

JANUARY 9TH 2022 | BAPTISM OF THE LORD

ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S

City Centre Catholic Parish Southampton



IS BAPTISM REALLY NECESSARY TODAY???

The two ministries that kept me busy while in Jersey were Baptisms and Funerals. After 2 years of ministry in Jersey, I had baptised over 100 children and conducted 77 Christian Funerals. Although the link between these two ministries is not immediately evident to us, it is a truism that it is only in death that the profound import of our baptism is laid bare to us. This is so because, at the start of every Christian Funeral, the priest or deacon sprinkles holy water on the coffin saying: **“In the waters of baptism, N. died with Christ and rose with Him to new life. May he/she now share with Him eternal glory.”** Yes, our baptism is a dying to our old and sinful selves and our rising to live the New Life that Christ had won for us as God’s children as the Catechism stipulates in #1213. We are able to do this because Christ who was without sin, subjected Himself to the cleansing waters of Baptism at the hands of John the Baptist which is the Feast the Church celebrates today.

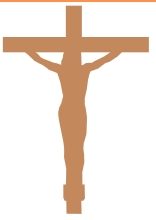
Christ accepted baptism in obedience to the will of His Father as we read in today’s Gospel according to Luke; to sanctify the waters of baptism and to renew us with the Holy Spirit as we read in today’s Second Reading from Titus, and to be the atonement for the sins and crimes of God’s people, as well as to reveal God’s glory, as we read in today’s First Reading from Prophet Isaiah. My friends, may this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord be for us a constant reminder of our individual baptisms and of that fundamental fact that we are God’s children no matter our fallen nature, our backgrounds, and our pasts. May that indelible spiritual seal/mark that baptism imprints on our souls lead us through this life to eternal glory. According to John Mayer, “Someday, everything will make perfect sense. So, for now, laugh at the confusion, smile through the tears, be strong and keep reminding yourself that everything happens for a reason.” Yes, our baptism foreshadowed our deaths, and it is only in death that the plenitude of our baptismal commitment is exhibited.

Fr Johnpromise

Questions to ponder for the Week...

1. John the Baptist was the middleman. He pointed back to Isaiah and forward to Jesus, connecting the whole plan. What or who are the “middlemen or women” who connect you with God? Can you serve as a middle-one?
2. Wastelands, deserts, rugged land and rough country (Isaiah 40). Could these words describe our world today? Covid? Election politics? Racism? Climate crisis? Does this reading suggest that there is help in fixing these or do you have to do it all yourself?

(Anne Osdieck adapted by Vincent Harvey)



Today's Notices

First Holy Communion 'Inscription' at 9, 10 & 11am Masses to enrol all those who have registered on the 2022 period of preparation.

Baptisms at 12.30pm & 2pm at St Edmund's: Vivien and Aleksander.

Pre Marriage Team meet online.

Journey in Faith Candidates 'Rite of Welcome' at the 7pm Mass.

Please continue to sanitise hands on entry to the churches and we strongly recommend **wearing face masks** (unless not possible for health reasons).

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

Interfaith Week when we pray for other Religions
Masses are being streamed as usual on our YouTube.

Next Sunday

Welcome Baptism Lunch for families coming for baptism.

Synodal Way input at all Masses.

This Week...

Tues Meditation Group at 6pm St Michael's
Alpha at 7pm Zoom

Wed Evening Prayer at 6pm
Journey in Faith after 7pm Mass

Thurs Richard Rohr Group Zoom

For Info:

Mon Day Off: VH/JP (VH also Funeral)

Tues DR clergy meet: VH

Wed CTC campaign: VH

Thurs CA Trustee meeting: VH; CES course: VH

Fri Jesu Caritas in Hook: VH

Sacraments

First Holy Communion 2022

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

Baptisms of Vivien Danova and Aleksander Zelek this Sunday. We wish them well on their journey and welcome them into the faith with open arms!

A Few Words...

