

DECEMBER 19TH 2021 | FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

# ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S

City Centre Catholic Parish Southampton



## Mother of Our Lord and Model for us all

Mary, during her life on earth gave us the ultimate example of what it is to be Mother. She was totally open to conception and rejoiced with her cousin as the child leapt in her womb.

She carried the Christ child with fidelity and patience, nurturing the Son of God in her womb.

She gave birth, swaddling the child in a manger. Mary supported and encouraged Jesus through His childhood and adolescence, as any mother would; presenting Him at the temple and listening to His teachings. Mary experienced the pain of separation; when a young adult leaves the family home and makes their own way, but she endured the ultimate sacrifice when she saw her son crucified and a 'sword pierced her heart'.

Mary not only teaches us how to parent our children, she teaches us how to prepare for and welcome the Christ child into our hearts and lives.

Mary was conceived without sin and was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit when she was told that she was to be the Mother of God. She conceived the Son of God by the Holy Spirit and was assumed by that same Spirit at the end of her earthly life.

She received the Word made flesh into her womb, pondered on the Word and lived by the Word. As we approach the re-coming, re-birthing of Our Lord and Saviour we are invited to imitate Mary in her preparation and reception of the Christ child.

Ronald Rolheiser the author and oblate master reminds us 'Like Mary, we need to get pregnant by the Holy Spirit. We need to let the Word take such root in us that it begins to become part of our actual flesh. ...we need to nurture what is growing inside us... and eventually to give birth. ...Birth is only the beginning of motherhood, it is the process of giving birth to faith in the world' (1).

A number of us from our Alpha journey gathered last weekend to focus on the Holy Spirit: who He is, His gifts and how we can ask for and receive the Holy Spirit into our lives. It was a powerful gathering and many of us came away excited, empowered and filled. The Holy Spirit can do amazing thing if we let Him!

By that same Spirit may we all have the courage to invite the Word made flesh to dwell, to be born and to be shared. Come Lord Jesus!

(1) Ronald Rolheiser Spiritual Reflections liturgy.slu.Ed  
Tina Quinn

## Questions to ponder for the Week...

1. Why would Mary travel to the hill country "quickly"? (Gospel). Pope Francis says Mary experienced the gift she received as a mission. Do we have the same mission: to reach all people with God's love?
2. A leader shepherds his flock in the majestic name of the Lord, but comes from Bethlehem, too small to be among the clans of Judah (1st reading). With "majesty" at one end of the continuum and "poverty" at the other, where do you think today's Church falls?
3. What does "once and for all" mean? (2nd reading). Could it mean that Jesus' coming to do His Father's will completes the New Covenant and sanctifies us all?

Anne Osdieck (adapted by Vincent Harvey)

# Today's Notices

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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).

**Crib Service Rehearsal** @4pm in St Edmund's Church

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

## CHRISTMAS DAY SATURDAY

**NEXT SUNDAY FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

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

# A Few Words...

Hello and welcome to another newsletter full of all you need to know for Christmas: Penitential Service, Masses, Crib Service.....I hope! Our **Penitential Service** is tomorrow (Monday) 20th at 7.30pm in St Edmund. A number of priests will be available for individual Confession/Absolution for those who require. **Christmas Masses** are all in the newsletter and notice boards.

As you know **wearing a face mask** is now a legal requirement unless you have a health issue which prevents you doing so. Keep safe! Think of others!

On the new Parish website we are now, most weeks, **uploading the text of our Sunday homilies**. Mine may not be every week as I do not often work from a full script!!! My trusty 'reporters' note book is usually all I have! Though this might change!

In the past couple of weeks two parishioners (that we know of) have been **scammed** just outside the church. Someone wants to change a £20 note into two £10 notes. It is only when this has happened that the innocent and generous person realises that the **£20 is just a paper 'Specimen' note** and not real!! So be warned!

