



Donate



DECEMBER 25TH 2022 & JANUARY 1ST 2023  
CHRISTMAS & MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

# 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?

## The Word takes flesh.....the body is praise!



See the shimmering dew  
illuminating the night!  
The barren land becomes fertile.  
Mary accepts, dazzled,  
the Son of God.

See the new flower  
from the rod of Jesse!  
God's promise is kept.  
He comes, the prophesied child,  
the Son of God.

See, the burning bush  
is not consumed!  
Oh! what blessedness for a woman!  
The Virgin holds in her arms  
the Son of God.

See the wondrous exchange  
when the Word takes flesh,  
when the body is praise!  
Life contends with death  
For the sons and daughters of God.

*Text by St.M.P. Faure, in Prieres aux quatre temps  
Fr Vincent Harvey*

### Questions to Ponder for the Week...

1. If you wanted to find God today where might you start looking? Do you think the shepherds were the same people after their experience? What enables you to see the divine in the ordinary?
2. "For there is a Child born to us, a Son given us. They name Him Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince of Peace" (1st reading Midnight Mass). What do these names mean to you?
3. "At various times in the past, and in various different ways God spoke....." (2nd reading for Day Mass). Name a partial way God has spoken. What are some of the various ways God speaks to you? Do you look for God in the lowly events of your life as well as the great ones?

*Vincent Harvey (Adapted from Anne Osdieck)*

## Today's Notices

**Christmas Day** Christ is born.....alleluia, alleluia.....!

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

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

## Next Sunday 1st January Notices

**Mary, Mother of God**

**Children orientated Masses** at 9am & 10am

## Sunday 8th January Notices

**The Baptism of the Lord**

**Catholic Home Care Update** at the end of each Mass

**Baptisms** in St Joseph's and St Edmund's

## For Info...

**Father Johnpromise** away until 12th January

**Deanery Clergy Lunch** 28th December

**Deanery Clergy Meeting** 5th January

## 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.



*"The Eucharist bathes tormented souls in light and love."*

– St. Bernadette Soubirous

Many saints have written or spoken about the power of Eucharistic Adoration in obtaining salvation for tormented souls. When we reach out to Jesus by making the effort to visit Him in the many tabernacles we pass throughout our days, He responds with an outpouring of grace, especially for those who have died or are dying. While you are quietly praying, offer a Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the souls in most need, and name your deceased loved ones with each bead offered.

*"Let us pray for the parents of all unborn children, today, that, as we commemorate the birth of the Lord, they would receive all necessary graces to prepare well for the birth of their child."*

**Lord hear us"**

*"As we reflect on the Word becoming flesh, let us pray for a greater appreciation of the dignity of all human beings, born and unborn, who are made in the image and likeness of God."*

**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, Imelda Weingart West, Michaela, and all in the Parish who are ill, dying, undergoing treatment or experiencing distress.

## A Few Words...

**Wishing you a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas** from Fr Johnpromise, Dcn Andy, Anna Smyllie, myself and all in the Parish Office.

*Celebrate the Lord's Birth in whatever way you can. Christmas celebrates that God is where we are! Alleluia!*

*Keep safe! I hope you not only have a relaxed and enjoyable Christmas and Christmas break, but that you also stay safe! Socialise with care and concern for others and, of course, for yourself.*

*The **Christmas Crib offerings** will be for the 'Knights of the Holy Sepulchre' (see elsewhere in the newsletter).*

**Feast of the Epiphany is on Friday, 6th January** and Masses will be at 7am & 7.30pm in St Edmund's; and 12.15pm in St Joseph's. The Epiphany is a 'Holy Day'.

**The Parish Office** will be closed from the 26th December to 3rd January. Emails will be monitored, but not closely.

We extend a warm welcome to **Ambrose Chou** who will be arriving on Wednesday 4th January. He is currently training for the priesthood in our Diocese and will be here on a two week placement.

