

Viva Voce: Quarterly Diocesan Newsletter is available in the Advent Room. Please feel free to take a copy.

Portsmouth diocese website or via [Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth - Questionnaire Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](https://www.catholicdioceseofportsmouth.org.uk/questionnaire-survey)

Community Support

Readifood (Reading's Foodbank): You can drop off the items in the Advent room. Information on list of items can be found on <https://readifood.org.uk>.

CIRDIC: Items for packed lunches are needed to feed the homeless. Please take them directly to CIRDIC (St Saviours Church Hall, 1, Berkeley Ave, Reading RG1 6JT) from 8.30am on Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays.

Pastoral News:

Diocesan Survey and Questionnaire: Bishop Philip is encouraging all parishioners to take part in this survey. The link can be found on the

We wish you a blessed, peaceful & joyful Christmas and Happy New Year from Fr Stan and Rachel (Parish Office).

Readings for Sunday 3rd January 2021

1st Reading Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12: *The wisdom of God has pitched her tent among the chosen people.*

2nd Reading Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18: *He determined that we should become his adopted sons through Jesus.*

Gospel John 1 1-18: *The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.*

Catholics in Royal Berkshire Hospital

Contact duty priest: 0118 3227105.

Catholics in RBH: Catholic patients at the RBH, relatives or friends should explain to staff that they request a visit from a Catholic priest in cases of serious illness. Due to recent changes, Priests can now more readily respond to requests to visit the sick in hospital. We have a team of Catholic priests in Reading who are available for this Ministry, so it is hoped that no Catholic patient at the RBH will die without the Last Rites.

Reading Catholic Churches

Christ the King, Whitley	Fr. Pat Madden	0118 931 4469
St. John Bosco, Woodley	Fr. Bill Wilson	0118 969 3423
St. James	Fr Chris Heaps	0118 957 4171
English Martyrs, Tilehurst	Cn. Michael Dennehy	0118 957 2149
St. Joseph, Tilehurst	Fr Peter Glas	0118 942 8632
St. William of York	Fr. Mathew Goddard / Fr. Patrick O'Donohue	0118 966 5284
Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham	Msgr. Patrick Daly	0118 947 1787

Offertory Collection 20th Dec 2020

Main Envelopes	£	125.00
Loose Cash	£	240.20
Standing Orders	£	769.50

Offertory Collection 27th Dec 2020

Main Envelopes	£	50.00
Loose Cash	£	97.79
Standing Orders	£	769.50

Thank you all for your kind donations

Christmas Crib Collection: This year Bishop Philip has asked us to donate the Crib collection to Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi

338 Wokingham Road Earley Reading RG6 7DA Website www.olo.org.uk
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	Mable Thyveetil 07726 589624
Parish Team	earley.matters@gmail.com
Hall Bookings	Margaret Dias 07763 681072 hallbookingsolop@gmail.com



From Tuesday 5th January, the Church office is open Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 11am-2.00pm

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Year B

3rd January 2021

Blessed New Year 2021!

Thanks to the uncertainties of the year 2020, it has become clear that not everyone truly lives, that we all too quickly give up our authentic freedom and we put all our trust in medicine, technology and analytical prognoses before we start living our life again. As they are out rooted from God, thanks to the current crisis we distinguish souls of many and whole systems which are half dead with increasingly evident destructive effects. Where the superficial lifestyle, inconsistent and deceptive, that often sweeps us along, overwhelms us and makes us slaves to evil or at any rate prisoners of moral mediocrity.

However, what is even more beautiful, we experience that God is more active and He has been making cracks in our individual and public security systems and in organised agendas of many protagonists.

God is fighting in us and for us. It will demand more than usual but is His calling for restoration. He will stop this train rushing to the abyss and we only need to help Him and never be afraid. "I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

As the resolution for 2021, we desperately need to change direction in the journey of life; not small adjustments, but with a true and proper turn. We must enter this kind of great reset and start swimming against the tide. New Year's resolutions are the perfect opportunity for all of us to stress the overriding priority of making God present in this world and to show men and women the way to God. Yet, not just any god, not a pluralism of faiths and gods, but the God who spoke on Sinai; to that God whose face we recognise in a love which presses "to the end" (cf. Jn 13:1) – in Jesus Christ, born in a manger from the Virgin Mary, crucified and risen. Hence we must often recite the Creed and consecrate ourselves to Mary and remain under the protection of St Joseph, re-discover our unity with the Crucified Lord by rejecting sins, coming back to good confession, making acts of Sacrifice, Penance and Prayer, especially Adoration and Rosary

With many prayers for the coming year, and blessings.

