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DECEMBER 18TH 2022 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S

City Centre Catholic Parish Southampton



Website

Did you know that you can donate to the Priest's Collection online using the above QR Code?

## Emmanuel. God With Us.



As we move into the final week of Advent and nearer and nearer to the great feast of Christmas, our readings this weekend draw us into the reality of what this means for each one of us. The gospel acclamation is succinct and clear: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Emmanuel which means 'God is with us'.

This is a moment and a cause for not only the celebration of the feast but for the recognition of His presence in the human family. 'God with us' is not simply the acknowledgement of His first coming but a recognition that as He comes to dwell with each one of us we have a responsibility to one another and we become part of each other's lives. Christmas is about our social life within the community.

As we witness on a daily basis those who are destitute, those who are in need, those who are impoverished, it is at this time more than ever that we need to work with and not against one another but as part of each other, as one family. God not only draws all men to Himself but in His presence draws us into one another. As much as He shares in our sufferings, our hurts and our frustrations, we need to do this for our brothers and sisters. We need to feel and share in the pain of families who have lost loved ones through tragic accidents, illness or violence.

While we rejoice at the prospect of having God amongst us we also need to recognise the responsibility of living in the presence of God. It is not something that we can simply celebrate for a day or a season. God is here to stay. The psalmist cries 'Let the Lord enter!'

With presence not only comes responsibility but the call to witness with our lives.

Mary opened herself up to the gift of the Holy Spirit and the indwelling of the Christ child. Mary was not only the mother of God but the first disciple and witness of the incarnation. St Paul reminds us that this grace has also been poured into our lives and we in turn are called to belong to Jesus Christ and should place ourselves and our lives at His service.

*'Hence the Church in her apostolic work also rightly looks to her who brought forth Christ, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin, so that through the Church Christ may be born and grow in the hearts of the faithful also.'*

*Vatican II, Constitution on the Church, 1964:65*

Christmas is a time to echo the words of the angel as she appeared to Joseph 'She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one to save his people from their sins' Now is not the time for us as a community to play hide and seek with God. We must declare for all to hear and see Emmanuel, God is with us'

Tina Quinn

## Questions to Ponder for the Week...

1. Joseph is told that Jesus will be "Emmanuel.....God-is-with-us.." (Gospel). Where do you discover/find/experience God? Is God here for you?
2. Isaiah (1st reading) also states that "God is with us" .....so this week 'stop' and be aware of God's presence with you now!
3. "...by His (Christ) call you belong to Jesus Christ." St Paul writes (2nd reading). How do you 'show/witness/express' in your life that you belong to Jesus?

Vincent Harvey

## Today's Notices

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Pastoral Letter** from Bishop Philip

**Second Collection** for Catholic Home Care

**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: 01329 318 869 or [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

## Next Sunday Notices

### Christmas Day

**All collections today** for the personal support of our two priests. You can use QR code in the newsletter, cash, via the website or the 'Contactless Giving' in both churches.

## This Week...

**Tues** St Michael's Meditation Group @ 6pm

Alpha on Zoom @ 7pm

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

Journey in Faith on Zoom

**Thurs** Polish community to build crib in St Ed's

**Sat** Christmas Eve!! see elsewhere

## For Info...

**Mon** VH/JP Part day off

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

**Wed** Team meeting: VH/JP/AP



## 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)

## Sacraments

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



**Pray for Mrs Jean Mooney** whose funeral will be at St Joseph 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.

**First Holy Communion Update.** Registration has now closed. Please direct all FHC queries to [fhc@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org](mailto:fhc@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org)



## A Few Words...

*I hope you are managing to **keep warm**? Do look out for elderly or infirm neighbours who may be struggling; at least we are now promised some mild days!*

Remember our **Advent Penitential Service** is on Monday (tomorrow), 19th December at 7.30pm in St Edmund's Church. A few priests will be available to hear the Confession of those who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity.

**Times of Christmas Masses** are elsewhere. Do note..... please.. .....that on Christmas Day all the Masses are in the morning (there is no 7pm Mass!). Of course, there are Christmas Eve Masses (SJ: 8pm; SE: 10.30pm).

**Children.....do come and get involved with or watch the **Christmas Eve Crib Service** at 4pm on Christmas Eve (Saturday 24th at St Edmund's). We had a worthwhile rehearsal last Saturday. Thanks to all who have planned it and are organising it.**

You might find this video helpful: **Advent Week 4: Love:** <https://youtu.be/Ck-ZsqCpHhA> Have a look!

**The Parish Office** will be closed from the 26th December to 3rd January. There will be a double newsletter for Christmas Day & New Year's (Mary, the Mother of God).

*If you are going away for the Christmas period do have a good time and travel safe.*

*Have a good week... Vincent H*

## 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.



Bishop Philip encourages us today to ponder how we can hear the voice of Jesus calling us more clearly. Adoration is an opportunity to sit with Our Lord and to focus on His voice, perhaps it might be suited to you?



*On Monday, we commemorated the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We ask for the intercession of this patroness of the unborn, saying: 'Let us implore the gift of children for families without children, respect for conceived life and the openness of hearts to Gospel values.' . **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.

