



DECEMBER 25TH & 26TH 2021 & JANUARY 2ND 2022
CHRISTMAS DAY &
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY & SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S

City Centre Catholic Parish Southampton



Paradoxes, babies, and salvation

Our Gospel reading begins on Christmas Day with the words “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God” (notice the significance of the upper case W). The deacon, if he is not there to proclaim the Gospel then the priest, states; ‘The Gospel of the Lord’ but does not raise the Book up even though the words have been written in the Book because the Gospel - the Word - has now moved from the page to those who listen with their ears and receive the Word with their hearts.

As Catholic Christians we are familiar with Jesus the Christ being present to us in the Eucharist, in the bread and wine which become His Body and Blood. This is the most intense mode of the presence of Christ, in the Eucharist. When we eat this Bread and drink from the Cup we enter into communion with His Body and Blood. We share the very life of Jesus Himself and open ourselves to living and loving as He did. This is possible because Jesus the Christ, the Son of God was born as a child.

One of the benefits of being a member of the clergy in Southampton, is that we are permitted (after DBS etc. checks) to simply pop in to Springhill School. It is a delight to engage with the children and to marvel at the patience of the teachers. On one visit, the classes were still rehearsing for their Advent Celebrations, when their only prop was the manger. It highlighted the significance the manger holds. It might seem incongruent that a feeding-trough for animals was to become the first resting place for the Saviour of the World. Many would regard it as a totally unworthy cradle for the Son of God.

But as we know, Christ's whole life was to be full of paradoxes and the straw filled manger is no exception. This Child came to die. And this birth only makes sense in terms of His death. And His death was for our sakes, so that we might live forever and be cleansed of our sins. This is what He came for: to be the sign of contradiction to the values of the world; to be the source of life and love; to be the means of our salvation.

The crib is beautiful. But we must go beyond it to the Cross, and our easiest access to the Cross and all that it means is the Eucharist ‘the altar of sacrifice’. It is through our sharing in the Body of the Lord that we experience what Christmas is all about. Christ's presence among us.

So we rejoice, and we proclaim again and again that Christ the Saviour is here. ‘Glory to God in the Highest and peace to His people on earth’.

Dcn Andy

Questions to ponder for the Week...

1. Christ “set us free.....so we could be His very own.....with no ambition except to do good” (Paul to Titus at Midnight Mass). How do you live this ‘freedom’? Is your ambition just to do good? If ‘no’, why? If ‘yes’, how?
2. “You shall be called ‘The-sought-after’, ‘City-not-forsaken’” (Prophet Isaiah at the Dawn Mass). Do people ‘seek’ after your faith? Do they ‘seek’ after your way of living? Do you reflect that God has not forsaken you (in fact loves you!)? How? Think of an example!
3. “The Word was made flesh, He lived among us, and we saw His glory....” (John’s Gospel at the Day Mass). How does this affect your faith? Your way of living? Your ‘view’ of humanity?

Vincent Harvey

Today's Notices

Christmas Day

The Lord is born.... alleluia! Wishing you a Happy, Holy and Blessed Christmas.

All Christmas collections are for the two priests. Thank you!!

Crib Offerings for the Friends of the Holy Land (see elsewhere).

Feast of the Holy Family

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

Second Sunday of Christmas

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

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).

Important Notices

First Holy Communion 2022 Thank you to all who have registered their children for FHC 2022. Registration closed 3 weeks ago. We have over 80 children so cannot accept any more. The **first session is on Saturday, 8th January at 10.30am**. Due to the uncertainty of meeting up in person, due to the way COVID is progressing, we have decided **our first session will be via Zoom**. So you need to make sure you are in email contact with Lorraine who is coordinating the FHC preparation. Please email fhc@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org to make sure you are in contact and can receive the Zoom link.

Remember that on the **9th January** we have the 'Inscription' of your child at Mass: at the 9am or 10am or 11am. Please do make sure you are at one of them.