Fr Stan

Psalm Response: The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sat 2nd Jan 2021 Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	Daily Mass without congregation	John Ebadin thanksgiving
Sun 3rd Jan 2nd Sunday of Christmas	Daily Mass without congregation	Arthur Pearl RIP Foundation Mass
Mon 4th Jan	Daily Mass without congregation	Rosalie John RIP rec. dec
Tues 5th Jan	Daily Mass without congregation	Everlyne Birthday Thanksgiving
Wed 6th Jan The Epiphany of the Lord	Daily Mass without congregation	Thanksgiving to St Anthony
Thursday 7th Jan	Daily Mass without congregation	Intention available
Friday 8th Jan	11.00am -7.00pm 7.30pm Ad Orientem	Adoration Bridie Jackson Intention
Sat 9th Jan	4.00pm Sunday Vigil Mass (Facing Congregation)	Intention available
Sun 10th Jan The Baptism of the Lord	8.30am Ad Orientem *11.00 am (Facing Congregation) 3.00pm *5.00pm Ad Orientem	Methsiri Fernanado RIP Intention available Divine Mercy Holy Hour Intention available

** Mass will be live streamed via YouTube (olop earley).*

Please note that the dispensation from obligatory attendance of Sunday Mass remains valid.

Sunday Masses can be booked via our website www.olop.org.uk (latest by 8.00pm the previous day) or by calling the Parish Office on 0118 9663711. If you are booking via telephone then please call by Friday 3.00pm at the latest as messages will not be accessed after this time.

Please note: Weekday mass on Monday and Friday is open to congregation and you do not need to book for these Mass.

Anniversaries: Please keep in your prayers

3rd Jan: Thomas Flannery (2015); **4th Jan:** Robert Scott (1989); Kathleen Rooney (2001);

5th Jan: Therese Polanski (2008); Elizabeth York (2015)

7th Jan: Wally Kulan (2001); Annie Aldridge (2011);

8th Jan: Anne Wellman (1980); Lesly Borg (2002); Margot Wignall (2017)

9th Jan: Tim Chapman (1995); Fran Oliver (2012);

10th Jan: Emma Cattaneo (1984); Teresa Smith (2006);

Please pray for members of the parish and their family who are sick or housebound, especially: Margaret Browne (Parishioner).

Stop Press:

Yesterday 30th December 2020, we received a message that a parishioner who attended Mass on St Stephen's day 26th December 2020, has tested positive for COVID-19. Those who were in close contact have been informed. As a preventive measure Fr Stan has decided to stop Public Services till Thursday 7th January 2021 inclusive. Church and Parish office will remain closed till then. Church will open on Friday 8th January 2021 at 11am with Adoration till 7.00pm followed by holy Mass at 7.30pm. We are sorry for the inconvenience and we wish you a Happy and Blessed New Year.

Thank you

A big thank you to all involved in the process of preparation towards Christmas, those involved with the liturgy, the decoration of the church, cleaning and stewarding. Everything looked spectacular and it was lovely to hear good comments from everyone.

Christmas Day collection/ offerings

Thank you for the personal gifts to myself. The gifts would help me enrol in some courses and hopefully to change my car this year. Thank you once again for your generous gifts.
Regards Fr Stan.

Advent giving - Our Parish's chosen Charity is "First Days": The response to the appeal for gifts for our local charity "First Days has been wonderful. Thank you to all who gave so generously.

Outdoor Christmas Crib: We are thankful to a group of volunteers who have erected an outdoor crib by the Grotto. The Christmas crib is a sign of hope that the goodness is in us and near us as we greet the newborn child. Please spread the word and encourage everyone to visit our outdoor crib and spread the joy of Nativity.

Parish Christmas Cards Thank you to everyone who took our cards and dropped them to their neighbours. We really appreciate your support in promoting our Parish's Christmas service.

Parish News:

From Friday 8th January 2021, Church will be open for private prayer :

Tuesday - Thursday : 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Friday with Adoration from 11.00am -7.00pm. followed by 7.30pm Mass.

Sunday 10th Jan at 3.00pm. Divine Mercy holy hour. Every one welcome

Church refurbishment: We are really fortunate and thankful to the team of volunteers who after completing the Lady Chapel decoration, have started the refurbishment of the confessional and have also put an illuminated display case of Our Lady of Fatima and Divine Mercy on either side of the feature window. They look fantastic and they draw the eye towards the church while waiting at the lights at the traffic junction.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on request. Please contact Fr Stan by email fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Please maintain a safe distance.

Mass Intention: The Mass Intention book for 2021 is available for you to book your Mass Intention. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, we cannot place the book in Advent room. You can book Mass Intention via the Parish office either by visiting in person or phoning the Parish office during opening times.

Helping those most Vulnerable in our Parish. If you know of anyone, or are yourself lonely and/or vulnerable, please consider giving details to the parish office.

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

Catholic Universe & Catholic times readers:- Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722.. Special offer: 3 MONTHS :-£22.00 or 12 Months:- £80.00