



JANUARY 30TH 2022 | FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S

City Centre Catholic Parish Southampton



Being on the side of Jesus

The collective voice perhaps readily seen in contemporary society is that of social media and the popular press with its seemingly powerful opinion. To resist the urges and pressures of social pressure takes great determination. In his day, Jeremiah must have suffered something similar to this coercion. Even though he much preferred to blend in, Jeremiah found himself very divergent. He told society that God was not going to save them from the threatening Babylonians, that it was a waste of time to resist, and they might as well give in. Religion was, at the time, a means of expressing and blessing the national endeavour. A recipe for unpopularity! Jeremiah was not accepted as a true man of God. Not everyone can find the courage to listen to God more than to public opinion.

Jesus was an all too familiar person in His home town, He had grown up in their midst, they knew Him and His father Joseph. And in the synagogue He spoke with the authority of someone who truly knew the meaning of scripture and God's will. Then in a trice it all changed. Admiration turned to negativity.

Jesus began telling people God loves those who are close to Him yet He also loves those who are far away. Perhaps we all expect God to be on our side, whichever side that is. Maybe it's a belief common to much of the human race that we're a bit more special to God than all the rest - whoever the rest are. Jesus offended by showing that God's love and care were not restricted to the people of Israel. Furthermore Jesus suggests that God neglected the people of Israel in favour of foreigners, outcasts no less.

The Gospel today is warning us not to place too much trust in those rudimentary partisan ties of fellowship that come from living in a particular place and sharing a particular way of life. In our own time, we see there are many, Christians and people of other faiths and none, who work earnestly for the dignity and wellbeing of asylum seekers, rough sleepers, refugees escaping from worn torn areas left behind by ourselves, and all those countless others left behind in our society. We can be on the side of our faith or on that of some of our daily newspapers.

We can either be on the side of outcasts with Jesus; or we can make Him an outcast, as the good religious people of Nazareth did on that occasion.

Dcn Andy

Questions to ponder for the Week...

1. Both Jeremiah (1st reading) and Jesus (Gospel) provoked people in God's name. Who are some of the prophets in our lifetime? Name them! Did they accomplish their missions? Why? How? Can you be a "prophet" and get small things changed in our world (e.g. start a recycling programme, address discrimination, suggest a plan to help the homeless, housebound and lonely.... etc.)?
2. Why is the 2nd reading (2nd: 1Cor 12:31-13:13: faith, hope and love) placed in the middle of two readings where prophets are trying to change people's attitudes or hearts? What changes people for the better? Does St Paul have a point?

Vincent Harvey

Today's Notices

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

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

Next Sunday...

We welcome Canon John Cooke to the 9am, 11am and 7pm Masses. Canon John is the Diocesan Vocations' Promotor and will be preaching at these 3 Masses. See elsewhere from Canon John. He will be back in July to speak at St Joseph's.

Green Living 'talk' at the end of Masses

A Few Words...



Thank you for your participation in the discussions and prayer last weekend re the 'synodal way'. 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.

The figures of 'Jesus, Mary & Joseph' remain in front of our altars until the 'Presentation of the Lord' on the 2nd February, which is Wednesday. After that they will be removed! Any monies collected go to the 'Friends of the Holy Land' www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

The Government have now lifted all COVID restrictions but are encouraging people to keep safe in public places. Having listened to the guidelines from Bishop Philip and the Bishops' Conference we are still:

- sanitising hands when entering the church
- Holy Communion under **one kind** only (e.g. no chalice/no distribution of the Precious Blood) and we ask that those who desire Holy Communion on the tongue please come at the end of the queue (to prevent possibility of cross viral transmission)
- strongly encouraging the wearing of face **masks** during Mass (primarily for the 'comfort' of others and their 'safety').

It is a month to Ash Wednesday.....yes!!.....so **please bring in your old palms to be burnt** to provide ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Apologies for the lack of **votive candles** at St Edmund's. We have experienced severe supply problems.

Finally, please do remember to bring in **tinned foods** and the like (see elsewhere) that we can donate to the Food Banks in the City.

Thank you.

Have a good weekend... Vincent H

This Week...

- Tues** Parish Finance Committee meeting
Pre-Marriage Prep online
- Wed** Evening Prayer @6pm
Journey in Faith
- Thurs** Synodal Way meeting 7pm in St Edmund's Hall
- Sat** First Holy Communion Workshop

For Info:

- Mon** Day Off: VH/JP
- Tues** CTC campaign: VH
SLT meeting: VH/TQ/AP/Fr Mark
SCOF meeting: VH
- Wed** Clergy Team meeting: VH/JP/AP
Springhill Liturgies in School: JP/AP
- Thurs** Supervision: VH/JP
RSE training: VH
Deanery Meeting: VH/AP and Deanery
- Fri** National Interreligious meeting: VH
Housebound
Clergy Ministry Group: VH

Funerals & Prayers

Please pray for Patricia Strange who died on the 16th of January. May she rest in peace. Please remember also her husband Ron and their family. The funeral will be at St Edmund's on Thursday 3rd at 12.45pm.

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*".