I am just back from a few days away with friends on a post-Christmas break. I hope you had a Blessed Christmas and was able to 'see in' the New Year. Father Johnpromise will take his post-Christmas break this week.

It was lovely to have Father Ansel join us last Sunday for the 11am Mass. We were able to present him with the monies raised for him during lockdown (£1200); thank you to all who contributed.

Thank you for all your support over the year. We now move into a new year full of promise at all levels, not least in the Church. Please do follow through on the Synodal Way that Pope Francis wishes us to embark on. It is not about committees or politicking, but about being Church and listening to each other, the wider community and the world. By so doing to hear the voice of Christ.

If you have not yet been able to 'give' in support of Fr JP and myself it is still possible with an envelope marked 'Christmas Offering' or on the Parish Website front page. Thank you.

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

Prayer Corner

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".

The door to heaven is the Heart of Jesus. The key to this door is prayer and love.

St Andre Bessette

PLEASE PRAY FOR Margaret Hicks, Joseph, Margaret ('Molly') Jarvis, Margaret Murray and *all in the Parish who are ill, undergoing treatment or are experiencing distress.*

Funerals

Rosa Pack RIP Please pray for Rosa (Rosanna Stride's mother) who died just before Christmas. May she rest in peace. Her Requiem Mass is in St Edmund's tomorrow (Monday 10th) at 10.15am.

Please pray for Krzysztof Janiak, 39 years old, father of a pupil at Springhill who died unexpectedly. May he rest in peace. He leaves his wife and two children. Springhill have set up a 'GoFundMe' page to cover the funeral costs:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/krzysztof-janiaks-funeral-fund-raiser?utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer

The funeral will be held at St Edmund's on Monday the 24th of January at 11.30am.



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.

Last week we mentioned the Tuesday 10am post-Mass coffee mornings had collected £250.00 which will be sent to the Afghanistan Relief fund administered by CAFOD, we also recognise the addition of funds from the St Joseph's coffee morning who raised the total donated to £272.36. Many thanks to all who contributed.

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.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk

Are you considering a Vocation to the Sacred Priesthood?

Canon John Cooke, our Diocesan Vocations Promoter invites you to join others in a similar position at the Seeker Group which meets on the first Friday of every month from 7-9pm...

This group is for anyone who may be considering a vocation, or at least wanting to spend some time discerning God's will for their life. We start with friendship and fellowship by sharing a meal. Then, during the evening we have some kind of relevant input, talk & discussion regard vocation – this could be from the Vocation Promotion team, or a member of a Religious Community or a current Seminarian. We spend a period of prayer in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Seeker Group meets on the first Friday of every month from 7-9pm. All are welcome to join us at Sacred Heart Church Fareham, PO16 0NQ. The next meeting is Friday 4th February. If you would like to attend, please contact Canon John Cooke at vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call **01329 318869**

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 in a clearly marked envelope.

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/tZUkcuytpzMrGNTFXcThp9NMAfCmfl8GIoOh>
Both courses are open to everyone – you don't have to be a catechist to sign up.

Collections: ongoing income is, as we know, vital. This can be done:

- **Online**, accessible via the Parish Website.
- **Bank Transfer** (details also on the Parish website).
- In a clearly marked **envelope** put through the Presbytery or Office letter box.
- A **'bucket'** at the back of church during the weekdays and Sundays in the **red bags** as we leave.

The Verbum Dei Friday Evening prayer Group. Spring 2022. Verbum Dei Southampton is continuing its Friday evening prayer group in the Spring of 2022. The Group meets fortnightly on Friday evenings at 7.30pm for approximately one hour. You would be very welcome to join on-line via zoom or in person.

The eight meetings this spring begin on Friday 14 January and end just after Easter on April 22. The title of the series is "Our Mother Mary in the Gospels".

Each meeting involves a welcoming prayer, a scripture reading, a short reflection on the reading, silent prayer and meditation, a short final sharing and prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.

