



Active Listening

This weekend the psalmist entreats us to listen attentively: And indeed this is what we are being encouraged to do in the synodal process that the Church is undertaking.

There will be times when we feel that we are giving people our full attention when they are speaking to us but as Fr Johnpromise so rightly reminded us last weekend it is so easy for distractions to creep in, not least our own agenda. This is something I constantly need to remind myself in my day to day work in palliative care. For the people that I meet, their world has fallen apart through a devastating diagnosis, disease progression, and struggles with leaving people behind. When I receive a phone call to return I am usually given a headline as to why the individual is calling. It is so tempting, and I repeatedly transgress, to start the conversation with premature advice and reassurance: I just want to fix it for those I support, to make it better. But more often than not the situation is not fixable, and this is not what my patients are asking for. They are simply asking for a listening ear for someone who will journey with them in the messiness of progressive disease and loss.

This is what I believe we are being called to do in this current synod: attentively listen to our brothers and sisters and listen to the genuine concerns and aspirations that they have for our church and our world.

St Paul in his letter to the Corinthians reminds us every voice counts and every opinion matters and it is often those that appear to be the least important that deserve the greatest respect and attention. If we know of people who cannot access or contribute virtually or digitally to the survey then we are called help and support them to allow their voices to be heard. The body cannot exist without all its members.

In today's gospel we see Jesus standing up in His own own home town announcing His program to bring good news to the poor, to give sight to the blind and to set the downtrodden free. This gospel is often understood as the template for the church's economic-social teaching. Jesus spoke in the 'power of the Spirit'.

We are also being given to opportunity to speak out, not only for ourselves but for all those we encounter. This Synod is our opportunity. Now is the time to speak if we want our parish and our church to be totally inclusive, non judgemental and home for all those on the margins.

But we can only do this by listening to their agenda and showing all unconditional acceptance and love. This is surely what church is and should be.

Tina Quinn

Today's Notices

Synodal Way discussions at all Masses.

Baptism of Charlotte at 2pm in St Edmund's.

Collection for our Cathedral (see envelopes).

Please continue to sanitise hands on entry to the churches and we strongly recommend **wearing face masks** (unless not possible for health reasons).

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

This Week...

Mon Baptism Preparation online.

Tues Pre-Marriage Preparation online.

Wed Evening Prayer at 6pm

Journey in Faith after 7pm Mass



For Info:

Mon Day Off: VH/JP

Tues St George Govs: VH

Wed Clergy Team meeting: VH/JP/AP; CTC: VH

Thurs CIC update; Holocaust Memorial Day: VH;

Fri Clergy Ministry Group: VH

A Few Words...

Thank you for your participation in the discussions this weekend re 'synodal way'; if you didn't, but prayed for those who participated, then 'thank you'. Prayer is the key to this process. There will be an evening dedicated to the Synodal Way on Thursday the 3rd & Tuesday the 15th February at 7pm (see elsewhere). If you can come to one of the sessions do let me know by email.

There have been some comings and goings both in the Bethany Group and the SLT (Senior Leadership Team): see elsewhere in the newsletter.

The figures of 'Jesus, Mary & Joseph' remain in front of our altars until the 'Presentation of the Lord' on the 2nd February. Any monies collected go to the 'Friends of the Holy Land'

www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

It seems that the Government may well remove all restrictions this week. So keep an eye/ear to the news. What this means in terms of attendance at church, groups and social gatherings within the Parish context we don't know. We will await guidance from the Bishops' Conference and the Diocese.

Thank you.

Have a good weekend... Vincent H

Questions for the Week...

1. Jesus said he had been "anointed to bring glad tidings to the poor, ...liberty to captives, ...sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free" (Gospel). Pope Francis talks about the glad tidings or the good news. How would you understand 'glad tidings'? Or 'good news'? What do you and our world need to hear today?
2. Why does Ezra say "today" is holy? (1st reading). What is significant about "today" for Jesus? Do you live in the past or the future? What happens to "now" if you spend all your time looking backward or forward?
3. St Paul talks about 'gifts' (2nd reading). Some people's gift is to diffuse tension in a meeting. Is this kind of gift more or less important than administering the parish, community or diocese? Why? What is your gift to the community?

Vincent Harvey

Funerals & Prayers

James Bennett (Punter). Please pray for James Bennett who died on the 11th January. May he rest in peace. His Funeral Service will be on Friday, 28th January at 12.30pm in St Joseph's Church. Pray for him and his family.