Much work goes into getting our two churches ready for Christmas, with an awful lot happening behind the scenes meaning it is easy to let good work go unnoticed.

**A huge thank you** to Steve, Charlie, Shaun and Pam for their help in getting the big tree into St Edmund's. A thanks also to the truck driver and the passerby who stopped to offer their assistance. At 16 feet a mammoth task! Thanks to Richard and Theresa for their flowers.

**Thanks** to Sue, John, Rachel and family for putting up the tree in St Joseph's and for decorating it so beautifully, and to Chris for her lovely flowers.

**To all those involved in cleaning, decorating and preparing our churches we extend a huge thank you.**

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](http://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](http://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?

**St Edmund's Big Christmas Clean** is scheduled next week on Tuesday 20th following the 10am Mass. The more who volunteer, the less time it will take... Do please come along if you can and lend a hand. There will be sandwiches, tea, coffee and cake afterwards as a thank you to all who come :)

**Mary's Dream** I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son. I think that was what it was all about. The people in my dream had been preparing for about six weeks.

They had decorated the house and bought new clothes and special gifts. It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our Son.

They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and stacked them under a tree.

Yes, a tree, Joseph, right inside their homes! They'd decorated the tree with sparkling ornaments.

There was a figure like an angel on the top of the tree.

Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited about the gifts.

They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our Son. I don't think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn't it seem odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate someone's birthday, if they don't know Him?

I had the strangest feeling that, if our Son had gone to this celebration, He would have been intruding.

Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone so full of cheer, but it made me want to weep.

How sad for Jesus not to be wanted at His own birthday celebration! I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible Joseph, if it had been real!

*Author unknown*

## Green Living Update...

A recent Vatican newsletter (24/11/2022) presented some ideas for the care of Our Common Home. One of the things discussed was the Slow Food movement.

<https://www.slowfood.com> This is an organisation that promotes local food and traditional cooking, small businesses, and sustainable foods. It focuses on quality rather than quantity. It speaks out against overproduction and food waste, educating and inspiring people to support better agricultural policies which allow us to cultivate the land without exploiting it using organic techniques and methods. One very simple thing we could consider is returning to the habit of not eating meat on Friday. (Some of us have never stopped doing this.) This would be a thoughtful way of remembering that the production of red meat, particularly beef, is one of the threats to many ecosystems such the Amazon rainforest which is still being felled at an alarming rate for the farming of beef cattle or the production of soya for cattle feed among other things.

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER

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

<b>Saturday 17th Dec</b> 'O Wisdom'	<b>6:15pm SJ</b>	Sister Maria Innocenta God's Protection & Wellbeing
<b>Sunday 18th Dec</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent 'O Adonai'	<b>7:00pm SE</b> <b>9:00am SE</b> <b>10:00am SJ</b> <b>11.00am SE</b>	<b>Msza Polska / Mass in Polish</b> Pat Flannghan RIP Amy Pearl Robinson RIP Michael Hogan and Joan Hall RIP Paddy Hannigan RIP
<b>Tuesday 20th Dec</b> 'O Key of David'	<b>10:00am SE</b>	Cecilia and Peter Marshall RIP
<b>Wednesday 21th Dec</b> 'O Morning Star'	<b>7.00pm SE</b>	JR Personal intentions
<b>Thursday 22th Dec</b> 'O King of the Nations'	<b>12.15pm SJ</b>	Sue Hulbert RIP
<b>Friday 23th Dec</b> 'O Emmanuel'	<b>7.00pm SE</b>	Joy Poulouse RIP
<b>Saturday 24th Dec</b> Christmas Eve	<b>8:00pm SJ</b> <b>10.30pm SE</b>	People of the parish Pat Cooke RIP
<b>Sunday 25th Dec</b> Nativity of the Lord	<b>9:00am SE</b> <b>10:00am SJ</b> <b>11.00am SE</b>	Margaret Sinclair RIP Willie Coady and Katie RIP People of the Parish
<b>Monday 26th Dec</b> St Stephen	<b>11.00am SE</b>	Thanksgiving for all our Altar Servers in the Parish

18th December

### Psalm Response:

Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory

### Gospel Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

*Alleluia!*

### 11th Dec 2nd Collection

#### Christmas Flowers

SO: £75.50

Cash: £185.07

TOTAL: £260.57

Thank you.

### 11th Dec 1st Collection

SO: £1,023.95

Cash: £689.73

TOTAL: £1,713.68

Thank you.



## CONTACT DETAILS

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

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

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

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**Vocations:** [www.portsmouthvocations.org/](http://www.portsmouthvocations.org/)

**Diocesan Website:** [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

**Email:** [communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

*"If we celebrate with such solemnity the birth of Jesus, it is to bear witness that every human being [is] somebody unique and unrepeatable...somebody thought of and chosen from eternity, some[one] called and identified by his own name.*

*It is as it was with the first man, Adam. It is as it was with the new Adam, born of the Virgin Mary in the cave at Bethlehem: 'You shall call His name Jesus.'"*

- St John Paul II

## Confessions

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

**St Edmund's** on Saturdays after the 11am Mass

Also, **Monday 19th Penitential Service** in St Edmund's at 7.30pm

## 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!