

15TH AUGUST 2021

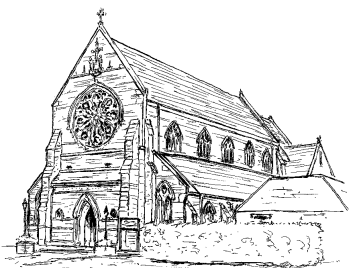
THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



**ST JOSEPH'S &
ST EDMUND'S
CITY CENTRE CATHOLIC
PARISH SOUTHAMPTON**
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
PORTSMOUTH REG. CHARITY NO. 246871

**STELLA MARIS DEANERY
INCLUDES:**

- ST. BONIFACE, SHIRLEY
- HOLY FAMILY, MILLBROOK
- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, LORDSWOOD
- IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, PORTSWOOD
- CHRIST THE KING & ST. COLMAN'S, BITTERNE
- OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION, HEDGE END
- ST BRIGID, WEST END
- ST. PATRICK'S, WOOLSTON
- THE ANNUNCIATION, NETLEY ABBEY



MOTHER OF GOD AND MOTHER OF US ALL!

This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady. This is a commemoration of the falling asleep of the Virgin Mary because of the tradition that her body did not decay but that she was raised body and soul into Heaven. The tradition was present as early as the sixth century but it was only in the twentieth century that on consultation with all the bishops throughout the world that Pope Pius XII formally declared the Assumption to be part of the authentic doctrine and teaching of the Catholic Church.

As Catholics and particularly for those of us who have been new Catholics there are many challenging mysteries to absorb and believe and not least about Our Blessed Lady; she was immaculately conceived, she is the Mother of God, and she was assumed into Heaven.

We are constantly reminded of that our faith is not simply about belief, it is about relationship; we are relational people and Christ is calling each one of us into a living relationship. The Alpha journey, which has become one of the foundational stones of our parish life invites us to experience that relationship, to move what is in our heads into our hearts.

For me there are similarities with our understanding of Mary, the Mother of God. As someone who was not brought up with Mary I have had to learn and understand her significance but most importantly not only to ask myself the question 'Who is this woman?' but 'Who is this woman to me?'

Our Lady has called me to the pilgrimage site of Lourdes for many years; firstly as a non-Catholic but latterly as part of the Catholic Association Pilgrimage. Like many sceptical non-Catholics I initially struggled with the huge attraction and devotion to Mary, and yet she called me back year after year. The statue in the grotto is entitled "I am the Immaculate Conception", the title Our Lady gave herself when appearing to Bernadette. I was born on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception! (again not a coincidence but part of the plan, I think!) The feast of the Assumption for me gives greater clarity and conviction to Mary's Immaculate Conception. She is the Mother of God, and God can have no beginning or end. Mary was not born as you and I were born and she is now with God in Heaven.

On our pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2018 we visited the Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem where there is a beautiful statue of Mary in a deep sleep. Above the statue in the centre of the cupola, Jesus is depicted calling His mother to heaven. I remember at the time asking one of our pilgrimage leaders to explain its significance. Now that I have a better understanding, our Lady has given me yet another gift. I believe that those I have lost are 'asleep in Christ' and as Mary always pointed the way to her Son she is giving us added confirmation that our loved ones are safely sleeping until the resurrection. Having lost my own earthly mother four years ago I am sustained, comforted and deeply grateful for my spiritual mother who is truly with God in Heaven, body and soul.

Tina Quinn

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

1. What in Elizabeth's life helped her understand what had happened to Mary? How is the babe leaping in her womb like a "leap for all humankind"? (Gospel)
2. One of the images in the 1st reading speaks of the Ark of the Covenant. Compare Mary with this image!
3. Imagine you are a Christian in Paul's time and you're hearing about the resurrection of the dead for the first time (2nd reading). Would this idea move you to make any changes in your life?

Vincent Harvey adapted from Anne Osdieck

TODAY 15 AUGUST 2021

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

THANK YOU TO CANON NICK who will be presiding at the 10:30am and 7:00pm Masses.

BAPTISMS: We welcome into our faith community:



Francis Rouse, son of Anthony & Mary, being baptised at 12:30pm and
Wiktór Mills, son of Stewart & Ewa, being baptised at 2pm. Both baptisms take place at St Edmund Church today (Sunday)

EVENING PRAYER 6pm to join email Dcn Andy.