If you would like a programme or any more detail then please email: sisteryadira@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. It would be very helpful if you would let us know if you are planning to attend.

RECYCLING TIP OF THE WEEK

1. Reduce your carbon footprint by 20-30% by cutting out meat from your diet and by 50% by becoming vegan.
2. Have a meat free January! It will not only benefit your health but have a positive impact on our environment!



MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 9TH 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)

Prayer of the Church
Week 3 & 1

Saturday 8th Jan	6:15pm	SJ	Edge & White families past & present
	7:00pm	SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 9th Jan	9:00am	SE	Anne M - Birthday blessings
<i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	10:00am	SJ	Ian Morley RIP 10th anniversary
	11:00am	SE	Thanksgiving for baby Jesus
	7:00pm	SE	Brendan Street RIP
Tuesday 11th Jan	10:00am	SE	Martin Ryan RIP
<i>Feria</i>			
Wednesday 12th Jan	7.00pm	SE	Francis Bernard Kingwell - Thanksgiving & God's blessings
<i>St Aelred</i>			Keiko & family wellbeing
Thursday 13th Jan	12:15pm	SJ	
<i>St Hilary</i>			
Friday 14th Jan	7:00pm	SE	Karen Nugent RIP 4th anniversary
<i>Feria</i>			
Saturday 15th Jan	11:00am	SE	Margaret Eden
<i>Our Lady on Saturday</i>	6:15pm	SJ	Christine Mary Diarden RIP
	7:00pm	SE	Msza Polska / Mass in Polish
Sunday 16th Jan	9:00am	SE	Karen Nugent RIP
<i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	10:00am	SJ	Thomas James Crawley RIP
	11:00am	SE	Sister Rita Rafferty - God's Blessings & Thanksgiving
	7:00pm	SE	Teresa Filipaska RIP

9th Jan
The Baptism of the Lord
Psalm Response:
Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are!
Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Alleluia!

Readings 17th Jan**First Reading:**

Isaiah 62:1-5

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Gospel:

John 2:1-11

Second Collections:

This week:

Church Maintenance FundNext week: **Catholic Home Care****CONTACT DETAILS:**

Parish Priest: Monsignor Canon Vincent Harvey
Email Address: vharvey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk / 023 8033 4891

Assistant Priest: Father Johnpromise Umeozuru
Email Address: jumeozuru@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk / 023 80172104
Presbytery Address: 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton, SO152EQ

Deacon: Deacon Andy Philpott aphilpott@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.org
Parish Website: www.southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org

Pastoral Assistant: Mrs Tina Quinn tquinn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Catholic Home Care: Mrs Anne Monaghan 023 8017 0498
Email: catholichomecare@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Polish Chaplaincy: Father Mariusz Urbanowski
Tel. No. 02381786316 southampton@pcmew.org

Safeguarding Rep: Catherine Marshall-Cox 023 8033 3589
Email: safeguarding@southampton-city-catholics.org.uk

Stella Maris (AoS): Mr Charles Stuart Mob No 7843 739579

Catholic Chaplains:
Sr Emiliana Silva e.silva@soton.ac.uk 07426 000213
Father Benjamin Theobald btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Solent Chaplain:
Isabelle Kirby volunteer239@solent.ac.uk 07414462636

26th December Weekly Collection

Standing Orders: £749.52

Cash Donations: £256.98

Total Parish Collection: £1,006.50**PRAYER OF ST. HILARY OF POITIERS****For Perseverance In Faith**

Father, keep us from vain strife of words.
Grant to us constant profession of the Truth!
Preserve us in a true and undefiled faith
so that we may hold fast to that
which we professed when we were baptized
in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
that we may have Thee for our Father,
that we may abide in Thy Son
and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.**Confessions**

Saturdays 11am St Edmund's

Alternative Confessions Available*St Boniface* Saturdays 11am*Immaculate Conception* 10.30am Saturdays*St Patrick's Woolston* Friday 6-6.40pm /

Saturday 5-5.40pm