

☆ Our Lady of Peace & Blessed Dominic Barberi ☆

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Portsmouth Diocesan Trust - Registered Charity Number 246871

Parish Priest: **Father Anthony Ikhenoba**

Parish Secretary: Jane O'Rourke



PART OF THE LODDON VALLEY PASTORAL AREA

21st December 2008

Fourth Sunday of Advent

★ ★ ★ THIS NEWSLETTER COVERS THE NEXT 3 WEEKS ★ ★ ★

Happy Christmas! This is the last Sunday of Advent; I am saying it as though any one needed a reminder. Well, maybe a reminder for me for a start would be useful, to begin to take stock of all that has transpired so far. At the beginning of Advent this year, I tasked myself to do some things in order to better my life as a Christian. Did I achieve those goals that I set for myself? This should be our line of self examination. I am towing this line of thought because, like me, so many are excited about the fact that Advent is ending; yes it is ending for this round of liturgical season, but it is an end that should be ushering us into a new beginning of life in Christ. This period of Advent, I have been posing a very fundamental question; what is the most important thing in life? If you followed your Advent goals diligently, you must have discovered what real life is and what is most important to you as a Christian. At this point in time, our hearts should be ready to receive the baby Jesus after all the period of preparation. My prayer is that the baby Jesus be born anew in your life. Amen.
Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Fr. Anthony

Come home for Christmas: please take one of the **coloured invitations** from Advent Room and invite some people you know to join us here for Christmas Mass! And see posters in Advent Room

Theatre Club - newsletters with super shows for 2009, available in Advent Room - [book now!](#) Limited seats available

Christmas Masses - thank you to all who have volunteered to help with welcoming, offertory, reading, Eucharistic Ministry & Sacristan duties for our Christmas Masses. Most slots have now been allocated but **there are some gaps still needing volunteers;** see poster in Advent Room

Calling all Angels and Shepherds.... Come and join us at the [Christmas Eve Children's Service](#) at **5pm**. The service will reflect on the Christmas story, with a modern day twist. Father Anthony will also be sharing his experiences as a child in Nigeria at Christmas. All the children are encouraged to bring gifts with them - of tins of food, which we will donate to the Reading homeless drop-in centre CIRDIC after the service and in time for Christmas. **NB** Adults are encouraged only to attend if accompanied by a child!

Advent Giving Tree - Many thanks to all parishioners for the many donations we received. These will soon all be taken to the CIRDIC (Churches in Reading Drop-In Centre), and will surely make a world of difference to all those visiting them this Christmas. Thank you!



OUR CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES - as shown on green leaflets & orange posters:

Christmas Eve: **Wed. 24th Dec.:** Children's Carol Service (**NOT** Mass) - starts at **5pm**

Midnight Mass (preceded by carols): starts at **11.30pm**

Christmas Day: **Thurs. 25th Dec.:** **9am** and **11am**

- please remember there is **NO 5pm Mass on Christmas Day!**

On [Sunday 4th January](#) we warmly welcome to our parish community

Isobelle Sara Renée Wills and her family as we celebrate her baptism at 11am Mass

The Parish Pantomime group is proud to present **Panto 2009 - 'Oh no, not another opening of another show'** starring altar servers, young readers, members of the children's liturgy group, the cub pack, the confirmation group and parish youth (along with assorted others). This will be performed on

Sat. 17th January at **2.30pm & 7.00pm.**

[Tickets: £5 family, £2 individual - on sale after all Masses on Sunday 11th January](#)

From Catholic Children's Society: As you will be aware, the Government's new Equality legislation has presented significant challenges for Catholic Adoption Agencies. In consultation with the Bishops of Arundel & Brighton, Southwark and Portsmouth, our own diocesan agency has taken the decision to comply with legislation in order to safeguard its wide range of services to children, young people and families. In order to do this [the Catholic Children's Society will be working under the new name of Cabrini Children's Society](#) from 1st January 2009

PARISH BAPTISMS - the first of our quarterly Parish Baptism Preparation sessions will be held on **Tuesday 20th & Tuesday 27th January**, each starting at **8pm**.

If you wish to celebrate a baptism please [complete a baptism form](#) (available in Advent Room) and return it to Parish Office as soon as possible, then turn up on 20th January!