MASSES ARE BEING STREAMED:

St Edmund streaming link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx08VII2ww0whsj6gLPptcQ>

St Joseph streaming link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUxGYYxAgmPBgKbk2ufciVw>

SUNDAY MASSES: Do not turn up without booking on Eventbrite as you may be denied entry (there may be space but you are taking a risk!). Masks are encouraged to be worn.

ANNE WHEELER: we said 'farewell & thank you' to Anne on Friday afternoon with a superb out of Town 'Afternoon Tea' attended by other employees and volunteers. As mentioned last week, Anne has been Secretary/Administrator for 13 years; very much at the centre of Parish life at many levels. Although we say farewell to Anne as Secretary, she will, thankfully for us, still be a parishioner. More next week!

ANNE: prayers for a happy, enjoyable and relaxed retirement.

AT 6:15PM AND 9AM MASSES, Tom Hiney (seminarian) will share some of his 'story' with us. Today we also say farewell to him as he returns home before going back to the Beda in Rome. **Tom:** thank you for your presence with us, your companionship in the Presbytery, and your engagement with Parish activities and individuals. We wish you well.

TAKE HOME AN ENVELOPE for Father Ansel's collection.

NEXT WEEKEND

THANK YOU TO CANON NICHOLAS FRANCE for helping out at 6:15pm and 7pm Masses.

THIS WEEK

ONLINE EVENING PRAYER MONDAYS (join the Baptism Preparation Team) & **WEDNESDAYS** at 6:30pm; email Deacon Andy aphilpott@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

FOR INFO:

Mon VH off

Tues SLT: VH/TQ/AP

Christian Meditation Group: VH

Wed Team meeting: AP/VH

Thurs Hate Crime Network Zoom Meeting: VH

Fri Unity 101 talk: VH

A few words from Father Vincent We said 'farewell' to Anne Wheeler as Parish Secretary on Friday afternoon. There was a gathering of those who are employed by the Parish, or volunteers who have direct involvement with the Parish Office. There is more I wish to say about Anne in gratitude for what she has done and who she is but will leave that for a later date! Meanwhile pray that she has a happy and enjoyable retirement.

We have welcomed Anna Smyllie who has been appointed as Anne's successor. Over the last two weeks Anna and Anne have been working together for a seamless transition! Now we are in your hands Anna!

Father Paul Leonard's mother died on the 31st July. May she rest in peace. Her Requiem is at English Martyrs Church, Reading, on Thursday, 19th August @11.30am. Pray for Fr Paul, his father and the family.

As mentioned last week, the results of the Parish 'Post-Covid Survey' is on the website. We have put it on the site in a 'pie-chart' format (thanks to Lorraine Swann). There is the **full version** (25 slides) and a **short version** (12 slides). Remember we did the survey to enable us as a Parish to hear where people are in terms of faith, life and religious practice. This helps the Senior Leadership Team, the EST and others to reflect on where we are going and what it is we need to pick up and respond to as Parish. There are challenges ahead as to how we can be 'Church', assist people in their faith, and help people in their journey with and to God. **Have a look at the survey. What does it say to you? What insights does it give you?** If the survey conveys something you think is essential for us to 'note', 'pick up' or 'pursue' do let me know.

Church Opening Working Group are opening our churches up a little more without risking safety. We must still limit numbers so please do book in via Eventbrite for Sunday Masses only. I encourage you to wear masks for the sake of others (unless you have a health issue). We can hum/sing under our masks (if we can remember the hymns!!). **Altar Servers, Readers** (rotas being organised), **Mass Co-ordinators, Welcomers etc.:** If you are willing to pick up these ministries please do contact me or the Parish Office.

Slowly but surely we are getting back to being what everyone is calling the 'new normal'; but to do so and make the 'new normal' a better place than the 'old normal' we need volunteers.....come on!!!!

Have a good weekend and thank you for reading this.

Vincent H

GENERAL ITEMS

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR AUGUST: *Evangelisation:*

for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY: VJ Day this year falls today, Sunday, August 15. The day marks the moment Imperial Japan surrendered in the Second World War, bringing the war to an end. While August 15 is the official VJ Day for the United Kingdom, the official US commemoration is on the 2nd September.

