

1st Sunday of Advent 27th December 2022

Thought for the Week

First Sunday of Advent - Year A



The first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the Church's liturgical year, shaped by our longing, listening, waiting. This year, Advent is the longest it can ever be with 28 days, because Christmas Day falls on a Sunday.

During Advent, our focus is on God's gift of the divine presence 'made flesh' in Jesus. Isaiah paints a wonderful picture of all nations coming together into an eternal peace that forms the kingdom of God. His vision is for a world of peace and harmony, where no nation is at enmity with another and there is no more training for war. Surely, this is the world we long for, particularly at a time of conflict and the destruction caused by war. As we try to establish God's kingdom on this earth, we prepare to walk in the light of God. St Paul warns us to be awake and Matthew invites us to stand ready.

Hope is a central theme to the season of Advent. This hope will be apparent throughout the next four weeks. Hope is the foundation for our belief that Jesus is coming into our hearts and into the world. This first week prepares us to be people of hope who believe that darkness will not prevail, but that the Light of the World will overcome it. We're invited to 'walk in the light.'

The four candles on the Advent wreath help us to focus on Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. On the First Sunday we light the candle of Hope. Our hope is founded on God who is ever faithful and will keep the promises made to us. This first week gives us the opportunity to centre our thoughts on hope. In HOPE, we search for the LIGHT OF CHRIST to come in its fullness and heal the darkest corners of our world.

Sister Patricia Mulhall, csb

Service of Remembrance + Blessing of Graves

The month of November is when we remember the dead in a special way. A special Service of Remembrance will be celebrated at **15:00 on 27th November in St Edward's**.

The blessing of graves at Oakley Green and Spital Cemeteries will take place on **Saturday 26th November at 10:00**.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Starting in Advent, Confession will be available on:

Tuesday 18:00 - 18:30 (Before Mass)

Saturday 11:00 - 11:30

Saturday 17:30 - 18:00 (Before Mass)

Penitential Service

Our parish Penitential Service will be celebrated in St Edward's on **Saturday 10 December at 10:00**, with refreshments afterwards in the Parish Centre.

Mass Times + Intentions 26 Nov – 4 Dec

Sat 26	18:00	Giuseppe Currenti - INT
Sun 27	09:30	Salud Mamaril Esteban - RIP - St Mark's
	11:00	Madeleine Magic - RIP
Mon 28	10:00	Holy Souls
Tues 29	18:30	James Stanley Arden - RIP
Wed 30	10:00	Henry Williams & Family
Thur 01	10:00	Michael Mower - RIP
Fri 02	12:00	Fr Michael Morrissey - RIP
Sat 03	18:00	Fr Michael Morrissey - RIP
Sun 04	09:30	People of the Parish - St Mark's
	11:00	Zdenka Iapachino - RIP

Parish Diary 26 Nov – 4 Dec

Sat 26	10:00	First Holy Communion: Session 2, St Edward's
	10:00	Blessing of the Graves - Oakley Green & Spital Cemeteries
	19:00	Altar Servers, Christmas Social - P/C
Sun 27	09:30	Childrens' Liturgy - St Mark's
	11:00	Childrens' Liturgy - P/C
	12:00	Parish Teas & Coffee - P/C
	15:00	Remembrance Service - St Edward's
Mon 28	18:30	SVP Meeting - Brigid's Room
Tue 29	10:30	UCM Meeting - P/C
	18:00	Evening Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
	19:15	RCIA Meeting - St Brigid's Room
Wed 30	09:30	Morning Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
	17:30	Mini Vinnies - P/C
	18:30	Choir Practice (Church) & gathering - P/C
Thur 01	09:30	Morning Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
	13:00	Mass Readings Explained - P/C
Sat 03	13:00	Wedding - Katrina MacKay + Nick Gray
Sun 04	12:15	Baptism Preparation - St Brigid's Room

Father David's Diary

Tues 29	12:00	Mass for Deceased Priests - Cathedral
Wed 30	11:00	Clergy Pastoral area meeting - Maidenhead
Thur 01	11:30	Department of Clergy meeting
	13:00	Leadership training
Fri 02	12:00	Closer to Christ meeting and Mass - Cathedral

Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each Friday from 10:00 - 16:00. All welcome.

