

## Parish website

Our sincere thanks to Jonathan Rajadurai for all his hard work and time spent in doing our Parish website.

## Christmas Party

Our Parish party last week was a huge success. The Children's play, Carols and Quiz were enjoyed by all. We want to thank everyone for their help but especially to our 3 youths Adrian, Ashwin and Luke, who served everyone with great efficiency and care. Regards Father Stan, Rose & Rachel.

## Other News

**Sanctuary Light**—You can dedicate your intentions for a week for the sanctuary light. For more information please contact the Parish office.

**Safeguarding team** -As a parish we are required to appoint a Safeguarding Representative. The position will be vacant soon, and volunteers are needed to form a small team to deal with safe-guarding issues.

The Diocese gives full training and support to all involved. If you feel you can help with this vital role, please contact the Parish Office.

**My Day By Day** The January edition of My Day by Day is now available in the Advent Room. £1.00 per copy.

**Bl. Dominic Barberi and Ignatius Spencer books** are available in the Advent room. The books are £2 each but you are welcome to donate more for the proceeds to go for the consecration fund.

## Confirmation 2019

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

## Pastoral Area

**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.

## St Dominic Savio School Open Days

Tues 9th January 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 Jan, Friday 25th Feb & Tue 13th March. More details [www.sjcr.org.uk](http://www.sjcr.org.uk)

## Offertory Collection 10th Dec

Envelopes	£151.00
Loose Cash	£320.55
Standing Orders	£703.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 1,174.88</b>

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

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS** The collections at all the Christmas Masses are for the support of Fr Stan. Christmas and Easter are the most substantial part of a priest's yearly income. Please give generously. Thank you.

**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

## Emergency numbers for a Priest

*ease call your own priest first*

Fr. Pat Madden 0118 931 4469

Fr. Rafaele 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

# 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



3rd Sunday of Advent Year B p. 30

17th December 2017

## Gaudete Sunday—Time draws us to Bethlehem

It does not matter that we feel every jolt, rock and rut in the road.

It does not matter that we are at the limit of our strength.

It does not matter that Mary holds her aching middle.

*Next time this week the boy will be born.*

*Mary will wrap him in nappies*

*Joseph will organise a manger and hay.*

*The smell of the animals and love for each other will fill the stable.*

*What else do we need if God is amongst us?*

Time draws us to Bethlehem and there is no place for the newcomers.

Mary rejoices

as the words of the Angel echo in her;

as Joseph comes back to her,

as God draws both of them after Him;

as a sign from heaven is given in the blessing of Elisabeth.

*Next time this week the boy will be born.*

*Mary will wrap him in nappies*

*Joseph will organise a manger and hay.*

*The smell of the animals and love for each other will fill the stable.*

*What else do we need if God is amongst us?*

Mary and Joseph are still on the way:

love glows

tears are transformed into joy,

The snares of the serpent lose their influence,

Mary and Joseph praise God's love more than wine:

The Creator will become a baby.

Everyone will be welcome to greet him.

*Next time this week the boy will be born.*

*Mary will wrap him in nappies*

*Joseph will organise a manger and hay.*

*The smell of the animals and love for each other will fill the stable.*

*What else do we need if God is amongst us?*

**Fr Stan**



**Psalm Response: My soul rejoices in my God.**

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions
<b>Sun 17th December</b> <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i>	8.15am 9.00am 11.00am 2.30pm 4.00pm 5.00pm	Rosary Jacqueline Ramauankilana RIP Kogi Mwangi RIP First Holy Communion session Meeting with Prayer Sponsor Austin Duffy RIP
<b>Mon 18th December</b>	7.00am 9.30am 10.00am	Morning Prayer (Lauds in Advent) Rosary Josephine Greene RIP
<b>Tue 19th December</b>	9.00am 10.00am	Adoration & Rosary John Michael Mcnamara
<b>Wed 20th December</b>	6.30 am 9.30am 10.00am	Peter Tilton RIP (Foundation Mass) Rosary
<b>Thu 21st December</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Fri 22nd December</b>	10.00am 7.00-7.30pm	George Bentley RIP (Foundation Mass) Last opportunity for confession before Christmas.
<b>Sat 23rd December</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Sun 24th December</b> <i>4th Sunday in Advent</i>	8.15am 9.00am 11.00am 4.30pm 5.00pm 11.00pm	Rosary Intention Available Bridget's intention Children's Nativity Play Leading to Christmas Vigil Holy Mass Vigil Service & Midnight Mass

**The Angelus** will be said before all Advent Masses. Why not say the Angelus each day to ask our Blessed Mother's help? May she bring you, and all of us, closer to Jesus.

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

#### Anniversaries - please keep in your prayers

Muriel Bowman-Smith (1976), Peter Tilton (1991), Martha Franks (1998), Margaret Sellers (1998), Maureen Chapman (2000), Gladys Arnold (2001), Pauline Thackram (2001), John Carter (2001), James O'Grady 2001), George Bentley (2003), Ted Aldridge (2016)

## Last week of Advent

We will for the last time this Advent say the Morning Prayer at 7am on Monday 18th and the Rorate Mass at 6.30am on Wednesday 20th Dec. Please do join us as it is a moment of peace and quiet in the midst of Christmas preparations.

## Today

### Blessing of Christmas Cards

Our Parish Christmas Cards are ready for distribution. It's got pictures from our Christmas last year, information on our Christmas services and an occasional poem written by Father Stan. Please feel free to take some cards for your families and friends.

### First Holy Communion

Today we present our Holy Communion children to the Parish. Please keep them in your prayers.

### Cake and Jam Sale today after all masses

Come along to the CB room after mass and buy cakes and jams for Christmas! If you have made a cake, please drop it off before mass. All proceeds to our Consecration fund.

### Parish Website:

We are pleased to confirm that our Parish website is ready and was launched today.

### Gift From Bishop Philip for everyone.

It's a book called Rediscover Jesus by Mathew Kelly.

Rediscover Jesus consists of a collection of 40 short chapters, 3-8 pages each, that focus on a particular way to know Jesus and to open the reader's life to His grace. Each reading concludes with a Point to Ponder, a Verse to Live, a Question to Consider and a Short Prayer. Some readings examine things Jesus said on a subject; others explore the process of prayer. Some begin with a teaching of Jesus and apply it to our lives, while others begin with a challenge and look to Jesus for a solution. It would make an excellent book for use during Lent as well as during Christmas!

## Towards Christmas

**Sunday 24th December**—the 9 am and 11am Mass will be the 4th Sunday of Advent and the 5pm Mass will be the Christmas Vigil Mass. At 11pm we will have the Vigil and Midnight Mass.

### Calling all shepherds, angels, stars and wise men!

The children's nativity service is at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve, before 5.00pm mass. Everyone is invited! Children, please dress up, so that you can be part of our special nativity.

### Altar Servers needed for Christmas & Rota

Please put your names on the sheet in the Advent Room. Also the new Rota is ready, please pick your copy from the Advent room.

### 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. Thank you to everyone who have been so generous with their gifts.

### Crib Offerings

This year our Parish will donate crib offerings to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health and housing costs. FHL is non-political and ecumenical. [www.friendsoftheholylord.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylord.org.uk)

## Special Thank you

### Icons of the Annunciation

We want to extend our sincere thanks to Marianne and Stan Wilson's family. It was a very expensive project, yet the family have decided to donate it to the parish free of any cost. Their decision to donate is to help us make steps to move forward towards the consecration of the church. We really appreciate this kind donation and also appreciate the time and love that was put into making these Icons.