “He dances with shouts of joy for you.” Zephaniah says (1st reading). What are some examples in the world about which you might say, “listen! God is dancing because of you!”?

Anne Osdieck (adapted by Vincent Harvey)

Today's Notices



Together with Refugees... 9am & 11am Masses... to stand with them. See the newsletter elsewhere as we invite members of the Southampton and Winchester Visitor Group. Have your photo taken!!

Jingling Bells are at St Edmund's at 3pm. Christmas cards for our wonderful NHS followed by tea in the hall. Please bring all your family, neighbours and friends, a card and plate to share. *A warm welcome awaits you.*

Please continue to sanitise hands on entry to the churches and keeping in line with Government guidance **you must be wearing face masks** (unless not possible for health reasons).

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

This Week...

- Tues** Springhill Carol Service
Meditation Group at 6pm St Michael's
Alpha at 7pm Zoom
- Wed** Evening Prayer at 6pm
Journey in Faith after 7pm Mass
- Thurs** EST meeting in St Edmund's Hall 7pm

For Info:

- Mon** Day Off: VH/JP
- Tues** SLT VH/TQ/AP;
Mass at St George: VH
- Fri** Closer to Christ Campaign: VH;
Housebound: VH;
Clergy Ministry Group: VH



General Notices

St George Ambassadors: Oscar Cunio-Browne and Phoebe Croft have been appointed St George Ambassadors for St Joseph and St Edmund. Well done both. We wait to hear more...

First Holy Communion 2022 A good number of children have been registered. Registration is now closed.

Act on Climate COP 26 has been and gone but our concern for the planet and our environment can never go away! We are **reconvening a Green Living/Common Home working group** to look at how we as a parish and as individuals can continue to Act on our Climate. If this resonates with you and you want to be involved please speak to Fran Morley, Tina Quinn, Fr Vincent or get in contact with the office. **We need to do this together!**

A Few Words...

*Hello and welcome to another weekend and week! I hope you have managed to access the new **Parish Website**: thank you to Anna and Kris and all who have contributed with items. We are continuing to develop the site.*

*As I write and we go to print, the Government has announced new **mask-wearing regulations**. We have always encouraged ongoing wearing of masks for the sake of others, **now we ask you again to wear a mask** in church as the new regulations set out.*

*On the 10th/17th October I wrote briefly about the **'Synodal Way'** and how Pope Francis wishes us to use the process to 'listen' more attentively to each other. A process which is not about getting my point across but a process where I/we listen to the other! And in listening to the other discover where we are as Church; how we should be Church; and where we are going as Church! A tall order but essential if the Church is to be relevant not only to us but to the wider world. To facilitate this process we will be encouraging groups to engage in the process; Fr Johnpromise and myself will talk about it, and engage the Sunday congregation (scheduled for 16th/23rd January), and hold two meetings (on different days to enable as many people as possible to come along): 3rd & 15th February. Watch this space!*

*A belated **'Happy Birthday' to Tina Quinn** who celebrated her birthday last week. We wish her well and thank her for all she does in the Parish and for who she is!*

We need **stewards, readers** (contacted), **Extraordinary Ministers** (contacted) and servers for our Christmas Masses (especially Christmas Eve: 8pm St Joseph & 10.30pm St Edmund). Please let us know if you are willing.

Christmas decorations: do get the children creating items to put on the Christmas Trees.....see elsewhere.

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

Prayer Corner



Please pray for Marisa Tellegen RIP whose funeral will be at St Edmund's 11am 30th December.

Please pray for Margaret Hicks, Margaret 'Peggy' Murray, Margaret 'Molly' Jarvis and *all in the Parish who are ill, undergoing treatment or are experiencing distress.*



What's going on?

Together with Refugees We have long supported the Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group, (SWVG), a local charity that supports refugees and people seeking asylum. SWVG has joined Together With Refugees (TWI) a UK-wide coalition of over 300 organisations, and they are asking that we support the "Show your Heart" campaign to indicate that we stand with refugees. There is a new Bill currently making its way through Parliament, that if passed will:

- Create two classes of refugees, based on how people arrive in the UK not why they make the journey. Most people seeking asylum have faced persecution, torture, or death of loved ones due to violence. They travel to the UK looking for safety, and need protection;
- Give power to move people who are seeking asylum offshore - Rwanda and Albania have been suggested;
- Give powers to place people seeking asylum in institutional reception centres;
- Criminalise people helping those seeking safety.

These proposals are worrying and as part of the national campaign, SWVG is asking people to be photographed individually or in family groups, holding a heart with the words "together with refugees" printed on it. SWVG has about 1000 photos already of people in Winchester and Southampton and they will form part of a moving picture display at the Winchester Christmas Market. Ultimately, the photos will be sent to TWI in London and will form part of a national photo board.

If you would like to be involved, a couple of representatives from SWVG, will be outside at the 9am & 11am Masses with hearts, and would like to take your photo either individually or in a small group. If you do not want your face to be shown, you may cover your face with the heart.

St Anne's Consultation Admissions Arrangements Sept' 23

St Anne's Catholic School will be conducting a consultation on its proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2023 – 2024. The consultation period runs for a period of 6 weeks from 17/11/2021 until 29/12/2021. Please see their website for further information.

CLOTHING Donations please deliver **directly** to TwoSaints, Frederick Street, Bevois Valley, Southampton. T: 02380 223443. No children's clothes.

Defibrillator outside St Edmund's CATHSOC Students & the Catenians are raising money for this important project. Please pass on any donations to the Parish Office.

