

# 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

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**Holy Ghost Church Address**

Sherborne Road,  
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**PASTORAL AREA CLERGY**

**St. Joseph, Basingstoke** 01256 323595

Fr. Chris Whelan

Fr. Gaston Forbah

Deacon Patrick O'Connell

**Sacred Heart, Hook** 01256 577007

Fr. Paul Leonard

**St Michael, Tadley** 0118 981 4572

Fr. Patrick Tansey

**St. John the Baptist, Andover**

Fr. Austin Gurr 01264 352829

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday 19th January 2020

At every Mass, just before Communion, we hear the very words that John the Baptist used when first announcing the presence of Jesus: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world." What a blessing it is if we take that announcement as a reminder that we too are called to be like John the Baptist to other people.

Pope Francis often warns of the dangers of being "self-referential", of putting ourselves at the centre of everything, the centre of our own thoughts and desires and hopes. Today John the Baptist stands before us as an inspiring example. Filled with love for Jesus, he is always ready to deflect attention from himself in order to direct it towards Jesus.

We, who have been Baptised in the Spirit, are all invited by God's grace, to follow the example of John the Baptist. We are called to point towards Jesus not simply by word of mouth, at the appropriate time, but above all by daily lives lived by His standards—lives that simply do not make sense unless, like the life of John the Baptist, they are centred upon the Lord.

*Taken from The Living Word, Redemptorist Publications*

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Morning Prayer before all weekday Masses

<b>Sun 19th Jan</b>	9.00 am	SB	Jeane Dry RIP
	11.00 am	SB	People of the Parish
	6.30 pm	SB	Int. Ester & John Taylor
<b>Mon 20th</b>	12 noon	HG	<i>St Fabian, Pope, St Sebastian, Martyr</i> Dec. Mbrs Fogaty Families <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 11 am</i>
<b>Tues 21st</b>	9.30 am	HG	<i>St Agnes, Martyr, memorial</i> Mary Johnson RIP
<b>Wed 22nd</b>	9.30 am	HG	<i>St Vincent, Deacon, Martyr</i> Int. Mike Took
<b>Thur 23rd</b>	No Mass		
<b>Fri 24th</b>	9.30 am	SB	<i>St Francis de Sales, Bishop, memorial</i> Int. Alan Mayer <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11am</i>
<b>Sat 25th</b>	9.30 am	SB	<i>The Conversion of St Paul, feast</i> Thanksgiving El Shaddin <i>Confessions after 9.30 am Mass until 10.45 am</i>

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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<b>Sun 26th Jan</b>	9.00 am	SB	Joan, Tito Gomes RIP
	11.00 am	SB	People of the Parish
	6.30 pm	SB	Dec. Mbrs Hynes & Murphy Families

*"Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength."*  
Saint Francis de Sales

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Bishop Philip writes "The annual worldwide week of prayer for Christian Unity begins on Saturday 18th January and runs until 25th January. The theme of the week this year is "Unusual Kindness" and has been prepared by Christians from Malta and Gozo. On 10th February many Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on those islands. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles used for the feast is the text chosen for this year's Week of Prayer. Hospitality is a much needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. The people who showed unusual kindness to Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together. Our own Christian unity will be discovered not only through showing hospitality to one another, but also through loving encounters with those who do not share our language, culture or faith."

## CAFOD UPDATE MEETING

You are invited to a CAFOD update meeting on Saturday



15th February here at St. Bede's Church from 10:15 am to 12:15 pm. At the meeting Lizzie Funnell, Programme Officer for the Middle East, will give a talk on CAFOD's work there, and there will be an update on how your generous donations are making a difference to people's lives. Everyone is welcome to attend so please let us know if you are coming by emailing [portsmouth@cafod.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk) or call 01252 329385.

## CAMINO WALKING PILGRIMAGE

Taking place from 15th/16th–23rd/24th Sep 2020. Camino del Norte Stage 2: Vilalba to Santiago 125km over six days. Prices for flights and coach £290 approx. Hostel or hotel extra. Must be reasonably fit and prepare by walking regularly before the Camino. An information evening will be held on Thu 6th Feb at 7.30pm in St James Church, Forbury Road, Reading, RG1 3FD. Full information sheet and booking forms available at the meeting or afterwards from the St James Parish Office.

## BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK UPDATE

We had a fabulous response to our Harvest and Christmas donations again in 2019. Thank you all so much for promoting us, raising funds and for your donations of food. We had record numbers of clients coming into both Tadley & Basingstoke centres this Christmas with vouchers. We fed 3 days worth of meals to 1,010 people in Nov & Dec, an increase of 192 people in same period in 2018! In the last 4 months of 2019, we received, sorted and stored 32.4 tonnes of food, some 2 tonnes more than we did in the same period in 2018! We are desperately seeking additional storage facilities. If you know of anywhere that might suit us, 2500 to 3000 sq feet, please get in touch with Pat (07785 312486). In the meantime, to help us manage our space and stock levels, can we ask you to pause donating food until the end of February.

## DIARY:

- Sunday 19th Jan:** Music: 9 am Choir: 11 am Filipino: 6.30 pm Cantorg  
Refreshments after 9 am Mass  
Polish Rosary at 4 pm SB
- Tues 21st  
Wed 22nd  
Thur 23rd
- Sunday 26th Jan:** Music: 9 am Choir: 11 am Cantorg: 6.30 pm Quiet  
Refreshments after 9 and 11am Masses  
Polish Rosary at 4 pm SB

## LUCKY ME WINNER (KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA)

Congratulations to Mrs Ros Spilsbury of Old Basing who is this months 'Lucky Me' draw winner.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION STAMPS

First Holy Communion coloured cards are available in the Cloister, these will need to be stamped every Sunday by the Priest.

## SAFEGUARDING REFRESHER TRAINING

Safeguarding Refresher Training will take place at St. Joseph's Church on Saturday 8th February 2020 from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm. Register with Soraya via email at: [Soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) to book a place.

## MISSIO RED BOXES

Teresa Connor is now stepping down from the role of Local Secretary for Missio. Teresa has been doing this for approximately seven years. We thank her for all her efforts. If you are interested in taking over as please contact Liz Murphy in the Parish Office. The role involves collecting the boxes and counting the contents approximately twice a year.

## BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE



Our Baptism Preparation Course has now begun for January. If you would like your child to be Baptised or would like to find out more about the next course in February please email [baptism@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk](mailto:baptism@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk) or visit our website at <https://www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk/sacraments/>

## ST. JOHNS CATHEDRAL PORTSMOUTH

Next Sunday 26th January, there will be a second collection in support of our Cathedral in Portsmouth. This collection is the only support our Cathedral receives from the wider Diocesan family. Please give generously, gift aiding your donation wherever possible using the envelopes provided. Many thanks.

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Parish Collection amounted to £2,334.10p. Grateful thanks.

## PARKING REMINDER

Please be considerate when parking for Mass and do not park in places that cause an obstruction. Thank you.