



Donate



JANUARY 8TH 2023 | BAPTISM OF THE LORD

# ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S

City Centre Catholic Parish Southampton



Website



## The Three Cs of Baptism

Baptism was the beginning of Christ's public ministry and for the rest of us. Our baptism marks the beginning of our own lives as Catholic Christians. Most of us were baptised as infants, so we don't remember it. The chances are, if we have been a part of a baptism as a parent or a godparent or a relative looking on there's a lot going on that we may not have noticed. Today's feast is a chance to contemplate what this sacrament means and, in particular, how it is celebrated. In essence it comes down to the three Cs: Creation, Commitment and Community.

One of the things we notice about the baptism ritual is that, unlike most of our liturgies, it doesn't begin with a hymn or even a prayer. It begins, instead, with a question: "What name have you given your child?". Everything that follows, flows from that question. Baptism, the first sacrament of initiation, is fundamentally about who we are and who we will be. To be baptised is to be defined in a new way, as a Catholic Christian. We are transformed. We become a new creation. Having a name, an identity, is critical to that. So yes, baptism is about creation in all its wonder, beauty and joy.

It is the commitment of parents and, significantly, godparents. Being a godparent entails commitment; a commitment to the Catholic faith, and to living that faith with fidelity, enthusiasm and joy. That means living it in such a way that our godchildren will see what we do, how we pray, what we value, how we love and they will say: "I want to be like that". Godparents make a commitment to the faith, and to helping their godchildren live that faith.

Early in the rite, the deacon or priest says: "My children, the Christian community welcomes you with great joy". The Church celebrates this sacrament as a community because as a community, we pray together, rejoice together, grow together, grieve together. Christian life isn't lived in isolation, and we don't celebrate our sacraments that way, either. This is why we often baptise several children together on two Sundays a month. It is an experience to be shared.

Creation, Commitment, Community and binding all of these together is Charity, the great bond of love that uplifts us, inspires us and inflames our hearts. These are the raw ingredients of what it means to be a Christian, or as the baptism rite puts it so beautifully: "This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This Sunday we welcome in Baptism: Audrey, Ellie, Jacob, Natan, Marcel, Wiktor and George. Pray for them.

*Dcn Andy*

## Questions to Ponder for the Week...

1. Today's gospel recounts the Baptism of Jesus. Why do you think Jesus was baptised as, unlike us, he didn't need forgiveness for sins? Discuss with others.
2. Isaiah (1st reading) spells out what God's Servant (for us Christ) will do. Ponder it!
3. St Peter (2nd reading) says "God does not have favourites.....all are acceptable to God". Do you have favourites? Why? What does God's attitude mean to you?

*Vincent Harvey*

## Today's Notices

### The Baptism of the Lord

**A Pastoral Letter** from the Bishop on the Death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

**First Holy Communion 'Inscription'** of Children into the period of preparation

**Appeal by Catholic Home Care** after all Masses

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

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

## Next Sunday Notices

### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Talk about Gift Aid** after all the Masses

**Second Collection** for Catholic Home Care

## This Week...

**Sun** Marriage Preparation Team Meet

**Tues** St Michael's Meditation Group @ 6pm

**Wed** Evening Prayer @ 6pm.... to join email Dcn Andy  
Journey in Faith @ 7.30pm St Edmund's Hall

**Sat** Diversity Group Meeting

## For Info...

JP Away until 12th January

**Mon** Day off: VH

**Wed** Team meeting: VH/AP/Ambrose Chou

**Thurs** 'Desert Day': VH

**Fri** Jesu Caritas: VH/AC

Teams of Our Lady: VH


## Sacraments


Please remember especially in your prayers all those who have passed recently.



**Pray for Dennis Reading** who passed away on Christmas Eve. We remember also his brother Francis and all the family at this time.

**Pray also for Valerie Perry** who passed away two weeks ago, remembering also her family in your prayers. Her funeral will be in St Joseph's on the 25th of January.

 **Please pray for all those in our parish who will be Baptised this month:** Natan, Marcel, Wiktor, George, Audrey, Ellie, Jacob, Reina and Elizabeth. We remember them in our prayers as they enter the Faith, and also remember their parents and godparents as they undertake the promises involved in baptism.

 **Confirmation 2023 Update** Any young person (Year 9 - Year 13) 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>



If you are having difficulty with the form please get in touch with the Parish Office. **Registration closes on the 10th of January**, we will not be able to accept any further applications after this time.