We recall this event to pray for those who died, were injured and affected during the War, and for those who continued to suffer due to the conflict. We also pray for lasting world peace and a cessation of war anywhere.

Patrick Nolan, of County Welford, Eire, captured by the Japanese at the Fall of Singapore in March 1942. Transferred by hell ship to the Solomon Islands and held captive with a group of 600 soldiers known as the Gunner 600. On liberation day 15 August 1945 only 18 survived, Patrick being one of them. His Catholic faith kept him strong. Father of Tessa, Cait, Mairin & grandfather of Leila. We remember the poor souls who perished and are thankful for those who returned.



ADORATION has commenced during the week at St Edmund Church, Monday to Friday from 10am to 5pm, can you wait with the Lord for an hour? Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to join the team.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ERICA BURDEN who was 'Received into Full Communion' and 'Confirmed' at last Friday's evening Mass. Pray for Erica as her journey in faith with the Church takes her deeper into the life of God in Christ.



'EDEN' MOBILITY SCOOTER (purchased in 2019) is looking for a new home; free of charge! If you need a mobility scooter, or know someone who does, then contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.

JACKET AND WATERPROOF left in St Joseph's Foyer. We have brought it to the Presbytery. If it belongs to you let us know!

LOURDES 2021: As you may know most, if not all, pilgrimages to Lourdes were cancelled this year. The planned Diocesan one in July, and the Catholic Association one in August were both cancelled. The Catholic Association (to which Father Vincent is a Trustee) are having a 'virtual' pilgrimage to Lourdes from this Friday, 20th August. Will provide a link shortly!

For those who usually go on the Catholic Association Pilgrimage to Lourdes (which would have been 20th-27th August) we are having a Mass in St Edmund on Saturday, 28th August at 11am. All are welcome. Bring a packed lunch; tea/coffee will be available.

JINGLING BELLS: As organiser of this initiative over several years, I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to our Parish Secretary, Anne Wheeler, for all her kind and generous support. You are a star, Anne. Thank you to the moon.



THANK YOU FROM ANNE WHEELER to Father Vincent, Father Ansel, Deacon Andy, Tina Quinn, Parish Office Staff and parishioners of St Joseph & St Edmund for the many cards, generous gifts, flowers and beautiful wishes, prayers, blessings and most kind words received on my retirement. I am overwhelmed and most grateful for everything. It has been a blessing to work in the Parish and serve the Lord in this way and I give thanks to God for this wonderful opportunity.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MY BLESSED AND GIFTED SUCCESSOR, ANNA SMYLLIE. May Anna experience the joy that I have had in working for the parish. God's blessings Anna in all you do.

Anne Wheeler

MARCH FOR LIFE UK Saturday 4 September in London. Contact via email info@marchforlife.co.uk or call Isabel 07773 501 721 or Ben 07885 505 116 or visit the website: marchforlife.co.uk #NumberOneIssue



WEDDING BELLS: CONGRATULATIONS TO Nicholas Griffiths & Catherine Curran who are getting married at 1pm on Friday 27 August 2021 in St Edmund church. May God bless them all the days of their lives.

****Wedding flowers by Teresa, Marisa and Richard and photograph taken by Anna Smyllie.**

DIOCESAN PRESS STATEMENT: The Diocese released the following press statement this week regarding the use and promotion of the Covid Vaccine. "The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is very disappointed that one of the Family of Mary Immaculate and St Francis in Gosport has publicly expressed a personal view about the Covid vaccination programme that is contrary to the official position of the Catholic Church and the Diocese. The matter is being taken very seriously and an investigation is in progress. The Pope has encouraged the take up of the vaccination programme. The Vatican's doctrinal office issued a note last December reinforcing this position saying it is "morally acceptable" for Catholics to take vaccines against the coronavirus. While the Vatican note does not recommend that vaccination against the coronavirus be made mandatory it says "the morality of vaccination depends not only on the duty to protect one's own health, but also on the duty to pursue the common good." In this Diocese Bishop Philip Egan has reinforced that position through publications to the diocese over past months. We would encourage all our parishioners to benefit from the protection afforded by the vaccine".