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

*Have a good week... Vincent H*

## Sacraments

The Parish has now moved to sacramental sign ups via electronic forms over the internet, which has proved a great success. Using links from the website to sign up for sacraments ensures that the information we receive is stored in the same appropriate place, and ensures that we do not miss anyone in correspondence (no more deciphering handwritten emails!). **For all of our forms, filling in multiple times has no positive impact.** If you fill in several times it means you will receive the same amount of emails (i.e., you sign up 5 times, you get 5 emails). The information does not come faster, as we only give the information when we have it!

**Confirmation 2023 Update** Any young person (Year 9 and above) in the parish who would like to start preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation please register via this form (or the QR code):

<https://forms.office.com/e/PrGU6zvMVD>

32 people have expressed interest so far, which is great! The programme will start in the new year, dates and details to be confirmed down the line.

If you are having difficulty with the form please get in touch with the Parish Office.

### First Holy Communion Update.

Registration has now closed. Please direct all queries to [fbc@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org](mailto:fbc@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org)



Confirmation 2023 Registration



## What's going on?

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 very big thank you** to all who came to help with the Big Christmas clean in St Edmund's on Tuesday - it was a wonderful team effort, with a great turnout. My goodness how different the stained glass windows look now they're all clean!

We missed Mary Berridge this year who has coordinated the Big Clean for many years. As she steps back from this role we would like to extend a thank you for all her years of dedicated work leading our Cleaning Teams.

**Thanks to all involved** in the creation, checking and printing of all our **Advent & Christmas booklets**, Carla, Ruth, Celia, Marina and Fran especially!

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

**The Knights of Columbus** have released a short documentary of **"Our Lady of Guadalupe: Woman of the Eucharist"**. In announcing the release of the documentary, the Knights of Columbus noted that Our Lady of Guadalupe is patroness of the Americas and "Star of the New Evangelization," as well as patroness of the Knights of Columbus and unborn children. Do have a look at the video if you get a chance, it is brief but powerful. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtswL8Nsq-o>

**The Catholic Home Care** would like to thank everyone in the Parish who donated to the Home Care Christmas Gifts. These gifts made a very real difference to our clients, with some being the only gifts they received this year. We were grateful at the overwhelming generosity of givers, with a wonderful selection for our carers to choose from. From all of us here at Catholic Home Care we wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas.

**Journey in Faith / RCIA Course** Meetings are **Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm** in St Edmund's Hall. The meetings will resume on **12th January** in person, with a Zoom meeting on the **4th**.

**Please remember in your prayers this Christmas those poor souls who lost their lives in the Battle of the Barents Sea.** 250 men on HMS Bramble lost their lives on 31 December 1942 after the ship was hit by a torpedo. May we remember them and their surviving loved ones, reflecting on the darkness they endured as we celebrate the light Mary brought into this world on Christmas Day. We remember especially Patrick Kelly who perished at sea and posthumously received the Arctic Star medal.

**Food Banks** Please consider donating to Southampton City Mission Food Bank if you are able to. To check on the current out of stock items please see:

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



**Christmas Crib offerings** to support **The Knights of the Holy Sepulchre**. The KHS is made up of 30,000 members from 40 countries, lay people, priests and religious who financially support Christians in the Middle East, and who, above all, pray for them. They fund many works that support the Christians living in the Holy Land, thus ensuring that they survive and that the holy sites are still populated by Christians and do not become museums. The Knights do everything they can to help with practical projects to stabilise Christian communities. The key partner for the KHS in the Holy Land is the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and through the Patriarchate, they fundraise to maintain schools, formation, charitable and social activities.

**Sadly we have had several acts of petty vandalism** and arson attack on the grounds of the St Edmund's. While we are monitoring the situation, we are now having to consider closing the church during times we do not have any 'watchers' inside in order to ensure the safety of the building. This is not something we wish to do, but we may be forced to do so.

Please remember in your prayers the troubled teenagers involved. Thanks to the Hampshire Constabulary for their assistance, and to the PCSOs helping us.