• **Offertory collection**
14th December:
Envelopes £165.02
Loose cash £410.97
Standing Orders £650.00
Total: £1225.99

Thank you for your kind donations, and for your consistent generosity throughout the past year

• Our **Crib Offerings** will again go to the [Catholic \(Cabrini\) Children's Society](#)

• [Special collection on Sunday 11th January](#) is our annual **White Flower collection** for the **SPUC**

Christmas collections: Please remember that the [Christmas collections](#) (unlike normal Sundays) [go directly to Parish Priest.](#)

Please show your appreciation for Father Anthony by your generosity. Thank you

• **IMPORTANT - GIFT AID:**

If at any time you find it necessary to cancel or alter your standing order payment for the church, [PLEASE notify our Gift Aid organiser, Alan, on 0118 9873024](#)

My Day by Day - January edition of guide to the month's Mass readings is **now available** in Advent Room; **£1 each.** Leave the money in basket

The Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated on **Sunday 4th January**

★ Our next **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MEETING** is on [Sunday 11th January](#), 2.30pm in church



PLEASE NOTE!

The Parish Office is now closed for Christmas. The next newsletter will be printed for Masses on [Sunday 11th January](#)



MASS TIMES and PARISH DIARY 21st DECEMBER 2008 - 11th JANUARY 2009



DATE	TIME	DEDICATION	MASS INTENTION	PARISH DIARY
Sunday 21 st Dec.	9 am 11 am 5pm	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Kathleen and Arthur Pearl RIP Frank O'Keeffe RIP Thanksgiving for Lanki, Lathica & family	NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY TODAY
Mon. 22 nd	NO MASS			
Tuesday 23 rd Dec.	9.45 am		George Bentley RIP (Foundation Mass)	
Wednes. 24 th Dec.	11.30pm	Christmas Eve	Family & friends of parish; Dec'd. members of Ducey family	5pm: Children's Carol Service 11.30pm: Midnight Mass (preceded by carols)
Thursday 25 th Dec.	9 am 11 am	Christmas Day	Family & friends of the parish Family & friends of the parish	 HAPPY CHRISTMAS! 
Fri. 26 th	NO MASS	St. Stephen		
Sat. 27 th	NO MASS	St. John, Apostle		
Sunday 28 th Dec.	9 am 11 am 5pm	Holy Family	Ronald Evans RIP All benefactors in the parish of the priests' retirement fund	NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY TODAY Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Delaney
Mon. 29 th	NO MASS			
Tues. 30 th	9.45 am		Joy Sellen RIP (Found'tn. Mass)	
Wednes. 31 st Dec.	9.45 am		Thanksgiving: Gunasekera family; Antonio Muñoz RIP	
Thursday 1 st Jan.	12 noon	Mary, Mother of God	Carlos Zurita RIP; For the parish	HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Fri. 2 nd	NO MASS	Ss. Basil & Gregory		
Sunday 4 th Jan.	9 am 11 am 5 pm	Epiphany	Amy & Albert Daughters RIP Intentions of John & Beryl Cunningham Arthur Pearl RIP (Foundation Mass)	NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY TODAY Baptism: Isobelle Sara Renée Wills
Mon. 5 th	NO MASS			
Tuesday 6 th Jan.	9.45 am		All priests	★ PARISH OFFICE RE-OPENS ★ 7.45pm: Children's Lit. mtg. (D.B. Rm.)
Wed. 7 th	9.45 am		Dominic	
Thurs. 8 th	9.45 am		Marie & Patrick Byrne	7.30pm: Parish Pastoral Council mtg.
Fri. 9 th	7.30pm		Jude & Viran Gunasekera	
Sunday 11 th Jan.	9 am 11 am 5 pm	Baptism of the Lord	Vivian Duarte RIP	★ CHILDREN'S LITURGY RESTARTS! ★ Baptism: Maria-Teresa Angiolina Tanatswa Ruggieri-Kennedy 2.30pm: 1ST HOLY COMMUNION SESSION Baptism: 2 sons of Han & Minru Li

*** NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY during Christmas school holidays - back on 11th January ***

*** NO CUBS / BEAVERS / SCOUTS during Christmas school holidays - back in January ***

Please keep in your prayers all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

✠ Martha Franks (1998), Margaret Sellers (1998), Maureen Chapman (2000), Muriel Bowman-Smith (1976),
Pauline Thackram (2001), Donald Wignall (1996), Anthony Lesner (1999), Mary Kayley (1982),
Joy Sellen (1993), Zena Pringle (1997), David Botherel (1992), Sarah Doherty (1979), Brian Sheldon (1997),
Cis Byrne (1999), Arthur Pearl (1976), Robert Scott (1989), Kathleen Rooney (2001), Therese Polanski (2008),
Wally Kulan (2001), Anne Wellman (1980), Lesley Borg (2002), Tim Chapman (1995), Emma Cattaneo (1984),
Teresa Smith (2006), James Ahern (1998), and Roger Joseph (2007). ✠



The Parish Office is now **CLOSED** until Tuesday 6th January 2009.
Thank you for all your cards and very kind wishes!
Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas

