

## Pastoral Area News

**4th—7th April 2019** The Slipper Chapel Statue from Walsingham will visit the St John's Cathedral in Portsmouth as part of the preparation for the rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary. See poster for more details.

**CIRDIC** is recognised as a safe and welcoming drop-in centre by many homeless people. They have a constant need of (new) underpants and socks. If you would like to make a donation, please contact the centre manager, Mrs Mabel Boyd, on 0118 950 2536 or 07817 373773. More info at [cirdic.org.uk](http://cirdic.org.uk).

**ST JAMES WAY** – Reading to Southampton. A group of walkers have arranged to walk the old pilgrim route from Reading – Southampton in 6 stages (10-12 miles each). Starting on Sat 23rd Mar Reading – Mortimer (12.5 miles). Meet at St James Church at 9.15am. Start 9.30am sharp. 2nd stage Mortimer – Worting on Apr 13th. Information St James: 957 4171.

**Sat 15th June.: Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham**, National Shrine of Our Lady. 2 coaches for 100 people. Led by Fr John. Cost £16. Bookings via your parish office.

**Friday 31st May to Sunday 2nd June.** There is a weekend retreat for Parents and Children and on **Friday June 21st to Sunday 23rd June:** there is a weekend retreat for Married Couples and Children (Engaged couples are very

**Royal Berkshire Hospital Chaplin: 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".

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

welcome) at Verbum Dei Centre, Newport, Isle of Wight. The theme for this weekend is "The Christian family as the Kingdom of God". The talks will look at the richness of Christian marriage and what that means for each spouse, couple and family. A children's programme will be provided alongside the sessions for adults.

For further details on both the retreats, please speak to Phil and Laurinda Brown. More information can also be found at [www.uk.verbumdei.org](http://www.uk.verbumdei.org).

**25th—29th July**—Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes under the guidance of Bishop Philip. See Poster in Advent Room for more details.

**Saturday 6th July 2019** If you are celebrating a **Significant Wedding Anniversary** this year, then Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of Celebration. at St Bede's Church in Basingstoke. Please contact the Parish office for more information.

### Offertory Collection 17th March

Main Envelopes	£	115.00
Loose Cash	£	463.09
Standing Orders	£	756.00
<b>Total</b>	£	<b>1,334.09</b>

Thank you all for your kind donations.

**Special Collection: Cafod Lenten Fast Day.** Thank you for your support. You generously donated £1,040.65 for this lovely cause.

**Youth Group Coordinator: Jean-Sixte**  
[js.dhendecourt@gmail.com](mailto:js.dhendecourt@gmail.com)

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

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
Msgr. Patrick Daly	0118 947 1787

## Our Lady of Peace & BI Dominic Barberi

338 Wokingham Road Earley Reading RG6 7DA Website [www.olo.org.uk](http://www.olo.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)

### Safeguarding Officer

Stephen Lea 07504 897291

### Hall Bookings

Margaret Dias 07763 681072  
[hallbookingsolop@gmail.com](mailto:hallbookingsolop@gmail.com)



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

**3rd Sunday in Lent**

**Year C p 77**

**24th March 2019**

**Come to God when the offer is on.**

Each one of us is a tree God is about to desert, but He gives us one more chance. Today the Lord is begging the Father for us. Let us see His determination and fight for our souls, individually. Christ believes in our conversion. He trusts in us, hence He cries out for each one of us: 'Leave the fig tree one more year'. God is to dig round our souls and manure them: by healing them from wounds of lacking faith in His love, by calling us to conversion, by explaining everything about the meaning of life, by coming to our souls in sacraments and in the poor, by dwelling in us and speaking through the Gospel, through others, in daily events, in suffering.

In Christ's begging we find the exact range of God's Mercy. God's Mercy, although it is infinite, for each one of us has its measure. God, who gives us generous opportunities, does not give us infinite opportunities. If during this year nothing happen to us, if we do not produce any fruit of conversion, God will execute his decision of cutting the tree down. Remember, if we reject our chance of conversion, if we choose to live a sinful life, God may leave us within the range of our

decisions. As it will be our choice, God's grace may abandon us.

Actually, we need to face a fear of the possibility of being cut off, a fear of hell. This fear keeps us safe against illusory life. It is also a good medicine for our souls. It motivates us not to enter into sinful areas, and as we know some of them have sweet notions of attraction. Unfortunately, many think they have outgrown the reality of damnation. For that reason they end up into a trap of satanic pride and they are lead astray.

Hence, now, during this **Lent, there is the favourable time for us.** Come to God when the offer is on! **Now is the day of salvation!** Do not think you have time as tomorrow may never happen. If you think you have no ability to change it now (to choose the primacy of God in your life and have good confession, to cut off your attachments to sins; to cross out in you tendencies of self-seeking, etc), on which account do you build your confidence that later on your ability will increase?

