



Donate



MARCH 19TH 2023 | 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

ST JOSEPH'S & ST EDMUND'S

City Centre Catholic Parish Southampton



Website

SEEING WITH THE DIVINE BINOCULARS

I have just finished watching the 2022 series of **“MARRIED AT FIRST SIGHT UK”**, and I am laden with mixed emotions. Married at first sight UK is a reality television that matches couples from different countries based on the scientific and sociological compatibilities the experts had gathered from an in-depth study of their different personalities. The selected couples then meet for the first time on their wedding day, get married without knowing anything about their partners and move in together. They are then followed by the TV production crew for 6 weeks as they explore their new lives together with all the ups and downs therein. The 2022 series featured 10 couples from around the UK and makes an interesting viewership. While watching it, I could not help myself; I saw so many red flags and kept shouting at my telly at the absurdity of their choices and naiveties as well as the ridiculousness of such a TV Show. I was convinced none of them would last since married is more than scientific and sociological computations. As at this time, 9 out of the 10 couples have called it quits, only one couple is going strong and are planning on staying married forever. Yes, life is larger than falling in love at first sight, let alone getting married at the first sight.

In our Sunday readings on this Laetare Sunday, we encounter a God who does not judge us at the first sight nor by our physical appearances; rather, He uses His ‘Divine Binoculars’ and delves into the fabrics of our beings and sees us as we really are. It is this ‘Divine Binoculars’ that He deployed in today’s First Reading in rejecting the 7 sons of Jesse of Bethlehem who were muscular and handsome, in favour of David with a pleasant bearing. It is the same yardstick He used in today’s Gospel in healing the man born blind from birth whom everyone had opined was cursed by God. My friends, on this Laetare Sunday when we, who are the ‘New Jerusalem’ are summoned to be joyful, let us rejoice in the knowledge that God does not judge us at the first sight nor approve us based on our physical appearances. Nah

Nah Nah!!! God looks at our hearts via His ‘Divine Binoculars’ and makes an inscrutable decision. As children of God, we are encouraged never to judge or write off anyone at the first sight, and certainly not by their physical appearances. Yes, never judge a book by its cover, since appearance can be deceptive, and we are still on that journey of perfection. **LAETARE JERUSALEM, ET CONVENTUM FACITE**
(Rejoice Jerusalem, and all who love her)!!!

Fr Johnpromise

Questions to Ponder for the Week...

1. The blind man in the gospel ‘*came away with his sight restored*’! His sight was restored because he did as Jesus advised! What element of your ‘sight’ do you need to be restored? Faith in Christ? Trust in God? The ‘root’ of your sinfulness?
2. David ‘*is the one*’ who has been chosen (1st reading). In a sense we are all ‘chosen’ as we are all sons and daughters of God. How do you live out this ‘chosen-ness’? Christ is your brother how do you reflect that?
3. ‘*Now you are light in the Lord*’ St Paul writes (2nd reading). How are you a ‘light’? Where? When? How?

Vincent Harvey

Today's Notices

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Second Collection for Clergy Assistance Fund
2nd Scrutiny at 6.15pm Mass for those to be Baptised, Received or Confirmed at Easter
Please continue to **sanitise hands** on entry to the church

Next Sunday Notices

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Second Collection for Church Maintenance Fund
3rd Scrutiny at 11am Mass for those to be Baptised, Received or Confirmed at Easter

This Week...

Mon Plenty group via Zoom
Tues St Michael's Meditation Group @ 6pm
SCOF Meeting
Wed Evening Prayer @ 6pm.... to join email Den Andy
Lectio Divina in Immaculate Conception Church 7pm
Journey in Faith @ 7.30pm St Edmund's Hall
Thurs CAFOD/Christian Aid Lenten Soup Lunch after Mass
EST Meeting via Zoom
Fri Belong & Believe via Zoom at 4pm
Sun Evening Prayer @ 6pm.... to join email Den Andy

For Info...

Mon Day off: JP / VH
Tues SLT: VH/JP/TQ/AP/LS
Wed Team Meeting: VH/JP/AP
St Anne Mass: JP
Springhill: VH
Thurs Diocesan Interfaith: VH
Fri CaFE group: VH
Clergy Ministry Group: VH

Prayers

When is there Adoration in St Edmund's?



Mondays 11am - 3pm
Tuesdays 10.30am - 8pm
Thursdays 10am - 5pm
Fridays 1pm - 7pm



Can I come to Adoration?

Yes, you are warmly welcome to attend adoration when you are able! Just come to the church between the times specified above and enjoy quiet time with Our Lord. If you feel you would like to formally join the Adoration team, then this is a real help and greatly appreciated. Please simply contact Anna on 07956 379 542 if you feel able to join and we can chat.



As we reach the midpoint of Lent today, and as we celebrate the Solemnity of St Joseph, tomorrow, let us pray for all fathers, that, through their example, they may demonstrate the loving provision and compassion of Almighty God to their children. **Lord hear us**

Please remember especially in your prayers

Michaela, Sr Maria Innocenta, Mary Mullen, Christopher Browne, Peter Scott, Vasile, Sue and all in the Parish who are ill, dying, undergoing treatment or experiencing distress.