**We need stewards, readers** (contacted), **Extraordinary Ministers** (contacted) and **servers** for our Christmas Masses (especially Christmas Eve: 8pm St Joseph's & 10.30pm St Edmund's). 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

# This Week...

**Mon** Penitential Service at 7.30pm

**Tues** The Big Clean at 2pm  
Alpha at 7pm Zoom

**Wed** Evening Prayer at 6pm  
Journey in Faith after 7pm Mass

**Fri** Christmas Eve

**Sat** Christmas Day

**For Info:**

**Mon** Part Day Off: VH/JP

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



# Christmas Timetables

**Penitential Service** Monday, 20th December at 7.30pm in St Edmund's 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** 9am, 11am and 7pm

**St Joseph's** 10am

**Children's Christmas Crib Service:**

Christmas Eve (Friday 24th) at 4pm in St Edmund's Church. This is not a Mass but a Service by and for children.

**COME ALONG AT 4PM TODAY (Sunday 19th) to rehearse!!** Shepherds, Angels, Kings, Sheep all very welcome.

**The Epiphany is on Thursday, 6th January. It is a Holyday and Masses will be:**

**St Edmund's:** 7am & 7.30pm

**St Joseph's:** 12.15pm

# Prayer Corner



Please pray for **Marisa Tellegen RIP** whose funeral will be at St Edmund's 11am 30th December. Remember also Reinold and family.

Please also keep in your prayers **all those whose anniversaries occur around this time**, remembering especially **Ken Burden** on his first anniversary. *May their souls, and the souls of all the Faithful departed rest in peace.*

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?

**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 visit [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

**St Anne's Consultation Admissions Arrangements** 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.

**Bamenda.** On behalf of the Portsmouth Bamenda Committee, Colm Lennon writes to thank parishioners for your generosity in this year's Bamenda Sunday collection...

*The Portsmouth Bamenda Committee would like to say a big thank you to the people of the Diocese for their generous donations following Bamenda Sunday. Whilst we are still awaiting details relating to the Sunday collection there was a significant increase in using the donate button along with standing orders. The addition of these funds to our general account has enabled us to send to Bamenda a total of £83,500 for a variety of projects in the fields of Health, Social Welfare and Education.*

*On the Health front projects include provision of PPE for health care workers, hospital equipment, rehabilitation of physically disabled children and a hospital incinerator.*

*Our Social Welfare projects include provision of water supply, funding the Justice and Peace program and assisting teenage single mothers.*

*Now that schools are being reopened after some 4 years, funds have been allocated to provide education for orphans and vulnerable children. Additional funding has also been set aside for rebuilding and expansion of classrooms.*

*The political crisis in Bamenda continues, along with Covid-19, to cause great suffering to the people of Bamenda. Your generous donations, along with your prayers, enable us to reach out to our brothers and sisters there to help them in their time of need. In the coming months we will provide progress reports on the various projects being supported.*

**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.

**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 2pm.** 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](http://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts) or pick up a catalogue from the back of church.

## **Crib Offerings – Friends of the Holy Land**

Crib offerings this Christmas will be donated to the Friends of the Holy Land. Friends of the Holy Land help the most deprived Christian families, especially those living around Bethlehem, in Gaza, Israel and Jordan. With no pilgrims and tourism since March 2020 and no government support to individuals or businesses, many families, have lost all their income and are increasingly calling on Friends of the Holy Land for help with day to day living. Further information on FHL is available on their website [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk)

The **Catholic Home Care** team would like to extend a huge thank you for the generosity parishioners have kindly showed to their elderly clients following the gift appeal. Carers have diligently selected gifts for their clients which will be greeted with great joy, so thank you truly for all your kind donations.

**Jingling Bells** 2021 Carols and tea for the NHS: 'Thank you so much for your generous support for this event. If you missed it you can find it live-streamed by following this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUyKbcjP1LI> Your cards and gifts will be delivered in time for Christmas. Best wishes, Jenepher'.