If you still have to pay your £35 please put it in an envelope and the name of your child and all the contact details (phone, email etc.), and leave in the Parish Office. Or bring all this to the **9, 10 or 11am Mass on the 9th January**

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

Springhill School will also be in St Edmund's during the day for their own celebration of Mass.

This Week...

Wed Evening Prayer at 6pm

For Info:

Mon Part Day Off: VH/JP

Wed Team Meeting: VH/JP/AP



A Few Words...

Father Johnpromise, Anna and all in the Parish Office, and myself, wish you a Joyous, Holy and Blessed Christmas. Celebrate the Lord's Birth in whatever way you can. 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.

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

The Parish Office is closed to casual visitors (due to COVID) and the office will be closed altogether until Wednesday 29th December for Christmas.

Prayer Corner

Prayer intentions of the Holy Father for January...

For true human fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Right to Life January 2nd Prayer "As we begin this new year, we pray for all who may be considering an abortion. We pray that 2022 would see a decrease in cases of abortion, and instead a year of increased support, both practical and emotional, from all of us in society, bettering the care for all expectant mothers. Lord hear us".

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

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.*

Considering focusing more on prayer this year? Why not consider joining our Adoration rota, or contacting the office to volunteer to be a prayer intercessor. We have prayer requests daily and always value the prayers of the community. **Pray on it and get in touch!**



What's going on?



CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the **Afghanistan Crisis Appeal**. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

To set the ball rolling as it were: from 21 September to 7 December 2021, the **Tuesday 10am post-Mass coffee mornings** has collected **£250.00** which will be sent to the Afghanistan Relief fund administered by CAFOD. Many thanks to all who contributed, especially Hilary who coordinates and enables this to happen week in and week out.

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

Stella Maris would like to extend a thank you to all who have donated gifts for the sailors this Christmas. The sailors have been blessed with the most wonderful gifts, and the contribution of the Parish has been truly tremendous. A most sincere thank you from all here at Stella Maris and from each of the sailors - many of whom are now rocking some fantastic woolly hats thanks to your knitting!!

Jingling Bells

The Charity Office Administrator, Southampton

Hospitals Charity has written to Jenepher to say: "Thank you for the Christmas cards today for the staff, we have taken them up to General ICU as they are having a tough time at the moment. Your donations of £40.00 within the cards has been put to our Priority Appeal. By donating to our Unit, you're helping us to provide the best possible rehabilitation and recovery programme for everyone in the Southampton area. Our building is now ready, and thanks to you, we can begin providing the equipment needed so our rehabilitation team can make use of this fantastic new facility, making sure our patients have everything they need to recover as quickly as possible and get back to full strength."

Well done Jenepher and all who support in whatever way.

The **Diocesan Formation team** are offering several courses that may be of interest, the first being: For Catechists: **Essential Training for Catechists** (5 Mondays, 10th Jan – 7th Feb, 7.30 to 9.00 pm) followed by our new course, **Further Training for Catechists** (5 Mondays, 21st Feb – 21st March, 7.30 to 9.00 pm) – in the first course, we will look at the fundamental principles of catechesis to discover what it is, and in the second course, we will look at specific questions: how to speak to adults, young people and children about God, Jesus, salvation, the human person and the Church. To find out more and register, check our website: <https://www.pffm.org.uk/> or register directly for the Essential Training:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcud-CgpzspGNNmzyxwCIFle2MiqfHahOnK> and for the Further Training:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkcuytpzMrGNTFXcThp9NMAfCmflSgIoOh>

Both courses are open to everyone – you don't have to be a catechist to sign up.

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

HMS Bramble Mine Sweeper Anniversary Please remember in your prayers this Christmas those poor souls who lost their lives in the Battle of the Barents Sea. 250 men lost their lives around 10am on 31 December 1942 after the ship was hit by a torpedo. The path they were on was one that left most of the day in darkness, one Winston Churchill described as "the worst journey in the world". 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 Leila Barratt's great uncle, Patrick Kelly who perished at sea and posthumously received the Arctic Star medal in 2019.