*"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act." - Psalm 37:5*

## A Few Words...

I know we are a week into the **New Year**, but I take this opportunity to wish you a **'Happy New Year'** and pray that the Year of Our Lord 2023 may be blessed for you and us in many ways.

**Thank you for all** your cards, gifts and messages of goodwill to Fr Johnpromise, Dcn Andy, myself and all in the Parish Office. **I also thank all in the Parish Office, both paid and volunteers**, who enable the Parish to function (the past few months have been hectic with changes at Diocesan level, both in terms of personnel and procedures, which impact on parishes).

We all know of the death of **Pope Emeritus Benedict**, may he rest in peace. I celebrated Mass for him last Thursday (the day of his funeral) and will do so again at the 11am this Sunday.

**Welcome to Ambrose Chou** currently studying for the Priesthood in St Mary's, Oscott (nr Birmingham). Ambrose is in Yr5 of his training and will spend 2 weeks with us experiencing parish life: this is something that happens annually (Ambrose had an extended placement with Canon Dominic in Jersey a year back).

Do note that from 1st January 2023, the Diocese will be called **Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth**, with registered **Charity number 1199568**. This change comes about for legal reasons.


Have a good week... Vincent H

## 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.



*"Adoration is a prayer that prolongs Eucharistic celebration and communion, during which the soul continues to nourish itself: it feeds on love, on truth, on peace. It feeds on hope, because He before whom we bow does not judge us, does not crush us, but who liberates and transforms us."* (Pope Benedict XVI Homily for Corpus Christi, May 22, 2008)

 *As we begin this new year, let us pray that the Holy Spirit would rest on all mothers and fathers expecting a new baby, giving them the peace and serenity they need as the birth of their child draws near. **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, Christopher Browne, Oliver, Carmen Escorcio, Simon, Bernadette, Sue, Clifford Cross, Kelly, Peter Scott, Ivanka Roberts, Maro P, John Morris, Fr Tom Singleton, Jane Skeets and all in the Parish who are ill, dying, undergoing treatment or experiencing distress.

## What's going on?

### Thank you so much for your support for CAFOD in 2022

Many thanks for your support for CAFOD's work last year especially for our emergency appeals - Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal and Pakistan Flood Appeal. Your donations make a huge difference to the communities that we work with around the world. Have you considered using your time and skills to volunteer for CAFOD? Please contact Jo for info on volunteering opportunities [jlewy@Cafod.org.uk](mailto:jlewy@Cafod.org.uk) or call 07710 094447

### Catholic Mothers' Q&A led by the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph's in Sway. Are you a Catholic mother looking to learn more about your faith and how to transmit it to your children?

Join the monthly Q+A sessions hosted in collaboration with the Catholic Mothers' Apostolate. All sessions held on the first Friday of the month, 7.30pm-9pm. Use the link below to register for the Zoom course. <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZuldOGtqDkjEtJ5kvlS6Tu6PonjIMQOCFuL>

**Assisted Dying/ Assisted Suicide** Fr V has received a letter from Steve Brine MP which says: "The Health and Social Care Committee, which I Chair, has launched a new inquiry into assisted dying/assisted suicide. The Committee would like to hear from campaigners, members of the medical profession and members of the public and we will look at the moral, ethical and practical concerns raised in a way that is informed by actual evidence. The Committee's terms of reference include access to palliative care. Is the current access to palliative care acceptable and, if not, how can this be improved? As an individual, please send the Committee your thoughts through the Committee's online form <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/M66AML/> by 20th January. The Committee are not accepting submissions by email and no emails will be forwarded from my inbox to the Committee."

**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)

**Food Banks** Please consider donating to Southampton City Mission Food Bank if you are able to. You can do this by making use of the collection baskets in supermarkets when you go shopping, or by bringing items with you to church to place in the boxes in the porches. 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** who support Christian Communities in the Holy Land, especially in the West Bank.

**Love Southampton** is inviting you to their next 'Church Forum'. This will be taking place on **Tuesday 31st January from 2.30-5pm** at Central Hall (St Mary's Street, SO14 1NF). Please RSVP by emailing Matt Bunday by Friday 20th January [matt@lovesouthampton.org.uk](mailto:matt@lovesouthampton.org.uk)

**Catechism in a Year** is a free daily podcast and reading plan that guides us through the entire Catechism, complete with encouragement, insights, and enthusiasm that Fr. Mike Schmitz is well known for. With one short episode each day, you'll grow in your knowledge of Church teaching and deepen your loving faith. This Course began on the 1st of January, but can be started at any time. **Why not consider following along?** On all major podcast providers, Hallow Catholic App or YouTube.