Mary's Meals Double the Love To January, every gift given to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.6m. This means a gift of just £15.90 will feed, not one, but two children, a life-changing daily school meal for a whole school year! For more information, please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk

CHRISTMAS 2021

Are you planning to attend a Christmas Eve Mass at either church this year? We have a special request from one of our clients desperate to attend Mass this Christmas. **If you can help, please ring** Anne or Marina 023 8017 0498 to make arrangements, many thanks.

St Joseph's Christmas Tree Decoration Morning

Saturday 18th December, 10 am - 1 pm This year we would like to decorate the Christmas Tree at St Joseph's with our own recyclable decorations. We have some very simple and attractive decorations to make on our tree decoration morning, with all materials and instructions provided, plus refreshments and Christmas music! All are welcome but we would particularly like to invite our young people to help with this - those who recently have made their First Holy Communion or been Confirmed, plus any other young people and their families. Alternatively you might like to make your own more advanced decoration at home and bring it along! Just turn up or phone Rachel on 0787 9082351 with any queries.

Decorations: we would like children/families/individuals to create tree and other decorations from natural products. Feel free to be creative!

Christmas Stars available for £1 for Catholic Home Care: put your loved one's name on the tree.

The 'Big Clean' Tuesday 21st December at St Edmund's We are looking for volunteers for each church to help this year, so do get in touch if you can!

CAFOD World Gifts Buy online at cafod.org.uk/worldgifts or pick up a catalogue from the back of church.

Penitential Service Monday, 20th December at 7.30pm in St Edmund Church

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... Keep getting in touch if you can help!



RECYCLING TIP OF THE WEEK

RETURN PLASTIC BAGS for 10p each. Two big online supermarkets, Morrisons and Ocado, reduce your bill by 10p for each bag of theirs you return (Ocado will also recycle other brands' bags).

So if you've a cupboard full of bags you don't reuse, hand them back for a discount off your grocery order. Or alternatively take them to major Sainsburys stores where they can be collected.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 12TH DEC

(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 3

12th Dec

3rd Sunday of Advent

Psalm Response:

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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 19th Dec

First Reading:

Micah 5:1-4

Second Reading:

Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel:

Luke 1:39-45

5th December Weekly Collection

Standing Orders: £2,032.25

Cash Donations: £639.34

Total: £2,671.59

Saturday 11th Dec	6:15pm	SJ	Jack Craig RIP Birthday Ann.
<i>St Damasus I</i>	7:00pm	SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 12th Dec	9:00am	SE	Deceased members of Hastings & Moran family
<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	10:00am	SJ	Terry Clarke RIP (Anniversary)
<i>(Guadete')</i>	11:00am	SE	Jose & Millie Vaz Wedding Ann.
	7:00pm	SE	Jan Rojko RIP
Tuesday 14th Dec	10:00am	SE	Michael Hogan & Joan Hall RIP
<i>St John of the Cross</i>			
Wednesday 15th Dec	7.00pm	SE	Margaret & Les Grover
<i>3rd Week of Advent</i>			
Thursday 16th Dec	12:15pm	SJ	Dorothy and Bob Fletcher RIP
<i>3rd Week of Advent</i>			
Friday 17th Dec	7:00pm	SE	Thanks and God's blessings to all who helped Anushka & Francis in their tough time
<i>Liturgy of the Day</i>			
<i>'O Wisdom'</i>			
Saturday 18th Dec	11:00am	SE	Ana Maria Pascoela Cardoso RIP
<i>Liturgy of the Day</i>	6:15pm	SJ	Mary Josephine Shanahan RIP
<i>'O Adonai'</i>	7:00pm	SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 19th Dec	9:00am	SE	Paddy Hannigan RIP
<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	10:00am	SJ	Amy Pearl Robinson RIP
<i>'O Root of Jesse'</i>	11:00am	SE	Growing in faith and righteousness
	7:00pm	SE	Ken Burden RIP (1st Anniversary)

CONTACT DETAILS:

Parish Priest: Monsignor Canon Vincent Harvey

Email Address: vharvey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk / 023 8033 4891

Assistant Priest: Father Johnpromise Umeozuru

Email Address: jumeozuru@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/023 80172104

Presbytery Address: 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton, SO152EQ

Deacon: Deacon Andy Philpott

aphilpott@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Miss Anna Smyllie 023 8033 3589

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

Parish Email: office@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org

Parish Website: www.southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org

Pastoral Assistant: Mrs Tina Quinn

tquinn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Catholic Home Care: Mrs Anne Monaghan 023 8017 0498

Email: catholichomecare@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Polish Chaplaincy: Father Mariusz Urbanowski

Tel. No. 02381786316 southampton@pcmew.org

Safeguarding Rep: Catherine Marshall-Cox 023 8033 3589

Email: safeguarding@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org

Stella Maris (AoS): Mr Charles Stuart Mob No 7843 739579

Catholic Chaplains: Sr Emiliana Silva e.silva@soton.ac.uk 07426 000213

Father Benjamin Theobald btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Solent Chaplain:

Isabelle Kirby volunteer239@solent.ac.uk 07414462636

Second Collections:

This week: **Church Maintenance Fund**

Next week: **Catholic Home Care**

"The natural gift of wonder God gave us as children was meant to be kept alive.. instead we let wonder go to sleep. Advent says, 'wake

up and realise the gifts of love we have received"



Father Alfred McBride



"Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope!"

Cardinal Ratzinger



Homemade Nativities / Wreaths

We'd love to post some pictures of parishioners preparing for Christmas on our social medias... Please do send pictures if you have any!



Perhaps you're drawing/crafting a nativity scene as a family - we'd love to see...

Confessions at 11.30am St Edmund's

"Become a saint, and do so quickly!"

St John Paul II