RECYCLING TIPS OF THE WEEK



1. Get a regular milk delivery in returnable glass bottles
<https://www.findmeamilkman.net/>
2. Fix broken items at a Repair Café, e.g. at Freemantle Baptist Church or St Denys Community Centre
<https://transitionsouthampton.org/projects-repair-cafe/>

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEKS OF 26TH DEC 2021 & 2ND JAN 2022

(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)

Prayers of the Church

Week 1 & 2

Friday 24th Dec	6pm	SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
<i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	8pm	SJ	People of the Parish
	10.30pm	SE	People of the Parish
Saturday 25th Dec	9am	SE	Margaret Sinclair RIP
<i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	10am	SJ	John Ashcroft RIP
	11am	SE	All Souls
	7pm	SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 26th Dec	9am	SE	Holy Family JMJ
<i>The Holy Family of Jesus,</i>	10am	SJ	Pope's intentions for church wellbeing
<i>Mary & Joseph</i>	11am	SE	People of the Parish
	5pm	SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
	7pm	SE	Hubert Gaffney RIP
Tuesday 28th Dec	10am	SE	Joaquim Rodrigues RIP
<i>The Holy Innocents</i>			
Wednesday 29th Dec	7pm	SE	Chevalier M. B. D. RIP & Chadre N.
<i>St Thomas of Canterbury</i>			Anula D. RIP
Thursday 30th Dec	11am	SE	Marisa Tellegen's funeral
	12.15pm	SJ	Robert Walsh RIP
Friday 31st Dec	5pm	SJ	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
	7pm	SE	Priests and vocations & Hubert Gaffney RIP
Saturday 1st Jan	11am	SE	New Year Blessings, Thanksgiving and Peace in the Universe
<i>Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i>	6.15pm	SJ	Thanksgiving for all the Lord has done in 2021
	7pm	SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 2nd Jan	9am	SE	Lawrence Rodrigues
<i>Second Sunday of Christmas</i>	10am	SJ	Patty Walsh RIP 3rd Anniversary
	11am	SE	Stefan Gawronski RIP
	7pm	SE	Michael Brophy RIP
Tuesday 4th Jan	10am	SE	Peter Carney RIP
Wednesday 5th Jan	7pm	SE	Fr Yerrit Verveen
Thursday 6th Jan	7am	SE	People of the Parish
<i>Epiphany</i>	12.15pm	SJ	Marisa RIP & Reinold Tellegen
	7.30pm	SE	Willie & Katie Coady RIP
Friday 7th Jan	7pm	SE	Tom Wellbeing
Saturday 8th Jan	11am	SE	Jean Scott RIP & Sean Scott RIP
	6.15pm	SJ	Edge & White families past & present
	7pm	SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 9th Jan	9am	SE	Anne M - birthday blessings
<i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	10am	SJ	Ian Morley RIP (10years)
	11am	SE	Thanksgiving for baby Jesus
	7pm	SE	Brendan Street RIP

26th Dec
Feast of the Holy Family
Psalm Response:
 They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.
Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
 Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

2nd Jan
Second Sunday of Christmas
Psalm Response:
 The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.
Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
 Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world.
Alleluia!

19th December Weekly Collection
 Standing Orders: £596
 Cash Donations: £2,439.50
Total: £3,035.50

Second Collections:
26th December: Christmas Priestly Collection
2nd January: No second collection
9th January: Church Maintenance
 Please give generously if you can using one of the **yellow envelopes** for the priests.

Confessions at 11.30am St Edmund's Saturdays

Readings 9th Jan
The Baptism of the Lord
First Reading:
 Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11
Second Reading:
 Titus 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7
Gospel:
 Luke 3: 15-16.21-22

Parish Priest: Monsignor Canon Vincent Harvey vharvey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk / 023 8033 4891
Assistant Priest: Father Johnpromise Umeozuru jumeozuru@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk /023 80172104
 Presbytery Address: 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton, SO152EQ / www.southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org
Deacon: Deacon Andy Philpott aphilpott@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Secretary: Miss Anna Smyllie 023 8033 3589 office@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org
Safeguarding Rep: Catherine Marshall-Cox 023 8033 3589 safeguarding@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org

