

## Parish News

### First Holy Communion

Children and parents are encouraged to attend regular Sunday Mass, particularly 11 am. After Mass there is 10 minute session for First Holy Communion Children- it is integral part and supports the preparation.

### Sunday 17th December

**11am Mass:** Children will be presented during Mass to the Congregation and their Prayer Sponsor afterwards.

**2.30pm: Session 4:** "We pray in Thanksgiving"  
**4pm** the Prayer Sponsors will have a chance to meet the Children.

We thank everyone who volunteered to be Prayer Sponsor for our First Holy Communion Children.

### Confirmation 2019

Our next confirmation programme will start in 2018. Please register your interest with the Parish Office. More details to follow.

### Pastoral project for Men

Father Stan invites men under the age of 100 years to set up a liturgical formation group for men. Meeting once or fortnightly. If interested, please contact Father Stan or church office .

### Parish Website:

We are pleased to confirm that our Parish website will be launched on 17th December 2017.

### Offertory Counters

The Rota for the 2018 will be issued next week. It will be wonderful if we could add few

more names to our list. For more details please contact the church office.

### Faith Inquiry.

Are you thinking of becoming a Catholic or simply would like more information on Catholic Faith? Come and join us on Saturday 16th December for an introductory hour. at 10.00am. All welcome. Just come and see or contact Fr. Stan.

### Christmas Promise (CTER)

CTER Leaflets with details of Christmas services at all local churches in Earley and East Reading (including ours) are now available in Advent Room. Please help us distribute our allocation of these beautiful leaflets to local houses. Please take envelope(s) for the road(s) you can distribute, Thank you in advance.

### Report from Mondays and Thursdays

#### Catechises

We followed the catechises given by the Neocatechumenal Way. We came to learn more about Jesus, the scriptures, how our faith can take place in our world etc (to sum up, we first came for intellectual purposes!) but we received something completely different and very rich. The catechises talked deeply to our hearts and have been a renewal/revolution in our Christian life. We feel so blessed to have followed the catechises and are happy to continue on a weekly basis with the community to help us to build our faith on the rock." Catherine and Jean-Sixte"

Offertory Collection	3rd Dec
Envelopes	£91.05
Loose Cash	£704.46
Standing Orders	£703.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 1,498.84</b>

**Thank you** for all your kind donations.

### Emergency numbers for a Priest

- please call your own priest first

Fr. Pat Madden	0118 931 4469
Fr. Raffaele Cossa/Fr Luca Speziale	0118 969 3423
Cn. John O'Shea	0118 957 4171
Cn. Michael Dennehy	0118 957 2149
Fr. Peter Glas	0118 942 8632
Fr. Mathew Goddard / Fr. Ian Verrier	0118 966 5284
Fr. Paul Martin	0118 947 1787

**CUBS** Mon. 6.45pm / **BEAVERS** Thurs. 5.45pm / **SCOUTS** Fridays 8pm in **HALL**

Christ the King, Whitley Sat 6.30pm; Sun 10.00am  
St. John Bosco, Woodley Sat 6.30pm; Sun.10.00am

St. James Sat 6.00pm; Sun 11.00am  
English Martyrs, Tilehurst Sat 6.30pm;  
Sun 9.30am, 11.30am, 5.00pm

St. Joseph, Tilehurst Sun 8.30am, 10.30am  
St. William of York Sun 9.00am, 11.00am (in Latin)  
6.00pm (Students' Mass)

Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham Sat 5.30pm; Sun 10.00am, 6.30pm

## Our Lady of Peace & Bl. Dominic Barberi

338 Wokingham Road Earley Reading RG6 7DA Website [www.lop.org.uk](http://www.lop.org.uk)  
Portsmouth Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No 246871

### Parish Priest

The Rev. Fr. Stan Gibziński  
[fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### Parish Secretary

Rachel Alexander 0118 966 3711  
[earley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:earley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### Hall Bookings ONLY please

Margaret Dias 0118 987 5588  
[hallbookingsolop@gmail.com](mailto:hallbookingsolop@gmail.com)

Church office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9am-5pm



2nd Sunday of Advent Year B p. 28

10th December 2017

## Why Christmas?

Behind our preparations for Christmas lies a basic question: why are we excited about those days? What makes Christmas special?

Sooner or later, we touch the important area of our relationships with people around us. Suddenly, also those who are no longer with us are given a unique place in our hearts. They are with us when we sing carols and sit at Christmas dinner.

Sooner or later it strikes us that God has entered our dwelling place, and Christmas is all about Him in everything we do in our celebrations. And only then does the Church take the first place during those days.

Interestingly enough, we usually remember Jesus at the end of Advent. Our Advent is often disturbed by too many parties mixed with business and tiredness, irritations and secondary matters. During Advent we hardly see God, who is really the only person entirely focused on each one of us. Christ is often rejected. The Love is not loved. It happens even to great and holy people. In fact, even devotional, prudent life based on Holy Scripture life was not enough for Joseph to embrace God. Love was misunderstood and put aside. The natural trust and love of Joseph towards Mary was not sufficient to greet her with joy after the Annunciation. When Joseph first heard the Gospel from Mary, he was heartbroken. Bitter tears remained in him until the moment when an Angel came and opened his heart.