Please pray for Krzysztof Janiak, 39 years old, who died unexpectedly. May he rest in peace. The funeral will be at St Edmund's tomorrow (Monday) at 11.30am.

*Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Please pray for Charlotte Hanson on her upcoming baptism this Sunday. We wish her well on her journey and welcome her into the faith with open arms!

Please remember especially in your prayers Margaret Hicks, Margaret ('Molly') Jarvis, Margaret Murray and all in the Parish who are ill, undergoing treatment or are experiencing distress.

Pope's prayer intention for January: For those who suffer religious persecution: "that those who suffer discrimination and suffer religious persecution, may find in the societies in which they live the rights and dignity that comes from being brothers and sisters".

What's going on?

Synodal Way 'discussions'. A few groups have entered the process: **thank you**. To enable as many of us as possible to do so we are having two 'standalone' evenings in the Parish: Thursday, 3rd February and Tuesday, 15th February at 7pm in St Edmund's Hall. If you can get along to one of these do let Fr Vincent, or the Parish Office know by email.

It is important that the Diocese, the Bishops' Conference and 'Rome' hear what people really think and where they really are! Maybe, more importantly, the process is a way of 'being' the Church: it should be the way we work, develop and grow. It is about **communion-participation-mission**.

Are you considering a Vocation to the Sacred Priesthood?

Canon John Cooke, our Diocesan Vocations Promoter invites you to join others in a similar position at the Seeker Group which meets on the first Friday of every month from 7-9pm... If you would like to attend, please contact Canon John Cooke at **01329 318869** or email vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Donations of Bibles urgently needed. Refugees in Poland are sending requests for Bibles. Contributions from the Parish are very welcome.

"Music on a Sunday" CD with Alban Rees Jones (organ), Carla Mangiagalli, Loretta O'Shea & Jenepher Parry Davies (vocals, bodhrán), Caroline Cotterell & Patsy Hehir (fiddle/whistle), recorded in St Edmund's Catholic Church, to include Mendelsohn's Wedding March, The Lord's My Shepherd, Abide with Me and other favourites. For details/a copy, contact sineadnicdaithi@yahoo.co.uk. Donations welcome. All proceeds to Mary's Meals.

Holocaust Memorial Day. UK Commemorative Ceremony for HMD 2022 takes place online on Thursday, 27th January at 7pm. If you would like to find out more about Holocaust Memorial Day, or to find local events taking place near you, please go to hmd.org.uk

To register for the local online HMD in Southampton organised by the Parkes Institute for Wednesday, 26th January (6-8pm) register at: <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/parkes/news/events/2022/01/hmd-2022.page?>

Survivors: Portraits of the Holocaust BBC2 will be screening a documentary about the project for Holocaust Memorial Day at 9pm on 27 January 2022. It follows the creation of the artworks as the artists and survivors get together for their final sittings, with the artists reflecting on their time getting to know the survivors and how their experiences informed their paintings

Douai Abbey Pastoral Programme of Days of Reflection and Retreats for the first half of 2022. Website: <https://www.douaiabbey.org.uk/files/2022-Douai-Programme--Jan-Jul22-.pdf>

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje. Following the easing of restrictions, we are planning a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, the Shrine of Our Lady Queen of Peace in Bosnia Herzegovina where we will join with pilgrims from all over the world for a time of prayer and fellowship.

From **September 23-30th** departing from Gatwick half board £630, single room supplement if required.

Early booking discount of £30 applies until 31 January 2022. Full support from Marian Pilgrimages. www.marian-uk.com. Please contact Heather Hauschild at hauschild287@btinternet.com or **07810310316** for a booking form and further details.

The Verbum Dei Friday Evening prayer Group. The Group meets fortnightly on Friday evenings at 7.30pm. The title of the series is "Our Mother Mary in the Gospels". Each meeting involves a welcoming prayer, a scripture reading, a short reflection on the reading, silent prayer and meditation, a short final sharing and prayers of thanksgiving and intercession. Online or in person sisteryadira@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

This weekend we take the annual collection in support of your Cathedral in Portsmouth. This collection is the only support our Cathedral receives from the wider Diocesan family. Appeal envelopes are available at all Masses for those who do not have gift aided planned giving envelopes for second collections.

