

Parish News & Future Events

Sat 5 Jan (2019) Fr Leon Pereira, Chaplain to the English Speaking Pilgrims in Medjugorje is coming to our parish with a talk entitled "Experience Medjugorje and Our Lady's Messages". We will start with adoration at 11.00am, Holy Mass at midday, followed by lunch and talk and Benediction.

Pilgrimage to Poland 2019

We are planning a pilgrimage to Poland in 2019 (June 5th -June 11th); the group, under the leadership of Father Stan, will be visiting Warsaw, Krakow, Czestochowa (the Shrine of the Black Madonna), the Salt mines, Auschwitz, Wadowice (the home town of St. John Paul II), and other places of interest. Sign in sheet in the Advent Room.

For more information please contact Nancy Johnson e-mail nancy.johnson7@btinternet.com

Mass Intention: Mass Intention book for 2018 & 2019 will be in the Advent room during Sunday's for you to book your Mass Intention. During weekday, the book will be in the Parish Office.

Baptism: If you wish to celebrate the baptism (of a child) here, please contact Father Stan.

Royal Berkshire Hospital Chaplain: Fr JP Lyttle
 Mobile: 07391 896559, RBH: 0118 3227105
 Sunday Mass 4.00pm
 Patients, staff & visitors welcome.
 On admission all Catholics should inform the hospital staff that they are Roman Catholic & if they wish to have Communion or see a priest. All arrangements in RBH are "Patient Led".

Parish Bereavement Support Group
 can be contacted via the Parish Office .

Resources

Advent editions of My Day by Day £1 per copy
Shorter Morning Prayer £9 per copy
 Please leave money in the boxes next to the books in the Advent Room

Pastoral Events

Goan Mass, Feast of St Xavier. Mass on Saturday 8th December 2018 at 2.30pm at St James church. and thereafter, we would like to have you in our midst for the celebrations at Whitley Community Centre. See Poster for more detail.

CAFOD World Gifts – the true spirit of Christmas Giving Give a gift that will change a life .Catalogues in the Advent Room or visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts

Collection 25th November 2018

Main Envelopes	£	72.00
Loose Cash	£	368.74
Standing Orders	£	742.50
Total	£	1,183.24

Thank you all for your kind donations.

Youth Group Coordinator: Jean-Sixte
js.dhendecourt@gmail.com

Emergency numbers for a Priest –
Please call your own priest first

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

Fr. Pat Madden	0118 931 4469
Fr. Bill Wilson	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. Patrick O'Donohue	0118 966 5284
Msrgr. Patrick Daly	0118 947 1787

Our Lady of Peace & BI Dominic Barberi

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 Portsmouth Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No 246871

Parish Priest The Rev Fr Stan Gibziński
fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Secretary Rachel Alexander 0118 966 3711
earley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Safeguarding Officer Stephen Lea 07504 897291
Hall Bookings Margaret Dias 07763 681072
hallbookingsolop@gmail.com



The Church office is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 11am-4pm

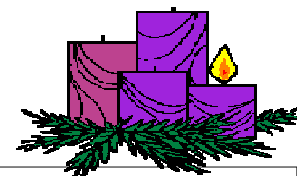
First Sunday of Advent **Year C p26** **2nd December 2018**

We experience Christmas when we experience Advent

We are given entire weeks to prepare our hearts for the special graces of Christmas. During this time the Church prays incessantly for the coming of Jesus. Advent is then a special period to focus our hearts for His coming down to earth: "Let justice descend, O heavens, like dew from above" (Is 45:8). The Church focuses on the hunger for Jesus and for His coming. We can even say that the process of growing in faith depends on our hunger for God. The hunger, the desire of Jesus, the desire for His coming to us, to our family, to our parish, to our broken world, is the key to a great banquet of Christmas. Advent is then the period of awareness that, although Jesus is present amongst us, there are areas in us where there is a lack of Jesus. The lack of His presence brings a strong hope that His rebirth will come within our hearts at Christmas. He comes to match the extent of our preparation and our openness. We can say, to match the extent of our faith. "If there is no Advent, then... Christmas is only a beautiful but empty celebration. The danger of Christmas is then that it can become an artificial celebration", full of shopping, rushing, carols and even a boring meal, only because there is not much meaning, no preparation. If you do not experience the message of Advent, then do not be surprised that Christmas seems to be always the same.

Advent is then a period when I allow myself to see all areas where the Lord is outside of me, knocking on the door of my heart, asking for my attention. Let us, my lack of Jesus and Jesus' lack of me bring the deeper desire of Communion with Him – Holy Communion with Him – Most Holy Communion with Him. He waits for me to receive Holy Communion. He wants to give Himself to you fully and His heart there beats for you.

Fr Stan



Psalm Response: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sun 2nd Dec 1st Sunday of Advent	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am 5.00pm	Rosary Alice Willson RIP (Foundation Mass) Michael John Shaw RIP Allen & Powell family RIP
Mon 3rd Dec St Francis Xavier	9.30am 10.00am	Rosary Intention available
Tue 4th Dec St John Damascene	9.00am 10.00am	Adoration followed by Rosary Intention available
Wed 5th Dec Rorate Mass to honour Bl Virgin Mary followed by breakfast	6.30am	Mary A Thyveetil
Thu 6th Dec	No Mass	
Fri 7th Dec	11.00am 7.30pm After Mass	Adoration till 7.00pm Intention available Adoration till 8.00am Saturday
Sat 8th Dec The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8.00am 12.30pm	Overnight Adoration finishes at 8.00am Intention available
Sun 9th Dec 2nd Sunday of Advent	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am 2.30pm 5.00pm	Rosary Special thanksgiving to Bl Virgin Mary Ann Davis RIP rec. dec. Divine Mercy Holy Hour Sunday Adepoju Salako RIP rec. dec

11am Mass Children's liturgy: Please register your child before Mass..