Only then did beautiful tears appear on his cheeks. His Christmas started when he returned to Mary. She amazingly embraced his heart with unconditional love. Christ, who was already with them in the womb of Mary, now permeated their relationship and enlightened the journey to Bethlehem. Christmas was at hand.

Exactly the same happens to you and me. We need angels to soften us and open our hearts for the great mysteries of the Birth of the Lord.

Behind our preparations for Christmas lies the awareness of why we should also celebrate these special days with a good confession and the crucial support of angels. Without them we would not have been consoled, the Gospel would not have been fully delivered, Christmas would not be our time of joy.

Fr. Stan



**Psalm Response: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.**

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions
<b>Sun 10th December</b> <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i>	8.15am 9.00am 11.00am 5.00pm	Rosary All Souls Our Parishioners Kathleen Morgan's Intentions
<b>Mon 11th December</b>	7.00am 9.30am 10.00am	Morning Prayer (Lauds in Advent) Rosary Members of Nora family
<b>Tue 12th December</b>	9.00am 10.00am	Adoration & Rosary Peggie Bentley RIP
<b>Wed 13th December</b>	6.30 am 9.30am 10.00am	Ealine Sullivan Rosary Noel Duffy RIP
<b>Thu 14th December</b>	1.30 pm	Requiem Mass of Rudolf Horvath
<b>Fri 15th December</b>	10.00am 11.00am 7.30pm	Marcelo Vinvezo RIP <b>Adoration</b> <b>Penitential Service followed by adoration until Saturday 9am</b>
<b>Sat 16h December</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	Adoration continues until 9am
<b>Sun 17h December</b> <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i>	8.15am 9.00am 11.00am 2.30pm 4.00pm 5.00pm	Rosary Jacqueline Ramauankilana RIP Hogi Mwangi RIP First Holy Communion session Meeting with Prayer Sponsor Austin Duffy RIP

Rudolph Horvat's funeral is on Thursday 14th December at 1.30pm. His daughter Gunilla has written a beautiful letter to the Parish and Social club. The letter is on the display board in Advent room and if possible, please do support Gunilla by attending the funeral.

**Children's liturgy: Please register your child before Mass.**

**Anniversaries - please keep in your prayers**

George Tawfik (1980), Bernadette Joyce (1984), Peggie Bentley (1989), John Carter (2001), Jamie O'Grady (2001), John Mackie (2005)

## Advent

**Angelus** before each Mass. Please also pray at home with your family or individually.

**Morning Prayer at 7am on Monday 11th and 18th December 2017.**

**Rorate Mass** at 6.30am on Wednesday 13th Dec & 20th Dec .Candlelit Mass in the dark - please bring your own lantern.

### Penitential Service:

*Let us remove the Obstacles and make a Highway for God so He can come to us freely!*

Friday 15th December at 7.30pm.

We are fortunate to have 6 Priests for the service. Please join us to celebrate this beautiful

SCARAMENT with our Parish Community.



### Charity for Advent

Our Giving Tree is in the Advent room . The aim is to collect gifts for the Homeless for Reading Charity and Bed for the night project.

### Fundraising

#### Cakes, Jams and Pickles Sale on 17th December after all masses

Calling all bakers, jammers and picklers... we are having a sale in 2 weeks' time, with all proceeds going to our Consecration fund. If you can provide any of these foods on the day, please contact Sheila Jones (jonessheila3@sky.com) or Heike Conroy (heikeco@hotmail.com). Otherwise, please add this date to your diary, come along with cash and stock up!

**Books on Bl. Dominic Barberi and Ignatius Spencer** are available in the advent room These books are written by Fr Ben Lodge who will be giving a talk to our Parish about Bl. Dominic Barberi soon. The books are £2 each but you are welcome to donate more for the proceed to go for the consecration fund.

## Pastoral Area

**Rise Theatre Nativity** play in Broad Street opposite Waterstones on Saturday 16th December. Will be on 4 times at 11 am, 12 noon, 1pm and 2pm.

**SIMBANG GABI" MASS**, The Reading Filipino Community invites everyone to their Traditional Christmas Mass "Simbang Gabi" at Christ the King Church, Whitley, RG2 8NR, on Wed 20th Dec at 7.30pm. Main celebrant Fr Claro Conde, the Filipino Chaplain.

**Life in the Spirit Seminars - Wednesday, 8-9.30 pm February 7 - 21 March. Please join us at Corpus Christi, Wokingham.**

**Pope Francis said:** 'This current of grace (the Charismatic Renewal) is for all the Church, not just for some...Share with all in the Church the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.' (June 2017 – Pentecost Mass in Rome.) Please put the dates in your diaries:

**St Dominic Savio School Open Days**  
Tues 9th January 2018 9.15am to 10.45am.  
More details at [www.dominicsavio.co.uk](http://www.dominicsavio.co.uk)

#### St Joseph's College Open Days

Thurs 25th January, Friday 25th February & Tuesday 13th March. More details at [www.sjcr.org.uk](http://www.sjcr.org.uk)

**Clergy** Christmas gathering 12th December 2017 at 2pm.

#### Advent Penitential Services

Date	Time	Venue
Mon 11th	7.30pm	St John Bosco
Tue 12th	7.30pm	St Joseph's
Wed 13th	7.30pm	Christ the King
Thu 14th	7.30pm	St Anne's
<b>Fri 15th</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Our Lady of Peace</b>
Sat 16th	11.00am	English Martyrs
Mon 18th	7.30pm	St James