A Few Words...

This weekend (19th) I celebrate the 44th anniversary of my Ordination to the Ministerial Priesthood. It is frightening to think how fast the time has flown. I give thanks for those 44 years and especially the people and clergy I have met and have worked with. There have been, as there still will be, many challenges: some I have met face on, others I have avoided and still others I have struggled with! But all of them have formed me into the person I am (for good or ill!). I give thanks to God.

Lent is still with us! Continue your Lenten practices. If you have 'failed' or 'weakened' already don't worry, just start again!

*The Bishops' Conference of England & Wales have suggested that **Holy Communion under 'both kinds'** (the Host and the Precious Blood) be reintroduced on Holy Thursday. The local clergy discussed it at our last meeting. Although we all miss this form of distribution, we are of a mind not to reintroduce it yet! The main reason is out of concern for the Extraordinary Minister or the Deacon/Priest who has to consume what is left over of the Precious Blood! Whilst some virulent viruses are still round this seems to be an unacceptable risk for them to take! A person receiving from the Chalice can decide if they are willing to take such a risk, whereas the minister purifying the chalices has no choice! So at present we are holding back. Maybe when the weather is better, brighter and warmer, things may be different. Sorry if you find this a disappointment (which I do! But I think it is wise!).*

Continue enjoying Lent! Have a good week... Vincent H

Lent 2023

Early Mass in St Edmund's at 6.30am (all through Lent)
Stations of the Cross St Edmund's: 6.10pm on Fridays and Sundays & St Joseph's: 11.30am on Thursdays

Pope's Prayer Intentions: March - For Victims of Abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.



Sacraments

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



Pray for Simon Parry who died recently. Remember also in your prayers his mother Jenepher Parry Davies and his partner Sue at this time. His funeral will be in St Edmund's at 10am on the 28th March.

Please pray for the repose of David Buxton who died recently We pray for Elaine, his wife, and the family. His funeral will be in St Joseph's at 11am on the 31st March. May David rest in peace.

What's going on?

CAFOD Big Lent Walk 25th March. We are doing a joint CAFOD walk with St Boniface around the Common. We will begin at St Boniface at 10am, walk the route and then return for refreshments, hot cross buns and cakes. All are welcome, please come along and invite others! Contact Marina (mjoyce@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) if you are interested in donating cakes/biscuits for refreshments after the walk.

Belong & Believe an online course on Fridays at 4pm to look afresh at our faith and to what we belong and what we believe. The need for vibrant and welcoming Christian communities has never been stronger. This course is a timely resource drawing on the immense wisdom and inspiration from our Celtic spiritual heritage helping us to find renewed faith and vision together. A five session course to revitalise communities & their mission <https://forms.office.com/e/JviEDzcQQS>

Lenten Lectio Divina Course "Turn to the Lord with all your heart" This Lenten course aims to introduce participants to prayer with the scriptures. Each session lasts an hour and includes a short input, some helpful background information and tips, and a time of prayer. The meetings are in the parish hall of the Immaculate Conception Church each Wednesday at 7pm. The address is 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB and free, unlimited roadside parking is available in the road behind the hall. This is wonderful opportunity to come and pray with another Parish in our Pastoral area. For more info contact the Verbum Dei community on verbumdei.soton@gmail.com

Catholic Home Care Co-ordinator. We're looking for an energetic, self-motivated, and resourceful individual to take over the role of co-ordinating the activities of the Catholic Home Care. This is a demanding but rewarding post which offers the opportunity to lead a team of caring people who make a significant social impact providing domestic support, to enable elderly people to safely remain in their own homes for longer. You will be making an important contribution to your community and helping local people.

The position is part-time, flexible 20 hours per week, Monday to Friday based around core working hours of 9am to 5pm. Office based in Southampton. This post will require a full DBS check.

For informal discussion and more information, please call Anne Monaghan or Marina Joyce 023 8017 0498. Job description & application form from hr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Closing date for applications 10 April with interviews on 14 April 2023

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.

<https://southamptoncitymission.co.uk/get-involved/how-to-donate>



Monsignor Canon Nicholas France MBE Birthday

Greetings. *Father Nick celebrates his 80th Birthday this coming Thursday (23rd). We wish him 'Many Happy Returns', a good day, and many more years to come (Ad Multos Annos).*



Ordination of Dcn Edward Hauschild. *Edward Hauschild will be ordained to the Ministerial Priesthood this coming Saturday, 25th March, in our Cathedral of St John. Pray for him as he places himself at the service of Christ and His Church. We wish him a fruitful and rewarding ministry.*

A course for Lent. Plenty (Joy in Enough) is a six week small group discussion resource for churches equipping Christians to understand more about the economic drivers of the current ecological crisis such as climate change and biodiversity loss. It looks at why we are facing these crises and what we can do about it. Plenty is a Christian initiative which works through churches to advocate for a fair and green economy. The course is running Monday evenings during Lent. To join contact tquinn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Portsmouth Diocesan "Don Bosco" Boys Camp - 23 to 29

July 2023 We are delighted that this camp will be going ahead again this summer for boys of secondary school age. The camp will be at St. Cassian's, Kintbury. There will be plenty of sport, outings, competitions and fun and games to ensure that boys will have a fantastic few days. This will continue to take place within the context of the celebration of the Catholic Faith, including daily Mass and morning prayer. The cost of the camp is £230 (part bursaries may be available on application).