Sacrament of Reconciliation

20 minutes before Sunday & Weekday Masses. On Fridays and Holy Days of Obligation 6.00pm-7.15pm or by private appointment with Fr Stan

Anniversaries: Please keep in your prayers

2nd Dec: Helen Nolan (1984); Alice Willson (1999); **3rd Dec:** Michael Clarridge (1993); **4th Dec:** Mary Carter (2009); **5th Dec:** Eric Watson (1997); Diane Smith (2001); **6th Dec:** James Eighteen (2005) ; **8th Dec:** Lilian Neville (2010); **9th Dec:** Peter Carmichel (2012); Mona Botherel (2013);

This week

Sunday 2nd Dec.: Tea, Coffee & Biscuits will be served in the Social Club after the 9am and 11 am Mass. Everyone welcome.

Sunday 2nd Dec.: First Holy Communion session : Candidates to come for 11am Mass and have a meeting with Father Stan after Mass. Later meet for 3rd session in Church at 2.30pm.

Mon 3rd Dec You are invited to a **prayer meeting** in our church 7.45pm for 8.00pm prompt start until 9.30pm. It will include praise, thanksgiving, intercession, scripture reading and time to discuss.

From Wednesday 5th Dec during Advent - Rorate Mass at 6.30am. Come and celebrate Mass by candlelight before dawn at 6.30am followed by breakfast .

Wednesday 5th Dec at 7.30 pm : Journey of Faith. (RCIA) Are you thinking about becoming a Catholic . Do you have a desire to deepen your faith and to have a better understanding of scripture and the Church's teaching? Please come and join us in Dominic Barberi Room, this week's topic is "Why did God Make Me?" . - all welcome. Refreshments will be provided during the session.

Fri 7th Dec 7.30pm Vigil Mass of the Immaculate Conception. All welcome,. Followed by continuation of Adoration through the night.

Sat 8th Dec 12.30pm: Mass for The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary .

Sat 8th Dec starting at 10.00am CWA and their dedication. Led by Bishop Philip. Everyone welcome. Please come and pray for our group of women. Lunch (provided) after Mass.

Sunday 9th December. Confirmation session: After 11am Mass in Carl Barton Room

Sunday 9th Dec: 2.30pm Divine Mercy holy hour at our church and not in Christ the King as announced earlier. All welcome..

Advent

Tree of Gifts This year our chosen charity for our Advent Giving Tree is "First Days", a local charity which provides essential items for children in families experiencing financial difficulty. The tree will be ready by next Sunday, along with a list of items requested by the charity.

Poem Competition All Children and Youth are encouraged to enter the Christmas Poem competition. The topic could be anything relating to Christmas, such as the star or the stable. Entries need to be in by Sat 15th Dec - please send to church office, ideally by email.

Christmas Resources We have a plentiful supply of Christmas Resources on display in the Advent Room especially 2019 catholic diary and Advent calendars. Please come and have a look in the Advent Room. Thank you.

Traidcraft Christmas Cards are now ready for collection. Pay with cash or by cheque (payable to "Our Lady of Peace Church"). Thank you.

Advent Penitential Services

Date	Time	Venue
Mon 10th	7.30pm	St John Bosco
Tue 11th	7.30pm	St Joseph's
Wed 12th	7.30pm	Christ the King
Thu 13th	7.30pm	St Anne's
Fri 14th	7.30pm	Our Lady of Peace
Sat 15th	11.00am	English Martyrs
Mon 17th	7.30pm	St James

Make yourself ready in Advent via Rorate Mass

We have just entered Advent. Apart from choosing a good religious book for that short season I would very much encourage all of us to make a special advent exercise to come over early morning once a week to the church.

Every Wednesday in Advent there is the early morning Mass in our parish at 6.30 am instead of usual Mass at 10 am. It is candlelight Mass offered in dark before the dawn in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary called **Rorate Mass**. The interplay of light and darkness speak to the meaning of Advent and the coming of the Light of the world. In the dimly lit setting, priests and faithful prepare to honor the Light of the world, Who is soon to be born, and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illumined by the sun as our Faith is illumined by Christ.

The Mass is called **Rorate**. The title comes from Isaiah 45:8: “Rorate, caeli, desuper, et nubes pluant justum, aperiatur terra, et germinet Salvatorem.” - “Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just: let the earth be opened and bud forth a Saviour.” (You can find on YouTube great Gregorian Chant, which may assist us fruitfully during Advent if we approach to it with prayerful openness:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=f06qdhO_sEY)

All of us are welcome to make an extra effort to go through Advent in the rhythm of Wednesday’s Rorate Masses. The Mass is followed by breakfast.

May Our Lady and your Guardian Angels support you in making Advent special.

All Advent blessings,

Fr Stan