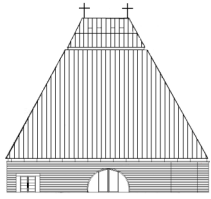


# THE MESSENGER

Serving the Churches of Holy Ghost, St. Bede and Sacred Heart

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY No. 246871



**St. Bede**  
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Basingstoke  
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01256 465214

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Rev. Christopher Rutledge:  
Coordinating Pastor and Dean

**Assistant Priest:**

Rev. Gerry Onyejuluwa  
01256 951134

**Parish Administrator:**

Mrs Liz Murphy  
Office Open: Monday, Wednesday,  
Thursday and Friday,  
9 am - 2 pm (Tuesday - Admin day)

**Email:**

stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Website:**

www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk

**Facilities Manager:**

Dr Stephen Flitcroft (Parish Office)

**Treasurer:** Mrs Jan Hughes

**Safeguarding:**

Angela McGrory (Diocese)  
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**Holy Ghost Church Address**

Sherborne Road,  
Basingstoke,  
Hants. RG21 5TD

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### GAUDETE SUNDAY

**Year B—Psalter Week III— Sunday 17th December 2017**

A key facet of stewardship has always been personal witness. Today's readings deal in large part with the witness of John the Baptist. St. John the Baptist, according to historians, was a few months older than Jesus. It is also generally accepted that he began preaching about six months before Jesus came to him to be baptized and to begin His ministry.

St. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. John the Baptist, through personal witness, raised a great sense of expectancy and excitement, the kind of expectancy and excitement that we associate with this season of Advent. John tries to awaken in people a consciousness of sin, the importance of conversion and change, and the need to become more holy in God's eyes.

Those are the same goals we should have during this Advent season. The matter of witness is a serious and important thing. It establishes truth and a solid foundation for faith. When we personally witness, it means we make a commitment. We cannot be neutral when it comes to our faith. We are called to be disciples, witnesses of and for Christ. We best accomplish that by the ways we live our own lives and how we relate to and treat others.

Jesus can meet our every need. Now is the time for us to accept that and to place our total trust in Him. We can do that best by making our own commitment to be His disciple, a witness to Who He is and what He means to us and all people.

Taken from the Catholic Steward.com

### MASS AND SERVICES THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday 17th Dec</b>	9.00 am	SB	Ned Fagan, Maureen McCaulay RIP
	11.00 am	SB	Salvatore Agro RIP (Maria)
	2.30 pm	SB	Reconciliation Service
	6.30 pm	SB	People of the Parish

Mon 18th	12 noon	HG	Marie Payne RIP (Fond)
Tues 19th	9.30 am	SB	Bobbie Stickney RIP (Flynn)
Wed 20th	9.30 am	HG	Daniel Foran RIP (Fond)
Thur 21st	8—9 am	SB	Adoration
	9.30 am	SB	Int. Getrude Wang
Fri 22nd	9.30 am	HG	Keith Brennan RIP (Adams)
			Adoration after Mass at Holy Ghost Church until 11am
Sat 23rd	9.30 am	SB	Oscar Herman Dover RIP (Fond)
			Confessions after the 9.30 am Mass till 10.45 am
Sat 23rd	6.00 pm	SB	Vigil Mass —People of the Parish

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

<b>Saturday 23rd</b>	6.00 pm	SB	Dec Mbrs Hynes Family (Murphy)
<b>Sunday 24th</b>	10.00 am	SB	People of the Parish



'Whoever surrenders unconditionally to the Lord will be chosen by Him as an Instrument for building His Kingdom'  
St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

## 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Saturday 23rd December:**

**Vigil Mass at 6.00 pm**

**Sunday 24th December—10.00 am Mass:**



### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Christmas Eve:**

**Carols 5.30 pm**

**Vigil Mass 6.00 pm**

**Mass during the Night:**

**Carols 9.30 pm**

**Mass 10.00 pm**

**Christmas Day: Dawn Mass at 8.00 am**

**Mass during the day at 10.00 am**

*(There is NO Evening Mass)*

**Tuesday 26th St. Stephen's Day 10.00am**

***All Masses celebrated at St. Bede's Church***

### CHRISTMAS MASS IN OTHER LANGUAGES

**at Holy Ghost Church**

**Syro Malabar Rite Mass on Christmas Eve 3.30 pm**

**Polish Mass on Christmas Eve at 9 pm**

### OBLIGATION

Catholics are under obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation. Some have asked, whether a Sunday Evening Mass on Christmas Eve would fulfil both the obligation for a Sunday Mass and the obligation for Christmas Day.

The answer is NO because Sunday 24th December am is 4th Sunday of Advent. Sunday 24th December evening is Mass Proper to the Vigil and December 25th is Christmas Day a Holy day of Obligation.

### KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA (Lucky Me)

Congratulations to Karen Holland of Bramley who has won £100, Joan O'Brien of Basingstoke £50 and Theresa Zajac of Kingsclere £25.

### FUNERALS SERVICE

Funeral Service for Queenie Florence Burrows takes place on Monday 18th December at 3.30 pm at the Crematorium We remember her Family and Friends at this sad time, May She Rest in Peace

### GRASSED CAR PARK

Grassed car park will be closed for the winter.

### PARISH DIARY:

**Sun 10th : Music:** 9 am Choir ; 11 am Cantorg  
6.30 pm Guitar

**Tues:** Repository open 9 am—3 pm

**Wed :** Choir practice: 7.30 pm at SB

### GAUDETE SUNDAY

Today, the Third Sunday in Advent also known "Gaudete Sunday". This is because the opening antiphon in the Roman Missal for this Sunday begins with the words "Gaudete in Domino Semper", meaning "Rejoice in the Lord always". On this day the rose candle on the wreath is lit, and the Priest wears Rose vestments.

### EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Bishop Philip invites you to join him at the Eucharistic Congress between 7-9th Sept 2018 in Liverpool. The Theological Symposium is planned to consist of workshops for Parish Catechists, (especially for those involved in FHC programmes) RE Teachers, Hospital and Prison Chaplains, Seminary Communities and Extraordinary Ministers.

Participation in the procession is by ticket only.

So if you wish to attend, please let the Parish Office know asap.

### IF YOU ARE GOING INTO HOSPITAL

If you wish to receive Holy Communion whilst in Hospital, please contact Liz Murphy in the Parish Office. The Hospital Volunteer Chaplains visit the hospital on a Wednesday to give Holy Communion to those who request it.

### BISHOP PHILIP

Bishop Philip invites you to sign up for his FREE weekly e-Newsletter to keep in touch with the latest news and forthcoming events around the diocese. Visit [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews) to sign up.

### WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

The program is now into week 3 of the 13 week program and we are regularly seeing 12 people, men and women, coming into the shelters every night to enjoy a hot meal and have a warm and secure place to sleep for the night. The guests are very grateful for the care and attention we are giving them. Thank you to everyone who is involved, both directly and indirectly, in helping with the Winter Night Light Shelters as they would not happen without your cheerful and enthusiastic help.....***The King will reply, I tell you whenever you did it for the least of my brethren, you did it for me. (St Matthew 25:40)***

### POINSETTEIA

If you would like to donate a Poinsettia in memory of a "Loved One" to the Parish to help decorate our Church, please bring them to St. Bede's Church on Sunday 17th. They will be used to decorate the Altar at Holy Ghost Church and the Statue of Our Lady at St. Bede's.

### COLLECTIONS

Sunday collection to £2,407.49p. grateful thanks. Second collection today for 'Christmas Flowers'