

**NORTH WEST  
HAMPSHIRE  
PASTORAL AREA**

SERVING THE PARISHES OF  
ANDOVER, BASINGSTOKE,  
HOOK, TADLEY AND BURGHFIELD



**HOLY GHOST PARISH  
BASINGSTOKE**

**St. Bede's Church**  
Popley Way, Basingstoke,  
RG24 9DX

**Holy Ghost Church**  
Sherborne Rd. Basingstoke.  
RG21 5TX

**Sacred Heart Parish**  
Sacred Heart Church  
London Road, Hook  
RG27 9LA

**Parish Priest:**  
Rev Fr. Christopher Rutledge:  
Dean of North Hampshire

**Assistant Priest:**  
Awaiting appointment

**Retired Priest in Residence**  
Rev Fr. Peter Codd

**Parish Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday 9am to 2pm

**Parish Secretary:**  
Mrs Liz Murphy  
**01256 465214**

**Site Manager:**  
Mrs Liz Flitcroft

**Treasurer:**  
Mrs Jan Hughes

email:  
[stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Web:  
[www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk](http://www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk)

Facebook:  
[Facebook.com/stbedesbasingstoke](https://www.facebook.com/stbedesbasingstoke)

**Safeguarding:**

Mrs Jan Hughes 07719012955

Mrs Angela McGrory (Diocese)  
0755 4427 064  
023 92816396

**Second Sunday of Advent  
6th December 2015**

**Page 84 Year C Psalter week 2**

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**Thought for the Week**

Luke's Gospel introduces John the Baptist's ministry in much the same way as it introduced Jesus' birth. It provides a brief historical and political context, thereby rooting John's activity (as it did with Jesus' birth in the earlier episode) in the real situations of His time. So we are told that John began his prophetic ministry when Tiberius was in his fifteenth year as Roman Emperor, and Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea—there's a chilling warning at an early stage, if ever there was one! Not only are we told when John got down to work, but we are given advance warning of Jesus' passion and death.

This is the first appearance of John the Baptist in this Advent season. He will reappear in next Sunday's gospel as well. Next week, we will hear details of how he exercised his ministry and of what he said. This week, we read how he fulfilled prophetic words spoken six hundred years earlier. About preparing a way for the Lord, removing barriers between people and God, symbolised by filling in valleys and laying low mountains and hills. John is a prophet who urges his hearers to remove whatever distances them from God.

Baruch used similar imagery in the first reading, writing hundreds of years after the exile, but recalling the words of the prophet of the exile. Baruch's words are aimed at Jerusalem's citizens, to get rid of all sadness and mourning—presumably when this part of Baruch was being written, yet another disaster had befallen Jerusalem. So we have a two-part strategy here. In Baruch's words, this requires us to remove whatever is the opposite of the Good News of God's presence; so we are to do away with anything that prevents us recognising the approaching Lord—spiritual "mountains", as it were, that block our view - and fill in the great gulfs that keep us at a distance from the Lord even if we are aware of His closeness.

*Taken from 'The Living Word' Redemptorist Publications*

**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS**

<b>Sun 6th Dec</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>			
	9.00 am	Fr C	SB	Ned Fagan, Maureen McCauley RIP
	11.00 am	Fr C	SB	Antonio Bibbo RIP (Colella)
	6.30 pm	Fr C	SB	Brenda Eakins RIP
<b>Mon 7th Dec</b>	12 noon	Fr C	HG	Harold & Eileen White RIP (Farrelly)
<b>Tues 8th Dec</b>	9.15 am	at St Joseph, South Ham		
	10.00 am	at Sacred Heart, Hook		
<b>Wed 9th Dec</b>	9.30 am	Fr C	HG	Maureen Burnand RIP
<b>Thurs 10th Dec</b>	11.30 am	Fr C	SB	Requiem Sean Walsh RIP
<b>Fri 11th Dec</b>	No Mass			
	10—11 am		HG	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Sat 12th Dec</b>	9.30 am	Fr C	SB	Mary & Harold Vickers RIP
	10.00 am	Fr. C	SB	Confessions
<b>Sun 13th Dec</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>			
	9.00 am	Fr C	SB	People of the Parish
	11.00 am	Fr C	SB	Brenda Corr RIP
	6.30 pm	Fr C	SB	John Reid RIP (Reid)

**Morning Prayer:** 9.15am before each weekday Mass at SB or HG

**Rosary:** Recited after the weekday Mass at SB or HG

**Before Mass:** Pray to God; **During Mass:** Listen to God.

**After Mass** in the cloister area: Talk to everyone.

If you are visiting our Churches of St. Bede's or Holy Ghost, you are most welcome.

