

North West Hampshire Catholic News Weekly Newsletter

Serving the parishes of Andover, Basingstoke, Hook, Tadley and Kingsclere

Priests serving the area

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Area Youth Officer

Angie Carroll, Tel: 07713567161, acarroll@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

There is no Pastoral Area section in this weeks newsletter..... I shall be sending another newsletter on Monday for next weekend, just a couple of slight changes...

Many thanks for all you do for the parish

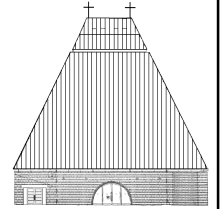
Liz



WELCOME TO ST. BEDE'S CHURCH

St. Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX
Holy Ghost Church, Sherborne Rd. Basingstoke. RG21 5TX
Fr. Christopher Rutledge: Parish Priest

Parish Secretary: Liz Murphy
Tel. No. 01256 465214



Email: stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk—facebook.com/stbedesbasingstoke

Thought for the week

The Fourth Sunday of Advent concentrates our minds on the role of Mary in the birth of Jesus. Unlike Luke's account, Matthew's account gives considerable prominence to the role of Joseph in this world-changing event. Joseph stands centre-stage with her. His is that just man whom God gives as a wise and faithful servant to care for the Virgin Mother of God and to be like an earthly father, caring for God's son on earth.

Matthew gives us a picture of a man who is no fool, but is also "a man of honour". Of course, Mary's story of her baby being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit is absurd! The poor woman is somewhat deranged to think that she has become pregnant without the assistance of a man. She has made a serious mistake, but Joseph will not judge the person whom he had hoped to spend his life with. He does not know the circumstances.

Yet it is God's choice that he alone is the one worthy to care for her and the child who is "to save his people from their sins". As an angel comes to Mary, so does one come to Joseph, to change his life forever. And as Mary accepts God's will, so does Joseph.

The relationship will not involve the expression of full sexual love nor will it be a "normal" marriage. At its centre will be Emmanuel, "God-is-with-us." Joseph will carry in his arms the God-Man; he will enfold in a chaste love the Virgin Mother of God, comforting her in times of trouble, as she will comfort him.

The decision of Pope Francis to order inclusion of the name of Joseph, alongside Mary's, in each Eucharistic Prayer continues a growing tradition of the importance of that just man recognised clearly by Matthew. Mary would not want us to forget him during the Christ Mass (Christmas). Neither would our Saviour, Jesus!

Father Patrick Tansey
December 2013A.D.

New Year's Eve: Holy Ghost

Mass at 8 pm (light refreshments afterwards in the hall)

New Year's Day: St. Bede's

Mass at 12 noon

Christmas begins:



**On behalf of
Fr. Chris, Fr. Thom
and the parish office, we
wish you all a
"Holy, Blessed & Peaceful
Christmas".**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed of their time and talent to preparing the church/liturgy and helping us all in our worship of God. May Christ our Saviour bless us all during this Festive Season.

Christmas Collection

Tradition holds that the Christmas Offerings given at the Vigil and Christmas Day Masses are your opportunity for a personal gift to your parish priest. This is a big source of his annual income.

Collection last weekend amounted to £1,815.77p. Thank you for supporting St. Michael's Hospice £37.14p was raised with the mince pies.

Fr Thom Amungwa

We are sad to have to announce that Fr Thom will be leaving our pastoral area in the New Year. He will be replacing Fr Dominic Adeiza as Priest in Charge of Yateley and Hartley Wintney parishes. Our loss is very much their gain and we wish him every sincere best wish and blessing for his new role. Fr Thom's last weekend with us will be 4th / 5th Jan. Please keep Fr Thom in your prayers as he prepares to make this transition.

Parish Mass Timetable

Sun:	Sunday 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent See Parish Mass Book, p 90 Psalter week (4) 9.00 am SB Emmanuel Rana RIP (Rosellern) 11.00 am SB Dave Webb RIP (Butler) 6.30 pm SB People of the Parish
Mon:	<i>Liturgy of the Day</i> 9.30 am HG Oscar Herman Dover RIP <i>Liturgy of the Day</i>
Tues:	9.30 am HG Dec. Mbrs Hynes Family
	Christmas Eve: Vigil Mass: Carols at 6pm Mass at 6.30pm People of the Parish Carols at 11.30 pm Mass at Midnight People of the Parish
Wed:	Christmas Day: 10.00 am SB People of the Parish (please note: NO 6.30 pm Mass)
Thurs:	Feast of St. Stephen 10.00am SB Kathleen Hennessy RIP
Fri:	<i>Feast of St. John, Apostle, Evangelist</i> 9.30 am SB Mary Whiting RIP (Popovic)
Sat:	<i>Feast of The Holy Innocents</i> 9.30 am SB In thanksgiving Gibson Family
Sun:	29th December—Feast of the Holy Family 9.00 am SB Martin Cleary RIP (Cleary) 11.00 am SB People of the Parish 6.30 pm SB Evelyn Dykes RIP (SVP)
Mon:	<i>Liturgy of the Day</i> 9.30 am HG Tom Bowers RIP (Bowers)
Tues:	<i>Liturgy of the Day</i> 9.30 am SB Mary Whiting RIP (Popovic) 8.00 pm HG Dec. Mbrs of the Parish
Wed 1st January 2014	Mary, Mother of God 12 noon SB Michel Colella RIP (Colella)
Thurs:	<i>Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop</i> 9.30 am SB Sean McNamara RIP
Fri:	<i>Liturgy of the Day</i> 9.30 am HG Int. Sr. Mary Frances Rooney
Sat:	<i>Liturgy of the Day</i> 9.30 am SB Nancy O'Neill RIP

Please pray for all the Sick in our Parish

Lord, have all those who are unable to be with us for Mass in your safekeeping. We remember: Sean Walsh, Theodora Gatchalian, John Hickey, Joan Gomes. Carmel Hyland, Larry Hynan, Gillian Sims, Anne Quinn, Andrea Thrower, Jacqueline Hudson.

Support them in your love.

Be near them in moments of sickness and anxiety.

Funeral Service for

Patrick Engwall RIP

at Holy Ghost Church on

Friday 27th December

at 10.30 am, followed by committal at the Crematorium at 11.45 am.

May he rest in peace.



The Christmas Crib Offerings during Christmastide are for Christian Communities in the Holy Land, via the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

The Holy Land is a very distressful area of the Middle East and the Christians are very appreciative of our support and prayer. Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem 2000 years ago and today the Christians in the Holy Land, including Bethlehem, are experiencing extreme difficulties and dangers. of peace and stability and the absence of justice.

NWHPA Youth Ministry Co-ordinator (Maternity Leave Cover)

As you know, Angie Carroll (NWHPA Youth Ministry Co-ordinator) will be away on Maternity leave from the end of December 2013. Dave Hill has been appointed to undertake the maternity leave cover whilst Angie is away and can be contacted on the same mobile number (07713567161). Dave has previously worked for the Diocese undertaking a youth role. We all wish Angie every blessing and joy over the coming months.

Other local churches

Sunday Mass times

Sacred Heart, Hook

- Sat 6pm & Sun 10am

St Joseph's, Basingstoke

- Sat 6pm & Sun 9am and 11am

St Michael's, Tadley

- Sat 6pm & Sun 9.30 am

St Peter & St Paul, Kingsclere

- Sun 11.15 am