**ADoRE Online spiritual mini-retreat morning 28 January 10.00-1.00 "Called to be Missionary Disciples"** - we are called to share in Jesus' mission. Guest speaker is Charles Whitehead KSG, speaker, author and internationally acclaimed leader in Catholic Renewal. Starts with Mass at 10.00 and also includes Adoration, Prophetic sharing, Praise, Testimony and discussion. Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at [bit.ly/ADOREJAN2023](http://bit.ly/ADOREJAN2023)

**Sadly we have had several acts of petty vandalism** and arson attack on the grounds of the St Edmund's. We are now often closing the church during times we do not have any 'watchers' inside in order to ensure the safety of the building. Please remember in your prayers the troubled teenagers involved. Thanks to the Hampshire Constabulary & PCSOs for their assistance.

**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

**Journey in Faith / RCIA Course** For anyone looking to find out more about the Catholic Faith - come along and ask your questions, find out what the church teaches and what it means to live as a Catholic. This group also offers preparation for adult (18+) Baptism, Confirmation or Reception as a Catholic. Meetings are Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm in St Edmund's Hall. Just turn up!

## Green Living Update...

If you have a real Christmas tree, please dispose of it responsibly! Existing Garden Waste customers can cut up their trees and place these inside their brown-lidded bins. All other residents are encouraged to take these to recycling centres for environmentally friendly disposal.

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY

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

<b>Saturday 7th Jan</b>	<b>6:15pm</b>	<b>SJ</b>	*All Sunday Mass Intentions are for the
<b>Sunday 8th Jan</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Continued Growth of the Catholic Home
<i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>SJ</b>	Care, its Dedicated Carers and Supporters
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI RIP</b>
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	*
<b>Tuesday 10th Jan</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Anne's Intentions
<i>Feria</i>			
<b>Wednesday 11th Jan</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	Christopher Wong RIP
<i>Feria</i>			
<b>Thursday 12th Jan</b>	<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>SJ</b>	Joao Silvino & Family RIP
<i>St Aelred</i>			
<b>Friday 13th Jan</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	Francis Bernard Kingwell God's Blessings & Thanksgiving
<i>St Hilary</i>			Anna Hojden RIP
<b>Saturday 14th Jan</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	
<i>Our Lady on Saturday</i>	<b>6:15pm</b>	<b>SJ</b>	Past & Present Members of the Edge & White Families
<b>Sunday 15th Jan</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Greta & PJ Phelan RIP
<i>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>SJ</b>	Patrick Moran RIP 15th Anniversary
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>SE</b>	Jen Bridges RIP
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>SE</b>	People of the parish

8th January

### Psalm Response:

The Lord will bless His people with peace.

### Gospel Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded:

"This is My Son, the Beloved.

Listen to Him."

*Alleluia!*



15th January

### 1st Reading:

Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6

**Psalm:** 39

### 2nd Reading:

1 Corinthians 1: 1-3

### Gospel:

John 1: 29-34

## CONTACT DETAILS

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**Deacon:** Deacon Andy Philpott [aphilpott@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:aphilpott@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary:** Miss Anna Smyllie 023 8033 3589

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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)

Our Twitter: [@SotonCatholics](https://twitter.com/SotonCatholics)

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Father Benjamin Theobald [btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Solent Chaplain:**

Sr Issy Kirby [volunteer239@solent.ac.uk](mailto:volunteer239@solent.ac.uk) 07414 462636

**Vocations:** [www.portsmouthvocations.org/](http://www.portsmouthvocations.org/)

**Diocesan Website:** [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Diocesan Facebook & Twitter:** [@PortsmouthRC](https://www.facebook.com/PortsmouthRC)

*We are part of Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth,  
Registered Charity Number 1199568.*

### 25th Dec 1st Collection

#### For the Priests in the Parish

SO: £940 Contactless: £1,125 Cash: £3,875.27

Gift Aid: £619

TOTAL: £6,559.27 Thank you.

*"It is very helpful to confess with a certain regularity. It is true: our sins are always the same, but we clean our homes, our rooms, at least once a week, even if the dirt is always the same, in order to live in cleanliness, in order to start again.*

*Otherwise, the dirt might not be seen, but it builds up. Something similar can be said about the soul."*

Pope Benedict XVI

Response to children's questions

Oct 15, 2005

### 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!