Fr Stan

**Psalm Response: The Lord is compassion and love.**

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

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sun 24th Mar 3rd Sunday of Lent	7.00am-8.00am 8.30am 9.00am 11.00am 4.00pm 5.00pm	Adoration Rosary Anthony Thyveetil & V.I. Paul RIP Teresa Lydeb RIP Rec. Dec Children's Station of the Cross Barbara Moran RIP
Mon 25th Mar The Annunciation of the Lord Solemnity	9.30am 10.00am 12.15-1.00pm 1.15pm-2.00pm 7.30pm	Rosary Lisa Casey Adoration after Mass till 12 noon. Prayer's and reflection followed by Soup Mothers Prayer Group Lisa Dancy
Tue 26th Mar	9.00am 10.00am	Adoration followed by Rosary Nelly Donhue's Intention
Wed 27th Mar	5.25am—6.25am 6.30am	Adoration Holy Souls
Thur 28th Mar	6.30am-7.30am No Mass	Adoration
Fri 29th Mar	7.00am 10.00am 11.00am 7.00pm	Adoration followed by Rosary at 9.30am Holy Souls Adoration till 7.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by Adoration until 9.00am Saturday
Sat 30th Mar	9.00am	Overnight Adoration finishes at 9.00am
Sun 31st Mar 4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	7.00am-8.00am 8.30am 9.00am 11.00am 5.00pm	Adoration Rosary Elizabeth Bailey RIP Giulio Fappiano RIP Sylvia Grealis RIP

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

**24th Mar:** Joyce Hart (1990); Jorge Hortal (1999); Ray Dils (2002);  
**25th Mar:** Irene Hickson (1994); **28th Mar:** Elizabeth Caton (1999); **29th Mar:** Vera Seckey (1979); and Daniel Lynch (2004). **30th Mar:** Andrew Molony (1997); Chantelle Pattinson (2000);

## This week

**Offering envelopes** for financial year 2019/20 are ready for collection from the Advent Room. Please take your named box.

**24th Mar Confirmation session:** After 11am Mass in Carl Barton Room.

**Sunday 24th March 2.30 pm:** First Holy Communion session .

**Sunday 24th March 4pm:** Children's Station of the Cross. We invite all young families to come with their children. This will be led by our First Holy Communion Children.

#### 25th Mar The Annunciation of the Lord

Day of solemnity. Masses in our church at . 10am & 7.30pm.

**Every Sunday during Lent:** The TRAIDCRAFT stall will be selling Real Easter Eggs . Large milk chocolate eggs, a bag of chocolate goodies and a booklet telling the Easter story. Each one helps our children to know why they have eggs at Easter and helps TRAIDCRAFT, too. THANK YOU

## Lent

**Monday 1st April 7pm: Brown Scapular.** Thank you to all who have signed up for this. Fr Kevin Ekhoegbe will be coming to our church to help prepare us for this dedication. Please contact Father Stan or Parish office for more information.

**Friday 5 April, 8 pm :** Challenge Lent! Quiz Evening in the Main Hall.

**Ministers during Holy Week and Easter Sunday.** Will all ministers please sign the sheet in the Advent Room if you are able to serve at any of the services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Mass (9.00 and 11.00 am). Please give your name and a contact number (phone or email. )You do not need to specify which service; it is enough for Fr Stan to know you are able to serve. The list closes after 5.00 pm Mass on 4th Sunday of Lent, March 31st..

## Lent Penitential Services April 2019

Date	Time	Venue
Mon 8th	7.30pm	St John Bosco
Tue 9th	7.30pm	St Joseph's
Wed 10th	7.30pm	Christ the King
Thu 11th	7.30pm	St Anne's
<b>Fri 12th</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Our Lady of Peace</b>
Sat 13th	11.00am	English Martyrs
Mon 15th	7.30pm	St James

## Parish News

#### Holy Communion to the sick and housebound

The parish is asking for additional volunteers for this important ministry. You would be required to take Holy Communion to nearby nursing homes or residences. Full training will be provided. Please call or email the office .if you would like to help or require any further information.

**Volunteer Role: Altar Servers secretary:** We need someone to organise the care of our altar servers. Duties will include ordering and allocation of robes, organising enrolment in the Guild of St Stephen, planning a programme with Fr Stan for their spiritual development, setting up a rota for the upkeep of the robes. This is a sensitive role and will require an enhanced DBS check and references. Please email the parish office if you are interested

**Sat 27 Apr ST GEORGE'S DAY** will be celebrated in the Club on Sat 27 Apr. Tickets on sale now from the bar for just £3, which includes a traditional English supper of bangers (sausages) and mash. (Vegetarian sausages will also be available.)

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

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