The Catholic Association to Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023.

August 18th-25th After a fallow few years due to Covid 19 the CA have been working hard to ensure that this year we have a medically supported pilgrimage for Adult Assisted pilgrims who need care and support during their journey and time in Lourdes. This requires a nursing and medical team but most importantly a large number of volunteers to support the smooth running of the pilgrimage. Volunteering includes a wide range of roles from making teas and coffees, to pushing wheelchairs.

Lourdes is a very special place, and everything is geared around making it a positive and memorable experience for the sick. But for those of us who volunteer it is a week that we never forget, & Our Lady always gives us something in return. If you are interested in joining either as an assisted pilgrim, able-bodied pilgrim, volunteer or a health care professional there are more details on the Catholic Association website:

<https://www.catholicassociation.co.uk>

If you have any questions you can also talk to Tina or Fr Vincent who will be going again this year.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 19TH MARCH

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

Saturday 18th Mar	6:15pm	SJ	People of the Parish
Sunday 19th Mar	9:00am	SE	22nd Birthday Blessings Geo
4th Sunday of Lent	10:00am	SJ	Maureen Sharpe RIP
	11:00am	SE	Thomas Lennon RIP
	7:00pm	SE	Thanksgiving for Fr Vincent's Ministry
Tuesday 21st Mar	10:00am	SE	Jeffrey & James Fernandes RIP
Wednesday 22nd Mar	6:30am	SE	Ann Lawlor RIP
Of the 4th Week of Lent	7:00pm	SE	Thanksgiving to Infant Jesus of Prague
	12:15pm	SJ	Ligia Fernandes RIP 1st Anniversary
Thursday 23rd Mar	7:00pm	SE	Janet, Kate, Vincent Gargaro RIP
Friday 24th Mar	11:00am	SE	Deceased members of La Sainte Union Community, Southampton
Saturday 25th Mar	6:15pm	SJ	Paul McDermott RIP 3rd Anniversary
The Annunciation of The Lord	9:00am	SE	John Croft Wellbeing
Sunday 26th Mar	10:00am	SJ	Louis James Valentine Sharpe RIP
5th Sunday of Lent	11:00am	SE	People of the Parish
	7:00pm	SE	Uche Izuka God's Guidance & Thanksgiving

19th March

Psalm Response:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to You, O Christ, You are the Word of God!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows Me will have the light of life.

Glory to You, O Christ, You are the Word of God!

26th March

1st Reading:

Ezekiel 37: 12-14

Psalm:

129

2nd Reading:

Romans 8: 8-11

Gospel:

John 11: 3-7, 20-27, 33-45

This week there is no information about the previous collection as I am writing in advance!! Apologies for this.

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Monsignor Canon Vincent Harvey

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Presbytery Address: 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton, SO15 2EQ

Deacon: Deacon Andy Philpott aphilpott@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Miss Anna Smyllie 023 8033 3589

Parish Office Address: St Edmund's Lodge, The Avenue, SO17 1XJ

Parish Email: office@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org

Parish Website: 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)

Safeguarding: safeguarding@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org

Gift Aid: Ian Lang giftaid@southamptoncitycentrecatholics.org

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

Catholic Home Care: catholichomecare@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Mrs Anne Monaghan & Mrs Marina Joyce 023 8017 0498

Polish Chaplaincy: Father Mariusz Urbanowski

Telephone: 02381786316 southampton@pcmew.org

Stella Maris (AoS): Mr Charles Stuart Mob No 07843 739579

Catholic Chaplains:

Sr Emiliana Silva e.silva@soton.ac.uk 07426 000213

Father Benjamin Theobald btheobald@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Solent Chaplain:

Sr Issy Kirby volunteer239@solent.ac.uk 07414 462636

Vocations: www.portsmouthvocations.org/

Diocesan Website: 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.*

Green Living

Residential Retreat Ampleforth Abbey

The Climate of Cultural Change - What is 'Laudato Si' asking of us?

5 June 2023 - 8 June 2023



<https://www.ampleforthabbey.org.uk/retreat-climate-cultural-change-what-laudato-si-asking-us>

A reminder:

Foil recycling: Please wash & squash before bringing items to church. If it doesn't squash it may not be foil!



Stamps: Please ensure there is paper/some sort of background around the stamps you donate. These stamps are removed from their backing to be recycled in this way so without one the stamps are not recyclable!

Confessions

St Joseph's on Thursdays at 11.45am & Saturdays 5.45pm

St Edmund's on Saturdays after the 11am Mass

Parish Bank Details

Bank Account Name CDP SUJE

Number 00888223

Sort Code 30-93-04



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!