

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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Coordinating Pastor and Dean

Parish Administrator:

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Holy Ghost Church Address

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PASTORAL AREA CLERGY

St. Joseph, Basingstoke 01256 323595

Fr. Chris Whelan

Fr Emmanuel Rinda

Deacon Patrick O'Connell

Sacred Heart, Hook 01256 577007

Fr. Paul Leonard

St Michael, Tadley 0118 981 4572

Fr. Patrick Tansey

Deacon Anthony Cairns

St. John the Baptist, Andover

Fr. Austin Gurr 01264 352829

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

16th December 2018

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Advent

We have arrived at Gaudete Sunday (*Gaudete* is the Latin word for “rejoice”) this Third Week of Advent, and the Scriptures take on a joyful tone as we continue our preparations for the feast of our Saviour's birth.

Our Second Reading gives us cause for joy as St Paul reminds us, “The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all...” Then he gives us a prescription for maintaining this peace: “In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Paul’s instructions for obtaining peace come as an early Christmas gift. They remind us that we can and should go to God with all our needs and present them to Him *along with our thanks*. This guidance calls to mind a vital aspect of a stewardship way of life: gratitude to God in response to His great love and countless gifts to us.

The Gospel passage, from Luke, shows us how to *live out* this thanks, making our lives a “Christmas gift” to Christ in joyful response to His love for us. When the crowds hear John the Baptist’s message that their Saviour is coming, they ask him what they should do to prepare. He responds, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do the same.” He tells tax collectors to stop collecting more than is prescribed and soldiers, to be satisfied with their wages. In other words, he tells them to be good and generous stewards of all God’s gifts to them! As the great feast of Christmas draws near, let us rejoice in Christ’s extravagant love. Let’s avail ourselves of the peace He longs to give us. And let’s look carefully at our lives to make sure we are indeed making of them a gift fitting for Him.

Taken from Catholic Stewardship

PARISH LITURGY

16th December	9.00 am	SB	Bridget Corr RIP
	11.00 am	SB	Salvatore Agro RIP
	6.30 pm	SB	People of the Parish
Mon 17th	12 Noon	HG	Kitty Lennihan RIP
Tues 18th	12 noon	HG	Requiem Martin Tomkins RIP
Wed 19th	9.30 am	HG	Martha Placha RIP
Thurs 20th	9.30 am	SB	Josephine Brown RIP
	12 noon	HG	Funeral Service Angela Mallozzi RIP
Fri 21st	9.30 am	SB	Int. St. Bede’s School
			St. Bede’s School joining us for Mass
	6.00 pm		<i>Convent / Burgess Rd</i>
Sat 22nd	9.30 am	SB	Oscar Herman Dover RIP
			Confessions after Mass till 10.30 am

23rd December

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year C Psalter Week IV

9.00 am	SB	Pat Farrelly, Eileen & Harold White RIP
11.00 am	SB	People of the Parish
6.30 pm	SB	Dec. Mbrs Hynes & Murphy Family



AN ADVENT THOUGHT:

The Child in Elizabeth's womb "leapt for joy" at the recognition of the Saviour. For what do you 'leap for joy'? Do you ever 'leap for joy' because of your faith? When? Why? Where does Mary's greatness lie in salvation history? How about you? When the Holy Spirit gives you insights, do you always believe them or act on them?

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE (Monday)

5.45 pm Carols
6 pm Vigil Mass
9 pm (Polish Mass at Holy Ghost Church)
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
(All Masses at St. Bede's Church)

CHURCH CLEANERS—the holy dusters !

We wish to thank Joan Rhodes and her 'merry band of Church cleaners' who turn up fortnightly throughout the year to clean St. Bede's Church. They have had a challenging year, but have soldiered on!! Please if you can spare an hour once a fortnight to help with cleaning the Church that would be very much appreciate. The 'Big Clean' for Christmas will be Thursday 20th December after the 9.30 am Mass.

BISHOP PHILIP

Bishop Philip Celebrated Mass in Holy Ghost Church last Monday with Fr. Chris. Bishop Philip was very impressed with our beautiful Church. You can read an article by the Bishop in the Portsmouth Diocese enews.



ST. BEDE'S SCHOOL SUPPORTING STAMP

Stamps are no longer needed, as this year's applications are being processed. Fr. Chris will be available to sign the supporting Supplementary Forms on Saturday 5th January 2019 between 11 am—11.30 am. This is the last chance to have these forms signed.

TODDLER GROUP

St. Bede's Toddler Group meet every Tuesday between 1.30—3.15 pm in the Church Hall.

DIARY:

Sunday 16th Dec: Music: 9 am Choir: 11 am Cantorg: 6.30 pm Quiet
Refreshments after the 9 am & 11 am Masses. Mince pies after the 11 am Mass today, all proceeds going towards the Night Shelter, thank you to Sammy and her helpers.
Repository open after all Masses
SVP SB @ 7.30 pm
Mon 17th
Tue 18th
Wed 19th
Thurs 20th
Toddler group meet SB 1.30—3.15 pm
Choir practice SB 7.30 pm
Repository open 9.00—3.15 pm
Church cleaning SB after 9.30 Mass

GAUDETE SUNDAY

The third Sunday in Advent is called '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 signifying we are into the second half of Advent. And in some Churches on this day the Priest wears rose vestments.

POINSETTIA



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 23rd. They will be used to decorate the Altar at Holy Ghost Church and the Statue of Our Lady at St. Bede's.

BLESSING OF CRIB AT HOME

Blessed are you, Lord God,
King of all creation;
We praise You for Your love.
We thank You because You have loved us so much and sent Your only Son to bring us eternal life.
Bless this Crib that we have prepared,
And let it be a reminder to us of the Lord Jesus,
Son of God and Son of Mary.
Father, we praise You through Christ our Lord. Amen



CONVENT

Friday 21st December at 6 pm—There will be Mass in the Convent at Burgess Rd. All are welcome.

FUNERALS

Requiem for Martin Tomkins RIP on Tuesday 18th December in Holy Ghost Church at 12 noon.
Funeral Service for Angela Mallozzi RIP on Thursday 20th December at 12 noon. We remember their Families and Friends at this sad time.

COLLECTIONS

Parish Collection last week amounted to £2,451.06p. Grateful thanks.
Second collection today for Christmas Flowers.