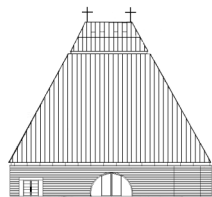


THE MESSENGER

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

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY No. 246871



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Coordinating Pastor and Dean

Assistant Priest:

Rev. Gerry Onyejuluwa
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Mrs Liz Murphy
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Thursday and Friday,
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Facilities Manager:

Dr Stephen Flitcroft (Parish Office)

Treasurer: Mrs Jan Hughes

Safeguarding:

Angela McGrory (Diocese)
07554427064

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Holy Ghost Church Address

Sherborne Road,
Basingstoke,
Hants. RG21 5TD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year B—Psalter Week I - Sunday 3rd December 2017

Thought for the Week

This First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. All the readings during this period of waiting and anticipation concentrate on making us aware that it is time for us to awaken our lives as Christians. Jesus opens our Gospel Reading from St. Mark by saying "Be watchful! Be alert!" and closes it with an intense "Watch!"

For many Advent and Christmas are times of light, whether it is the light of the candles on Advent wreaths or the lights on a tree or the festive lights which decorate many houses and businesses. Jesus brings light into our world, but we must allow this light to permeate our own lives, to enter into the dark and sinful parts of our lives to illuminate and cleanse them.

This should be a time of renewed prayer and penance which truly prepares us to "watch" for the Lord, not just at Christmas but throughout our lives. There is a natural wonder among children at this time of year, but sometimes as we age, we lose that sense as if we are sleeping. It is time to awaken. Our minds may say "Let go" but our spirituality tells us to "Awaken." We are filled with spiritual depths. It is time to seek them, find them, and awaken them. It is Advent, time for us to awaken and become aware of the gifts of love we have received from God and others. Or as Jesus reminds us: "Watch."

Taken from the Catholic Steward.

MASS AND SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sunday 3rd Dec 9.00 am SB Charles Armstrong RIP (Fond)
11.00 am SB People of the Parish
6.30 pm SB Paul, Mary Cassar & Bernie Hubler RIP
FHC Children joining us for all Masses this weekend.

Mon 4th 12 noon HG Felix Zelaya RIP
Tues 5th 9.30 am SB Josephine McDermott RIP (Madden)
Wed 6th 9.30 am HG Joseph Palliyan RIP (Jophy)
Thur 7th Adoration between 8—9 am in St. Bede's Church
9.30 am SB Cyril Seamus & Johanna O'Hanlon RIP
(Monaghan)

Fri 8th 9.30 am HG Dr. Michael Phealan RIP (Knowles)
Adoration after Mass at Holy Ghost Church until 11am

Sat 9th 9.30 am SB Maureen Burnand RIP (Fond)
Confessions after the 9.30 am Mass till 10.45 am

Sunday 10th December

9.00 am SB People of the Parish
11.00 am SB Dec. Mbrs Liddell Family (Fond)
6.30 pm SB John Reid RIP (Reid)



'It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope'
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

ADVENT IS COMING

Advent is coming, it starts this Sunday 3rd December. Some thoughts to prepare for Christmas.

- ◆ A place to go to get away from all the adverts.
- ◆ A day of silence to just be with the Mystery of Incarnation
- ◆ A chance to be of service to the poor
- ◆ A little more time to be with Family and Friends.
- ◆ Some time to meditate on the fact that Jesus was born poor.
- ◆ Day by Day booklets in the cloister, they are a helpful guide for our journey through Advent. They are £1 each. Please place money in the wall box in the cloister area.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Advent Reconciliation Service will take place here at St. Bede's Church on Sunday 17th December at 2.30 pm

ADVENT WREATH

Yet again in both St. Bede's and Holy Ghost Churches, we have the Advent Wreath: which reminds us that we are on a journey towards God in and through the Incarnate Christ; the green reminds us of life, everlasting life. To 'use' the wreath; think of your journey; the past, present and future. How can you deepen its quality and walk with God?

FUNERALS SERVICES

Funeral Service for Gloria Moore RIP at Worthing Rd. Chapel Friday 8th December at 10.30 am.

Requiem Mass for Joe Murphy RIP Thursday 14th December at 11 am in St. Bede's Church.

Reception of Body into Church at 4 pm in St. Bede's Church on Wednesday 13th December.

Funeral Service at the Crematorium Friday 15th December at 12.30 pm for Lisel Holbrook (Holly). We remember their Family and Friends at this sad time.



GIVING TREE 2017

Advent Giving Tree—please bring back your presents before Sunday 10th December.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Do you support Catholic Schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic Schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic Schools.

GRASSED CAR PARK

Grassed car park will be closed for the winter.

PARISH DIARY:

Sun 3rd December: Music: 9 am Choir; 11 am Popley: 6.30 pm Piano

Baptisms: 12.30 pm St. Bede's Church

Tues: Repository open 9 am—3 pm

Tues: Toddler Group 1.30—3.15 pm

Wed : Choir practice: 7.30 pm at SB

Thur: Church cleaning after 9.30 am Mass

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.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations and Welcome to Thomas Foster & Maggie Grace Mahoney who are being Baptised this weekend.



ST. BEDE'S SCHOOL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Fr. Chris will be available on Saturday 16th December between 11—12 noon. Fr. Chris will be in the meeting room, just off the Cloister. Please remember to bring your Child's Baptismal Certificate and Mass Attendance Card.

ST. BEDE'S SUPPORTING STAMP

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

CAFOD World Gifts

CAFOD World Gifts are a fun and meaningful way to give gifts to the people you love, and make a difference to some of the poorest communities around the world at the same time. Each gift comes with a Christmas gift card and you can choose to send a goat, build a business or help a refugee child. You can order gifts online at cafod.org.uk/world-gifts or call 0808 1400014 or catalogues are available in your church.

BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK

This Christmas please help local people in crisis by giving non-perishable items(s) from the list below.

Please note: No items containing alcohol are being accepted.

Tinned meat (eg ham, mince, corned beef, chicken. Tinned tomatoes, tinned spaghetti/ravioli, cereals (hot or cold) milk (powdered or UHT full fat), coffee/drinking chocolate, fruit juice, (HT), rice, oat biscuits/crackers/crisp breads, cooking sauces, puddings/rice pudding/custard, tinned vegetables, instant mash packets, tinned fruit, biscuits, sweet & savoury spreads, toiletries, Christmas crackers.

NIGHT SHELTER IN BASINGSTOKE

Following items are requested please, small bottles of water, jams and marmalades, brown sauce, ketchup, UHT fruit juice, squash, instant coffee, UHT milk, soft sweets or chocolate, UHT custard, breakfast bars, biscuits,

COLLECTIONS

Sunday collection amounted to £2,547.08p. grateful thanks.