



MARCH 27TH 2022 | FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S

City Centre Catholic Parish Southampton



Laetare! Rejoice!

Today we recognise the light that lay at the end of the tunnel, and we respond with joy and gladness. Lent is indeed about repentance, but hope is essential to true repentance. Without hope, repentance becomes futile and meaningless, lacking direction or an end. *Laetare Sunday* is about the hope that fuels repentance, that looks ahead to Easter and resurrection and life in order to inspire, nourish, and replenish us for the remainder of our Lenten journey.

It was quite clear to all who watched that our children on their journey toward their First Holy Communion and who made their first reconciliation last Saturday came away refreshed, shriven, and full of hope fuelled repentance.

Today's parable of the prodigal son is surely one of the most cherished stories in all of world literature, encapsulating the very spirit and essence of the Gospel message. Through the medium of story, using parables and dramatic imagery Jesus reveals Himself and His mission. Jesus will also use parables, as a means of an invitation. In the parables the truth is present in a hidden manner, lying beneath the surface. The truth is there for those willing to seek it; but is not found by those whose hearts and minds are too hardened to pursue truth and light.

The parables of the Christ often sting, and intentionally so. They strike us precisely where we may be too blind to see ourselves, precisely where we are most damaged and yet where we are most loath to look, because deep down we probably know what is there and we're fearful of seeing ourselves in our nakedness. Lenten repentance requires self-knowledge from us, an awareness of the state of our own souls. Is our soul in that far off country, or at home with the Father? Are we journeying towards the promised land, or waiting with the older brother just outside the door, refusing to turn and go inside?

All of these are possibilities. There is still time to ask the Christ to grant us His Spirit, to enlighten our hearts and minds so that we might see ourselves truly. No matter where we are, let's strive for daily conversion and for an unceasing desire to be with the Father, knowing that in the Christ He has reconciled us to Himself.

Dcn Andy

Questions to ponder for the week...

1. In the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Gospel) the Father says “...*your brother here was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found*”. Why? Who should we credit with this: the younger son? the father? the elder son?
2. In the 1st reading the Lord says “*Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you*” (the shame of slavery). Why was it ‘a shame’ for them? What ‘shames’ you? Why? What can you do about it? What can you let God do about it?
3. In Christ there is a “*new creation*” St Paul writes (2nd reading). In what way can you be a ‘new creation’? What must you do? What must you allow God to do?

Vincent Harvey

Today's Notices

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers!

We thank God for each of you and pray for all mothers in our Parish, be they living or dead.

Children Liturgy at 9am Mass.

2nd Scrutiny takes place at the 7pm Mass (for those to be Baptised or Received into the Church at Easter).

Stations of the Cross at 6.15pm in St Edmund's Church.

Please continue to sanitise hands on entry to the churches and we **encourage wearing face masks**.



This Week...

- Tues** St Michael's Meditation Group @ 6pm
- Wed** Evening Prayer @6pm..... to join email Dcn Andy Journey in Faith 7pm
- Thurs** Stations of the Cross at St Joseph's: 11.30am
- Fri** Stations of the Cross at St Edmund's: 6.15pm
CAFOD prayer online

For info

- Mon** Day Off: VH/JP
- Tues** SLT: VH/JP/TQ/LS/AP
St George Governors: VH
- Wed** Clergy Team Meeting: VH/JP/AP
- Thurs** Penitential Service @ St Boniface: VH/JP
- Fri** Housebound: VH
Clergy Ministry Group: VH
- Sat** Memorial Service in Reading: VH

A Few Words...

Thank you to all who contacted me to wish me a happy 43rd Anniversary of Ordination to the Ministerial Priesthood. Also the Mass intentions promised. It has been a full, enjoyable, if not very busy and challenging, 43 years, and I have been blessed with the clergy and people I have worked with and for.

*Please continue to pray for the situation in and around **Ukraine** and how we can help in a practical way (see elsewhere).*

*I encourage you to look closely and reflectively at **today's Gospel of the Prodigal Son (or Prodigal Father!)**. This gospel informs our Parish Mission Statement: the statement arose out of my ponderings of this powerful and life-changing parable. I shared it with the SLT and EST and we came up a few years ago with the Mission Statement. Read Luke 15: 11-32..... copy it; put it in your pocket to reflect upon!*

*Remember that all through **Lent** there is a 6.30am Wednesday Mass in St Ed's, as well as the usual 7pm Mass. Also Stations of the Cross in both churches (see elsewhere) and see also '**Working Through Lent 2022**' in the Lent link on our website.*

Altar Servers please begin to think about which Services you will be serving at over Easter (Holy Week: Thursday, Friday & Saturday); also we will be requiring **stewards & welcomers** for each Service.

My brother, Greg, stayed a night with me before his major surgery in the Spire this Friday gone. As I write we don't know the result. Please pray for him, Judy his wife and their 6 children and 'countless' grandchildren!

