

THE MESSENGER

Serving the Churches of Holy Ghost and St. Bede

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY No. 246871



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PASTORAL AREA CLERGY

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Fr Emmanuel Rinda

Deacon Patrick O'Connell

Sacred Heart, Hook 01256 577007

Fr. Paul Leonard

St Michael, Tadley 0118 981 4572

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Deacon Anthony Cairns

St. John the Baptist, Andover

Fr. Austin Gurr 01264 352829

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2nd December 2018

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Advent

We have arrived at the powerful season of Advent, a season to prepare with awe and gratitude for the Feast of the Incarnation of Jesus, born to us as Saviour and Brother. A season to prepare for His return at the end of time. It is also a moment to remind ourselves that our individual judgment day is coming, too — the moment when we will be called to give an account for all the love God has shown us and the gifts He has given us during our lifetime. An important document on stewardship published by the Diocese of Wichita titled *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship* says, "God reveals His perfect and infinite love for us most visibly in His Son, Jesus Christ. A steward makes God's love visible by imitating Jesus... Stewardship is the response of the disciple to God's unconditional love for us. Stewards bask in the wonder and awe of God's love" Or, in other words, Advent is a steward's season!

Our readings for the first week of Advent waste no time in calling our urgent attention to these themes of reflection and preparation. They seem to shout, "Wake up! Get ready!" and offer us some practical advice to make the most of this Season.

The Gospel, from Luke, warns, "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life." How easy it is to lose focus on our Lord either by too much indulgence in our lives or by too much worry about our lives. Both extremes are easy to fall prey to. To avoid these traps we are told to "be vigilant" and "pray for strength to sustain us." During Advent, we Christian Stewards must ask ourselves some hard questions. Am I staying faithful to my prayer life? Am I using my energy and skills to serve others? Am I overly concerned about material gain? Am I relying my "stuff" or my investments as my source of comfort or security? Am I living for the moment or for the coming of the Lord?

Taken from Catholic Stewardship

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

2nd December	9.00 am	SB	Tito Gomes RIP
	11.00 am	SB	Giovanni & Venera Grasso RIP
	6.30 pm	SB	People of the Parish
Mon 3rd	12 Noon	HG	Charles Armstrong RIP
Tues 4th	No Mass		
Wed 5th	9.30 am	HG	Ned Fagan & Maureen McCauley RIP
	12 noon	HG	Funeral Service Brian Clarke RIP
Thurs 6th	9.30 am	SB	Dec. Mbrs Bibbo & Colella Family
Fri 7th	9.30 am	HG	Brenda Eakins RIP
	Adoration after 9.30 am Mass		
Sat 8th	<i>Feast Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>		
	9.30 am	SB	Dec. Mbrs Liddell Family
Confessions after Mass till 10.45 am			

9th December

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year C Psalter Week II

9.00 am	SB	People of the Parish
11.00 am	SB	Maureen Burnand RIP
6.30 pm	SB	John Reid RIP



ADVENT HAS BEGUN

Advent has a twofold character: as a time to prepare for Christmas, when the Son of God's first coming to us is remembered; and a second, when that remembrance directs the minds and hearts to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these

two reasons, the Season of Advent is a period for devout and joyful expectations.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Pastoral Area Advent Reconciliation will be here at St. Bede's Church on Friday 14th December at 7.30 pm.

ADVENT BOOKLET

Day by Day books available for £1 each in the Cloister Area.

ADVENT GIVING TREE

It's been a really poor response from Social Services this year. Many teams been told they cannot participate.

35 labels have been received, so they have all been taken from St. Joseph's, who have been organizing this for the last couple of years. Perhaps direct your giving to the Winter Shelter Project.

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA ADVENT MASS

Takes place in Sacred Heart Church, Hook on Thursday 13th December at 7.30 pm. followed by Christmas Carols. Refreshments will be served in the hall afterwards.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE (Monday)

5.45 pm Carols
6 pm Vigil Mass
9.30 pm Carols
10 pm Mass during the Night



CHRISTMAS DAY (Tuesday)

8 am Mass at Dawn (Quiet Mass)
10 am Mass during the Day
(Church will remain open until 4 pm)

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY (Wednesday)

10.30 am Mass for Altar Servers Intentions

ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING

We are running an Altar Server Training Course on 8th December running from 9:00 am-2:00 pm. This course is open to all Altar Servers.

LECTIO DIVINA - 6th, 13th and 20th December - 6.30pm at Cold Ash, Thatcham.

What better way to prepare through Advent than the Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina, Location: The Franciscan Spirituality Centre, The Ridge, Cold Ash, Thatcham, Berkshire. RG18 9HU. For details: Tel: 01635 86535. Email: coldashcentre@hotmail.co.uk. Web: www.coldashcentre.org. All welcome please join us.

DIARY:

Sunday 2nd Dec: Music: 9 am Choir: 11 am Popley:
6.30 Lord's Flock
Refreshments after the 9 am Mass
Repository open after all Masses
Welcome to our FHC children who will be joining us this weekend.

Mon 3rd: SVP SB 7.30 pm

Tues 4th: Toddler group meet SB 1.30—3.15 pm

Wed 5th: Choir practice SB 7.30 pm

Thurs 6th: Repository open 9.00—3.15 pm
RCIA HG @ 7.30 pm

MASS INTENTIONS

As you are aware I am the only Priest in the Parish, looking after over a 1,000 Parishioners, with the Hospital, Nursing Homes and the School. Sadly, there are times when I have to change Mass dates/times because of other commitments. When a Mass is booked in the office, it is done with every intention of accommodating the person involved. We try very hard not to have to rearrange.

This Advent, we are having to look very closely at Masses/ Services, and I ask you please to be patient with me and the staff, as we try to fulfil all the demands. *Fr. Chris*

FUNERALS

Funeral Service for Brian Clarke RIP on Wednesday 5th December in Holy Ghost Church at 12 noon.
Requiem for Mick Hogan RIP on Thursday 13th December in Holy Ghost Church at 12 noon. We remember their families and friends at this sad time.

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA

As you may know the ships of the world which bring us the many goods we use each day do not stop operating over the Christmas Season. This means that the seafarers who live on-board these ships are also working over the Christmas period and they are very far from home and have no contact with friends and family. Each year the **Apostleship of the Sea (AoS)** seeks your kind donations of woolly hats, toblerone chocolates as well as other personal items in support of the many seafarers who work upon the high seas. As well as those much needed items, **AoS** also invites the Faithful to donate any extra Rosaries, Bibles or small Crucifixes. Financial donations are most welcomed as well. For more information on how you may be able to help, please contact your local Parish **AoS** representative or Fr John Lavers

(john.lavers@stellamarismail.org). The website is: <https://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk>.

Our Lady Star of the Sea....Pray for us!

LOURDES 2019

Date for your diary

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2019, will take place between 9th—14th June. More details will follow as soon as we have them. *Our Lady of Lourdes: pray for us!*

COLLECTIONS

Parish Collection last week amounted to £3,035.96p. Second collection for the Fathers and Brothers of Betharram, amounted to £347.66p. Grateful thanks.