PLEASE PRAY FOR all in the Parish who are ill, undergoing treatment or affected by the Coronavirus in any way or are experiencing extreme poverty.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 15 AUGUST 2021

(Church key to City Centre Catholic Masses below are SJ = St Joseph's Church, Bugle Street, SO14 2AH and SE = St Edmund's Church, The Avenue, SO17 1XJ)

SAT	14 AUG	VIGIL MASS	6:15PM	SJ	ANNE WHEELER—GOD'S BLESSINGS IN HER RETIREMENT (AM)
			7:00PM	SE	MASS IN POLISH
SUN	15 AUG	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9:00AM	SE	VIVIAN C ANDREW—GOD'S BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING (THEOS)
			10:30AM	SJ	MAUREEN WILLOUGHBY RIP (PP)
			7:00PM	SE	CAPT. ALISTAIRE YOCHAN DISSANAYAKE—40TH BIRTHDAY—GOD'S BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING (ANUSHKA)
TUE	17 AUG	20TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME	10:00AM	SE	JUDY BROWN RIP (HP)
WED	18 AUG	20TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME	7:00PM	SE	ANNE WHEELER—BIRTHDAY & MARGARET HICKS – 90TH BIRTHDAY—GOD'S BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING (ANUSHKA PONNIAH)
THURS	19 AUG	ST JOHN EUDES	12:15PM	SJ	JOELYN—GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR 1 MONTH OLD BABY AND HER GROWTH, ALSO FOR HER FAMILY (LS & JM)
FRI	20 AUG	ST BERNARD	7:00PM	SE	PATRICK TWOHIG RIP (KH)
SAT	21 AUG	ST PIUS X VIGIL MASS	11:00AM	SE	KEIKO—GOD'S BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING (AW)
			6:15PM	SJ	JAN ROJKO RIP (RJ)
			7:00PM	SE	MASS IN POLISH
SUN	22 AUG	21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:00AM	SE	PETER EDWARDS RIP (F)
			10:30AM	SJ	EVELYN MAY PRISK RIP (EB & DB)
			**	**	MYRA ANDRADE, ROMEO & MARIA, MASCARENAS & GOANS, AUBREY FERNANDEZ, BILL BURKE, VISAKKA D, LALITHA L, & ALL THOSE DIED RIP (ANUSHKA PONNIAH)
			7:00PM	SE	IKA UVANOVICH RIP (ZU)

CONTACT DETAILS:

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 Father Vincent Tel No 023 8033 4891
 Presbytery Address: 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton, SO152EQ

Parish Office Tel. No. 023 8033 3589
Deacon: Deacon Andy Philpott
 Email address: aphilpott@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Secretary: Miss Anna Smyllie
 Parish Office Address: St. Edmund Lodge, The Avenue, SO17 1XJ

Parish Email: southamptoncitycentre@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Website: www.southampton-city-catholics.org.uk
Pastoral Assistant: Mrs Tina Quinn / Mobile 07827 810 457
 email: tquinn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Catholic Home Care: Mrs Anne Monaghan 023 8017 0498
 Email: catholichomecare@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Hospital Chaplaincy: 023 8120 8517—Father Joe McNerney
Stella Maris (AoS): Mr Charles Stuart Mob No 7843 739579
Poitiers Care Project: Brian Arthur 07796 161 047
Polish Chaplaincy: Father Mariusz Urbanowski
 Tel. No. 023 8178 6316 southampton@tchr.org
 Address: 15 Landguard Road, Southampton, SO15 5DL

Safeguarding Rep: Catherine Marshall-Cox 023 8033 3589
 Email: safeguarding@southampton-city-catholics.org.uk
University Chaplain: Sr Emiliana Silva—Mob. 07426 000 213
 Email: emiliana.silva@solent.ac.uk

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: Springhill Primary 023 8033 3954
 St Anne School 023 8032 8200

15 AUGUST 2021

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Psalm Response:

On your right stands the queen,
in garments of gold.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Mary has been taken up into heaven; all the
choirs of angels are rejoicing.

Alleluia!

READINGS 22 AUGUST 2021

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading:	Joshua 24: 1-2. 15-18
Second Reading:	Ephesians 5: 21-32
Gospel:	John 6: 60-69

2ND COLLECTION TODAY

CHURCH MAINTENANCE FUND

NO 2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

PARISH INCOME 8.8.2021	DONATIONS & STANDING ORDERS
Totals	£2,480.14
Donations	200.14
Standing Orders	1,730.00
Gift Aid Rebate	550.00

CONFESSIONS:

11:30am Saturdays
at St Edmund Church