I am participating in an on-line Ignatian Retreat this next week (so I may have a halo!). Thank you to those who have sponsored me for my 'cycle against hunger' for CAFOD....I am half way there in terms of kilometres and sponsorship!.....keep it coming!!

Have a good weekend... Vincent H

Prayers

Parish CAFOD Prayer Group Fridays in Lent, on Zoom at 8:15pm. Email joyce@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Please remember especially in your prayers Ivanka and Jayden Roberts, Laneisha Vaz, Jannette and Robert Keith, Margaret Hicks, Margaret Murray, Mary Mullen, Mary O'Reilly and all in the Parish who are ill, dying, undergoing treatment or are experiencing distress.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Fr Michael Stanier R.I.P.** who died yesterday. May he rest in peace.

Pray also for Alan Cunningham who died 2 weeks ago. His Requiem Mass will be on Thursday, 31st, at 1.30pm in St Edmund. May he rest in peace. Please remember Nora in your prayers, as well as John, David and the families.

Please pray for Cpt George Francis Ponniah who celebrates his birthday on Tuesday. Many happy returns!

Congratulations to Father Elijah who celebrates the 9th anniversary of his Ordination to the Ministerial Priesthood on Sunday, 3rd April (Fr Elijah is now Parish Priest in Bitterne/West End/Hedge End)

*As we celebrate Mothering Sunday, we pray for all mothers who are pregnant. We pray for an overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives, and for increased support to be given by their family, friends and local communities, as they journey through this life-changing experience. **Lord hear us.***

Introduction to Prayer for beginners. Prepare for Holy Week with 2 sessions to introduce Prayer in a very simple way, using the Catechism of the Catholic Church's section on prayer. This course is open to everyone. It will be led by the Dominican Sisters, and will take place on **Thursdays 31st March and 7th April from 7.30 to 9.00 pm.** You can register here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEQduCtrz0vG9D1wsJLK49Tv6YzFlONKi46](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91251200000)

- Session 1: What is Prayer?
- Session 2: Types of Prayer



What's going on?

Appeal for aid for Ukraine. The Polish Social Club have a new collection point - the former ToysRUs building in the city centre. They will be open **Wednesday 5pm-7pm / Thursday 1pm-7pm / Friday 4.30pm-7pm and Saturday 10am-3pm.** Below is an updated list of the most needed items. Any donations you can give would be very gratefully received.



- Sleeping bags •Folding camping beds
- Non-applicator tampons •Tinned meats and fish
- Baby food and milk •First aid kits
- Supplements and vitamins •Protein bars
- Instant food •Head torches



Volunteers needed to help sort out donations. Please contact them via FaceBook if you feel able to help.

Making a financial donation. If you would like to support the emergency in Ukraine, please see the below links for donations - and please pray for all those affected.

<https://www.caritas.org/donate-now/>
<https://www.siepomaga.pl/southamptondlaukrainy>
https://cafod.org.uk/donations/picker?defaultuniversalttype=single&_Appeal=123770

Too many children in this world are living in countries where fighting has become part of everyday life. This includes children in South Sudan, where **Mary's Meals** serve life-changing meals. One third of children living in this country are suffering chronic malnutrition. Half are missing school. Millions are displaced. Please donate to this vital cause <https://donate.marysmeals.org/gb>

Food Banks. Please when shopping buy 'one' extra item to bring to church and put in the box in the porch. Southampton City Missions Basics Bank are very low on the following: **Carrier Bags, Coffee** (Small Jars), **Cook-In Sauces** (Jars & Packets), **Custard, Hot Chocolate, Jams & Spreads, Nappies size 4 - 6, Noodles** (Packets), **Squash & Drinks, Sugar** (Small Bags), **Tinned Carrots, Tinned Cold Meat** (Ham, Spam, etc.), **Tinned Hot Meat** (Curry, Pies, Stew, etc.), **Tinned Mixed Veg, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Spaghetti** (In Tomato Sauce), **Tinned Sweetcorn, Treats** (Chocolate, Crisps, etc.), **Toiletries** (Shampoo, Toilet Rolls), **UHT Milk.**

Best place to check what donation is needed is: <https://southamptoncitymission.co.uk/get-involved/how-to-donate>



Stations of the Cross: Thursday 11.30am in St Joseph's
Fridays & Sundays 6:15pm in St Edmund's.
Wednesdays in Lent: Masses at 6.30am & 7pm in St Edmund's.
Thursdays in Lent CAFOD/Christian Aid lunches after 12.15pm Mass

Lent Penitential Service Monday 11th April, @ 7.30pm. Make a note!

Triduum Thursday (14th), Friday (15th) & Saturday (16th).....more details soon.