**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)

**St Boniface Parish have set up a St Vincent de Paul Society** (SVP) to support the needy in whatever way they can. We in City Centre are joining with them and so if you would like to be involved do let Father Vincent know so that we can have a conversation and fill in an application form! We wait to hear from you!!.....Vincent H

## Green Living Update...

According to a study, the amount of manmade material created each week weighs the same as Earth's total population. Don't add to it if you can help it... why not regift any unwanted presents that you receive this year? Or perhaps you could consider donating those gifts to charity shops, or toys to some of the below...

'Loved Before' is one of a number of organisations that find new homes for preloved playthings. They have saved many a cuddly toy from an inglorious trip to landfill!

<https://thetoyproject.co.uk/> <https://www.toys4life.co.uk/>

# MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEKS COMMENCING SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER & 1ST JANUARY 2023

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

<b>Saturday 24th Dec</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>SJ</b>	People of the parish
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	<b>10.30pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	Pat Cooke RIP
<b>Sunday 25th Dec</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Margaret Sinclair RIP
<i>Nativity of the Lord</i>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>SJ</b>	Willie Coady and Katie RIP
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Monday 26th Dec</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Thanksgiving for all our Altar Servers in the Parish
<i>St Stephen</i>			
<b>Tuesday 27th Dec</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Pat Cooke RIP
<b>Wednesday 28th Dec</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	Fr Mark Hogan Blessings on B'Day
<i>The Holy Innocents</i>			
<b>Thursday 29th Dec</b>	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>SJ</b>	Hugh Bartlett
<b>Friday 30th Dec</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	Priests and Vocations
<i>The Holy Family</i>			
<b>Saturday 31st Dec</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Jean & Sean Scott RIP
<i>St Sylvester I</i>	<b>6:15pm</b>	<b>SJ</b>	Imelda Health & Wellbeing
<b>Sunday 1st Jan 2023</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Goretti Lennon Health & Wellbeing
<i>Mary, Holy Mother of God</i>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>SJ</b>	Ian Morley RIP
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Margaret 'Peggy' Walsh 4th Ann. RIP
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	Hugh Canning RIP
<b>Tuesday 3rd Jan</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Princey Lourdes Ponniah Beck RIP
<i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>			
<b>Wednesday 4th Jan</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	Michael Brophy RIP & all Deceased Family Members & Peter Carney RIP
<i>Liturgy of the Day</i>			
<b>Thursday 5th Jan</b>	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>SJ</b>	Joyce Oldroyd RIP
<b>Friday 6th Jan</b>	<b>7:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	William Yeong RIP
<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>SJ</b>	Mairead Webber
	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	Bill Kearns RIP
<b>Saturday 7th Jan</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Christmas Prayers & Blessings to All, HRH Queen Elizabeth & Prince Philip RIP and all those Died & Gone Before us, Our Faithful Servants, Teachers & Friends & Siblings RIP
<i>St Raymond of Penafort</i>			
	<b>6:15pm</b>	<b>SJ</b>	(** All Sunday Mass Intentions are the same this week**)
<b>Sunday 8th Jan</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	**For the Continued Growth of the Home Care and its Dedicated Carers and Supporters**
<i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>SJ</b>	
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Parish Priest:** Monsignor Canon Vincent Harvey  
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**Assistant Priest:** Father Johnpromise Umeozuru  
 Email Address: [jumeozuru@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:jumeozuru@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) 02380 172 104  
**Presbytery Address:** 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton, SO15 2EQ  
**Deacon:** Deacon Andy Philpott [aphilpott@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org)  
 Parish Website: [www.southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org](http://www.southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org)  
 Our Instagram: [SouthamptonCityCentreCatholics](https://www.instagram.com/SouthamptonCityCentreCatholics)  
 Our FaceBook: [@SotonCatholicsCityCentre](https://www.facebook.com/SotonCatholicsCityCentre)  
**Safeguarding:** [safeguarding@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org](mailto:safeguarding@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org)

## 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!