Heavenly Father, in Your love for us, protect against the wickedness of the devil, those helpless little ones to whom You have given the gift of life. Touch with pity the hearts of those women pregnant in our world today who are not thinking of motherhood. Help them to see that the child they carry is made in Your image, as well as theirs, made for eternal life. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

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.**

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

Conchord Singers cordially invite you to their first post-lockdown concert (government regulations complicit) featuring Vivaldi's Gloria and other sacred and English pastoral music on Saturday 12 February 2022 at 1930h at Christ Church, Freemantle Southampton SO15 3BS (on bus route). Free parking in school adjacent. Tickets £10/£7 at the door. Proceeds to Southampton & Winchester Visitors Group supporting asylum seekers/refugees, Charity No 1183558.

"Music on a Sunday" CD with Alban Rees Jones (organ), Carla Mangiagalli, Loretta O'Shea & Jenepher Parry Davies (vocals, bodhràn), 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.

Money for Mary's Meals. The Parish has raised a total of £200 pounds for the charity during December and January. Until the end of January Mary's Meals have a private benefactor doubling donations which means our £200 raised turns into **£400.** Thank you all who donated.

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

GREEN LIVING TIP OF THE WEEK

Perhaps consider making **Ecosia** the default browser on your iPhone. It is a 100% renewable company producing twice as much solar energy as it needs. And it is committed to a world wide tree planting programme which includes restoring lost Amazon rain forest in Brazil, restoring desertified land in Burkina Faso and restoring former palm oil plantations in Indonesia. Every time you click on a search you contribute to the scheme. Check it out for the full range of activity including planting trees around hospitals in the UK.

NEXT SUNDAY (6th February). Vocations to the Priesthood: Canon John Cooke and Mrs Clare Ryan

Canon John and Clare write:

"Have you asked yourself who is responsible for 'finding' your next priest? Is it Cardinal Vincent Nichols, is it down to Bishop Philip or maybe even a task for Fr. Vincent or Fr John promise to plan for his own succession? It may surprise you to realise that the duty of fostering and supporting vocations lies with the whole Christian community. What do you do at the moment to foster and support vocations? Whilst it is important that each one of us comes to a realisation of our own personal vocation through God's plan for each one of us; our call to holiness & discipleship in Jesus' name, - it is good to focus on the need for priestly vocations in our Diocese. I hope that our visit to you highlighting vocations will be memorable, that it stirs up a fresh enthusiasm in the parish for praying for vocations, for actively encouraging vocations & for being open to the possibility of exploring a God-given call. And who knows, it may be the start of a journey towards the priesthood for one of your parish members sat in the pews this weekend. We can all play a part in God's Divine plan because the Holy Spirit works through each one of us."

Food Banks. Our collection of food for the Food Banks in the City has drastically declined these past months. Please when shopping buy 'one' extra item to bring to church and put in the box in the porch. No perishables but things like rice, sugar, flour, coffee, tea, other soft drinks, tinned vegetables, tinned spaghetti, macaroni cheese etc., etc.

Parish Pilgrimage... Hopefully this will be third time lucky for our pilgrimage to Fatima and Lisbon. New brochures will be available shortly. Please contact Godfrey Doyle via the parish office with any queries.

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 prayer, a scripture reading, a short reflection, meditation, a final sharing and prayers of thanksgiving and intercession. Online or in person sisteryadira@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 30TH 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 4

Saturday 29th Jan	6:15pm	SJ	JR personal intentions
<i>Feria</i>	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
Tuesday 1st Feb	10:00am	SE	Martin Ryan RIP
<i>Feria</i>			
Wednesday 2nd Feb	7.00pm	SE	Ellen Brophy's Intentions
<i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>			
Thursday 3rd Feb	12:15pm	SJ	Theo Fernandes RIP
<i>St Blaise</i>			
Friday 4th Feb	7:00pm	SE	Patricia Stanley RIP
<i>Feria</i>			
Saturday 5th Feb	11:00am	SE	Jan Rojko RIP
<i>St Agatha</i>	6:15pm	SJ	Patrick Sharpe RIP
	7:00pm	SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 6th Feb	9:00am	SE	Stella & Fred Winter RIP
<i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	10:00am	SJ	Joseph Lee RIP
	11:00am	SE	Josephine Poynter RIP
	7:00pm	SE	Wanda Wellbeing

30th Jan

Fourth Sunday in OT

Psalm Response:

My lips will tell of your help.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Readings 6th Feb

First Reading:

Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel:

Luke 5:1-11

Second Collections:

This week:

No Collection this week

Next week:

Church Maintenance Fund

CONTACT DETAILS:

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Father Benjamin Theobald btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Solent Chaplain:

Isabelle Kirby volunteer239@solent.ac.uk 07414462636

16th January Weekly Collection

Standing Orders: £1,511.64

Cash Donations: £629.38

Total : £2,141.02

First Holy Communion

The third session of our FHC preparation is the 5th of February.

If you signed up and have yet to attend anything please as a matter of urgency contact Lorraine Swann (Lead Catechist) on fhc@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org

If you have yet to pay your fees please give the money in a clearly marked envelope to one of the clergy - indicating your child's name, or come see the Parish Office.

Confessions

Saturdays 11.30am St Edmund's
(after the Mass)

Alternative Confessions Available

St Boniface Saturdays 11am

Immaculate Conception 10.30am Saturdays

St Patrick's Woolston Friday 6-6.40pm / Saturday 5-5.40pm