Stella Maris Easter Egg Appeal. You are invited to take part in our parish appeal to bring the celebration of Easter to seafarers visiting our local ports. Most crews remain confined to their ships for many months and your gift of chocolate or an Easter Egg will bring great pleasure to a hard pressed community, a happy reminder of the joy we share at Easter! Please would you leave your contribution at the back of church **before 5 April.**

Father Vincent's homily last Sunday invited us to muse on five questions which perhaps Moses asked himself in the desert; **who am I; what is the purpose of my life; where are my roots; what is the right path for me; and God, who are You?** If these questions struck a chord with you, why not consider exploring them a little further? Our **Alpha Course** is due to start on **Tuesday 26th of April**, and these are the sorts of questions we consider amongst ourselves in a non-threatening environment with likeminded people. Why not give it a go? <https://forms.gle/Y5oMa9PzenFC3oLJ7>



Evening Adoration is available Tuesdays and Fridays in St Edmund's 5-7pm. **We rely on your attendance to be able to offer this opportunity.** We are called to do more than just attend the Mass. Why not commit this period of Lent to visiting Our Lord in Adoration?

Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima 12-19th October 2022

Brochures available from the Parish Office or Godfrey Doyle. Please do get in touch if you feel you might like to join, pilgrimages are such a wonderful opportunity for renewal and you can be assured that you will come back noticing a difference in yourself and perhaps your prayer life/faith.

The Universe Catholic Weekly is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new **online** newspaper with the full support of our first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Order your Digital 4 weeks FREE trial supply by calling Michelle on **0743 661 7650** or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

Weekly Green Living Suggestion...

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation says expansion of agriculture accounts for **70-90% of global deforestation**, at least half of that for the production of a few commodities for export. Plus, 15-18% of greenhouse gases globally are due to deforestation. In Indonesia forests have been cut down to plant palms for oil, in the Amazon the rainforest is being cut down to produce beef and leather. *(In both these areas the browser Ecosia is planting trees working with local communities).* It may seem an insurmountable problem about which we can do very little but the more we think about this and respond in small ways the more we can contribute to change! We just need to ask ourselves **where** what we buy comes from and whether we can **find affordable alternatives** to less globally friendly produce.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 27TH MARCH*(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 4

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Saturday 26th March | 6:15pm SJ | Mary O'Brien RIP |
| <i>Lenten Weekday</i> | 7:00pm SE | Msza Polska / Mass in Polish |
| Sunday 27th March | 9:00am SE | Joaquim Rodrigues RIP |
| <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i> | 10:00am SJ | Birthday blessings to Sangeeve, Sandamali & Baby Aaron |
| | 11:00am SE | Cpt George Ponniah Birthday Blessing |
| | 7:00pm SE | Alan Cunningham RIP |
| Tuesday 29th March | 10:00am SE | The grace of living faith for Maria, her children and her husband |
| <i>Lenten Weekday</i> | | Ann Leach RIP |
| Wednesday 30th March | 6.30am SE | |
| <i>Lenten Weekday</i> | 7:00pm SE | Vijay Senanayake RIP (100th birthday) |
| Thursday 31st March | 12:15pm SJ | Elizabeth O'Keef RIP |
| Friday 1st April | 7:00pm SE | Thomas Lennon RIP (Ann.) |
| Saturday 2nd April | 11:00am SE | Peter Gitagia Mwgura health & wellbeing |
| <i>St Francis of Paola</i> | 6:15pm SJ | Moyra Clearkin RIP |
| | 7:00pm SE | Msza Polska / Mass in Polish |
| Sunday 3rd April | 9:00am SE | Ann Leach RIP |
| <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> | 10:00am SJ | Dolores Smyllie RIP (birthday ann.) & birthday blessings for Robert Smyllie |
| | 11:00am SE | Marisa Tellegen RIP |
| | 7:00pm SE | Matthew Moran RIP |

27th March
Fourth Sunday in Lent**Psalm Response:**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Gospel Acclamation:
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

I will leave this place and go to my father and say:

*"Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!***Readings 3rd April****First Reading:***Isaiah 43: 16-21***Second Reading:***Philippians 3: 8-14***Gospel:***John 8: 1-11***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, SO15 2EQ**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 0498 & Mrs Marina Joyce 023 8017 0501

Email: 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 Emilianina Silva e.silva@soton.ac.uk 07426 000213Father Benjamin Theobald btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk**Solent Chaplain:**Isabelle Kirby volunteer239@solent.ac.uk 07414 462636**Weekly Collection 20th March**

Standing Orders: £561 Cash : £1139.48

Total : £1,700.48**Won't you consider coming to Adoration?**

It's no secret that spiritual attack intensifies as we grow closer to God. Often, when you are deepening your relationship with God, the backlash from the enemy increases.

Run to Jesus in Adoration, and beg for protection against these attacks. You will regain renewed vigor to persevere through your current trials if you do.

"Make frequent visits to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and the devil will be powerless against you." -St. John Bosco**Second Collections:**This week: **Clergy Assistance Fund**Next week: **No second collection****Confessions: St Joseph's:**Thursdays 11.45am & Saturdays 5.45pm
(before Mass)**St Edmund's:**

Saturdays 11.30am (after Mass)