## FUNERALS

**Funeral Service for Janey Haycock RIP** on Monday 7th December at 9.45 am in Worting Rd. Chapel.

**Requiem Mass for Sean Walsh RIP** on Thursday 10th December at 11.30 am in St. Bede's Church. May they Rest in Peace.

## CANON RICHARD HIND RIP

Please pray for Canon Richard (who was our Diocesan Chancellor until he retired) who died recently. His Requiem will take place in St. John's Cathedral on Friday 11th December at 11 am. May he Rest in Peace.

## ST. BEDE'S SCHOOL SUPPORTING STAMP

Stamps are no longer needed, as this year's applications are being processed.

## ST. BEDE'S SCHOOL SUPPORTING FORMS

Fr. Chris will be available on sign the supporting supplementary forms on Wednesday 6th January 2016 Between 10.45 am—11.45 pm. This is the last chance for these forms to be signed.

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Since January 2015 to date the Parish has been busy with

Baptisms	59
Weddings	6
Funerals	40
First Holy Communions	71
Confirmations	25

## BAPTISMS

Congratulations to James Robert Johnson, Dara Berger, Darcy Berger, Candice Abena-Reeda Mireku, and Olivia Ellen Penny who are being baptised today.

## HOLY GHOST CHURCH

If you live local to the Holy Ghost Church, and would be happy to open up and lock the Church on a rota bases, (at least once a month) will you kindly let the Parish Office know on Tel. No. 01256 465214.

Grateful thanks to Jayne Lampard, Mike & Cathy Hickey, Ann Harwood, Victor Johnson, and to Rose Easton who is stepping down due to ill health. We thank them all.

## BASINGSTOKE IRISH SOCIETY

Basingstoke Irish Society are holding a children's Christmas Party on Sunday 13th December between 2—4 pm, in the Irish Club. Father Christmas will be in attendance. For logistic reasons, can you please email [kathleenkelly@btconnect.com](mailto:kathleenkelly@btconnect.com) or telephone (01256 353143) leaving, Child's age and whether boy or girl.

## CHURCH CLEANING

Can you please spare an hour on Thursday 17th December after the 9.30 am Mass to help clean the Church. We do need lots of hands...

## FINANCIAL REPORT

This year's financial report has been on display on the noticeboard for the past two weeks.

## COLLECTIONS

Collection for last weekend amount to £2,234.29p. Grateful thanks for your support.

## PARISH DIARY:

Sun: 9am Choir: 11am Popley: 6.30 pm Priest-Led  
Repository open after all Masses today  
Baptisms SB at 3 pm

Tues: Toddler Group meet SB 1.30—3.15 pm

Wed: 9 am Choir practice SB at 7.30 pm

Welcome to our First Holy Communion Children who are participation at all Masses today.

## ADVENT

Advent Reconciliation Service in St. Joseph's Church on Sunday 20th December at 2.30 pm.

## ADVENT TALKS

There will be opportunities during Advent to reflect on some of the themes of the papal encyclical 'Laudato Si' : Care for our common home.

We are planning two Groups in Hook, one will take place on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 pm and the other will be on Thursday evenings at 7.00pm both for one hour, followed by refreshments. Both Groups will meet in the Parish Hall.

1. A universal family. 8th & 10th December
2. We were made for love. 15th & 17th December

## CHRISTMAS POSTERS

Available for free in the cloister area to display in your Homes, shops, courtesy of the Knights of St. Columba

## CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

URC are in urgent need in finding a cook (with appropriate Hygiene Certificate) who is happy to give up some of their Christmas morning and afternoon to cook Christmas Dinner for 50 guests and 15 volunteers. For further information please email Joy Williams

[joyamwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:joyamwilliams@gmail.com). Tel. No. 07948422465

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December

6.00 pm	Carol Service
6.30 pm	Vigil Mass
9.30 pm	Carol Service
10.00 pm	Mass during the Night

### Christmas Day Friday 25th December

8.00 am	Dawn Mass
10.00 am	Mass during the day

**No Evening Mass**

### St. Stephen's Day Saturday 26th December

11.00 am	Mass
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### Sunday 27th December

9.00am	Mass
11.00am	Mass
6.30pm	Mass



*All Masses at St. Bede's Church*

**AND FINALLY:** Thank you to our key holders who look after the Holy Ghost Church.