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

**'We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another'**  
St Teresa of Calcutta



## **RECYCLING TIP OF THE WEEK**

### **PLACE A BUCKET IN THE SHOWER**

Collect water as it is heating up for a shower. Use to fill kettles or to water the garden. You will be surprised by how much you collect!

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 19TH 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)

<b>Saturday 18th Dec</b>	<b>6:15pm</b>	<b>SJ</b>	Mary Josephine Shanahan RIP
<i>'O Adonai'</i>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>Msza Polska / Mass in Polish</b>
<b>Sunday 19th Dec</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Paddy Hannigan RIP
<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>SJ</b>	Amy Pearl Robinson RIP
<i>'O Root of Jesse'</i>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Growing in faith and righteousness
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	Ken Burden RIP (1st Anniversary)
<b>Tuesday 21st Dec</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Dolores Smyllie RIP & Anna's birthday
<i>'O Morning Star'</i>			
<b>Wednesday 22nd Dec</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	Maureen O'Gorman RIP
<i>'O King of the nations'</i>			
<b>Thursday 23rd Dec</b>	<b>12:15pm</b>	<b>SJ</b>	Joaquim R. Martin R. Bill Burke. Judy B. Joe L. Colette, Bridy, Rocky, Stobart & all those departed loved ones RIP
<i>'O Emmanuel'</i>			
<b>Friday 24th Dec</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>Msza Polska / Mass in Polish</b>
<i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>SJ</b>	People of the Parish
	<b>10.30pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Saturday 25th Dec</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Margaret Sinclair RIP
<i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>SJ</b>	John Ashcroft RIP
	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	All Souls
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>Msza Polska / Mass in Polish</b>
<b>Sunday 26th Dec</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Holy Family JMJ
<i>The Holy Family</i>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>SJ</b>	Pope's intentions for church wellbeing
	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	People of the Parish
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	Hubert Gaffney RIP

## Prayer of the Church

Week 4

**19th Dec**

**4th Sunday of Advent**

**Psalm Response:**

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*


I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me.

*Alleluia!*

 **Second Collections:**

This week: **Catholic Home Care**

Next week: **Christmas Priestly Collection**

Please give generously if you can using one of the **yellow envelopes** for the priests. 

**12th December Weekly Collection**

Standing Orders: £1,850

Cash Donations: £802.13

**Total: £2,652.13**

## CONTACT DETAILS:

**Parish Priest:** Monsignor Canon Vincent Harvey

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Presbytery Address: 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton, SO152EQ

**Deacon:** Deacon Andy Philpott

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**Parish Secretary:** Miss Anna Smyllie 023 8033 3589

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

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**Pastoral Assistant:** Mrs Tina Quinn

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**Catholic Home Care:** Mrs Anne Monaghan 023 8017 0498

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**Polish Chaplaincy:** Father Mariusz Urbanowski

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**Safeguarding Rep:** Catherine Marshall-Cox 023 8033 3589

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

**Catholic Chaplains:** Sr Emiliana Silva [e.silva@soton.ac.uk](mailto:e.silva@soton.ac.uk) 07426 000213

Father Benjamin Theobald [btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Solent Chaplain:** Isabelle Kirby [volunteer239@solent.ac.uk](mailto:volunteer239@solent.ac.uk)



## Readings 26th Dec

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

**First Reading:**

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28

**Second Reading:**

1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24

**Gospel:**

Luke 2:41-52



## OFFICE CLOSURE

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, please note that the parish office will be **closed until January** to casual callers.

Please call/email the office instead.

**Dearest Mother Mary and Saint Joseph, pray for me that I may have the faith you both lived.**

**When questions arise in my heart, help me to respond generously to God as you did. May I trust in all that God has spoken in imitation of each one of you. Jesus, I trust in You.**

**Confessions** at 11.30am St Edmund's Saturdays