During the previous lockdowns and with some of the other additional precautionary measures taken, a 'Give as you Live' page was also created:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/cathedral-annual-appeal-1>

Please give generously to support your Cathedral, gift aiding your donation wherever possible.

Hand Made Cards by Julie Jack. For years Julie has produced beautiful cards and donated all proceeds to the upkeep of St Joseph's. Thank you Julie. From now on, all proceeds will be given to support 'Catholic Home Care'. Recently £100 was given. Thanks!

RECYCLING TIP OF THE WEEK

From 2016 to 2020, the UK's top 5 banks provided around £220 billion in funding for coal, oil and gas projects. High street banks are fuelling the climate crisis by continuing to invest in dirty fossil fuels, despite scientists' warnings that we need to leave them in the ground. Triodos Bank does things differently. Triodos is a sustainable bank, and does not invest in fossil fuels, tobacco, fast fashion, or weapons and ammunition – but instead focuses on having a positive impact on people and planet.

It's easy to start banking with Triodos. You'll know your money is funding projects that make the world a better place.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 23RD JAN*(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

Saturday 22nd Jan	6:15pm SJ	Paul McDermott RIP
	7:00pm SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 23rd Jan	9:00am SE	Jo Lee RIP
<i>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	10:00am SJ	Healing Alcohol Addiction
	11:00am SE	Poitiers Foodbank staff & volunteers
	7:00pm SE	Malgosia & Tom Wedd. ann. God's Blessings & Thanksgiving
Tuesday 25th Jan	10:00am SE	Philip Conway RIP
<i>The conversion of St Paul</i>		
Wednesday 26th Jan	7:00pm SE	Maureen Sharpe RIP (birthday ann.)
<i>Ss Timothy & Titus</i>		
Thursday 27th Jan	12:15pm SJ	'For a light at the end of M's tunnel'
<i>St Angela Merici</i>		
Friday 28th Jan	7:00pm SE	Joaquim Rodrigues RIP (1st ann.)
<i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>		
Saturday 29th Jan	11:00am SE	Joaquim Rodrigues RIP
<i>Our Lady on Saturday</i>	6:15pm SJ	JR personal intentions
	7:00pm SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 30th Jan	9:00am SE	Louise's intentions
<i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	10:00am SJ	Sue Sherwood RIP
	11:00am SE	Marisa Tellegen RIP
	7:00pm SE	George & Paddy (Kathleen) Chandler RIP

23rd Jan*Third Sunday in OT***Psalm Response:**

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

Gospel Acclamation:*Alleluia, alleluia!*

The Lord has sent me to bring Good News to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives.

*Alleluia!***Readings 30th Jan****First Reading:***Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19***Second Reading:***1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13***Gospel:***Luke 4:21-30***Second Collections:**

This week:

Cathedral

Next week:

No Collection this week**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 / 02380172104

Presbytery Address: 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton, SO152EQ

Deacon: Deacon Andy Philpottaphilpott@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.orgParish Website: www.southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org**Pastoral Assistant:** Mrs Tina Quinn tquinn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk**Catholic Home Care:** Mrs Anne Monaghan 023 8017 0498Email: catholichomecare@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk**Polish Chaplaincy:** Father Mariusz UrbanowskiTel. No. 02381786316 southampton@pcmew.org**Safeguarding Rep:** Catherine Marshall-Cox 023 8033 3589Email: safeguarding@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org**Stella Maris (AoS):** Mr Charles Stuart Mob No 07843 739579**Catholic Chaplains:**Sr Emiliania Silva e.silva@soton.ac.uk 07426 000213Father Benjamin Theobald btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk**Solent Chaplain:**Isabelle Kirby volunteer239@solent.ac.uk 07414462636**2nd January Weekly Collection**

Standing Orders: £6,652.42

Cash Donations: £ 437.98

Total : £7,090.40**Comings and goings****SLT (Senior Leadership Team):**

comprises of Tina Quinn, Deacon Andy, Lorraine Swann (new member) and Fr Vincent.

Thank you to Anne Wheeler who has stepped down after being a member for a few years.

Bethany Group (Bereavement Support Group):

thank you to Helmy Duyvesteijn, Patti Hayes, David Buxton and Vicki Munday who have stepped down from the Group.

"Oh my God, forgive what I have been, correct what I am, and direct what I should be"*St Elizabeth Ann Seton***Confessions**Saturdays 11.30am St Edmund's
(after the Mass)