Holy Hour

There will be a Holy Hour in St Edward's on **Sunday 11th December at 16:00**. In the future, will have a Holy Hour on the second Sunday of each month at 16:00.

Catholic Windsor - website www.catholicwindsor.org

Parish Office

Patricia Brown: Parish Secretary

office@catholicwindsor.org

Richard Flisher: Finance Manager

finance@catholicwindsor.org

Sharon Cole-Blows: Youth Ministry Worker/Coordinator

YouthCoordinator@catholicwindsor.org

Pat Burke: Safeguarding Representative

safeguarding.winde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Pastoral Team

Canon David Hopgood: Parish Priest

canondavid@catholicwindsor.org

Rev George Young: Deacon

georgeyoung@hotmail.com

Sr Teresina Fingleton CSB: Parish Sister

Presbytery: 44 Alma Road, Windsor Berkshire, SL4 3HJ

Phone: 01753 865163

Offertory

SO/DD - £1,836.6 Envelopes - £321.90 Loose - £900.31
W.C.A. (Homeless project) £715.52

Sacrament of the Sick

We have not celebrated the Sacrament of the Sick since before COVID. As a trial, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing on the second Friday of each month during the 12:00 Mass. Anyone who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Healing will be invited to come forward during the Mass. This does not mean that if you are attending the Mass you are obliged to receive the Sacrament. It is a Sacrament for those who are sick in mind or in body and who seek healing. The first will be celebrated on **Friday, 13 January 2023**.

'You will be my Witnesses' - next steps

A big thank you to all who attended the Consultation Sessions and for the points and ideas which were raised, over a hundred people attended the gatherings.

We are now preparing a summary of the points and observations made, these will be sent to the Bishop and shared with the parish in due course.

UCM Meeting

UCM members will meet in the Parish Centre on Tuesday **29 November at 10:30**. Sister Patricia will give an Advent Reflection. All welcome

Signing of School Forms

If you need a school form signed by Fr David, he will be available to sign them in the presbytery on the day and time below:-

Tuesday 29 November 17:00 - 18:00

Baptism Preparation

The next Baptism Preparation will be on **Sunday 4th December**. If you would like to book a place, please contact Isobel on isobelyoung@icloud.com. Preparation starts at 12:15 and lasts around 30+ minutes.

Invitation

Bishop Philip invites you to join him for the annual **Closer to Christ** Mass of Thanksgiving. Details are as follows:

Date: 2 December - 12:15

Location: St John's Cathedral, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth, PO1 3HG

The Mass will be preceded by a gathering with some of our seminarians (beginning at 11:15 in the Discovery Centre).

Light refreshments will also be made available in the Discovery Centre, following the Mass.

To join in the celebration please RSVP to

closerchristcampaign@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

or call 02392 007595. Thank you for your support and please pray for the continued success of the **Closer to Christ** Campaign.

Christmas Talk

Following the well-attended Advent Talk last Saturday by Fr. Kevin Hughes MHM, come and listen to the Christmas Talk in the Parish Centre on Saturday **17 December 10:00** - Dr. Judith Thomas. It will last approximately an hour. All welcome.

HCPT Christmas Fair – Sunday, 11 December

This will be held from 12:00 - 14:00 in the Parish Centre. Please can you help by donating any of the following - a prize for the adults' tombola or childrens' tombola, a gift for the Christmas gifts stall or a cake for the cake stall?

Prizes can be left at the Parish Centre or given to Pat Burke. Cakes on the day of the fair please. We also need helpers to set up, clear away or help on a stall. You can contact Pat by email group128@hcpt.org.uk. *Thank you.*

SVP Christmas Day lunch.

We are organising our annual Christmas lunch for those in the parish, and surrounding areas, who are home alone or in need, on Christmas Day. We are able to arrange transport for those who might require it. If you know of anyone, please let us know ASAP.

Contact Barry Thompson on 07547 514467 or presidentb170321@svp.org.uk or any SVP member.

Save the date! Friday 9 December

Four of our recently Confirmed young people will be attending **World Youth Day 2023** in Lisbon. To support them we are arranging a 'last minute.com' fundraising event. Lots more information to follow in next week's newsletter.

Flame - 4 March 2023

If your child will be 13 or over on **March 4 2023**, we would like them to join us at **Flame**, the biggest conference for Catholic youth held in the UK. If your child is starting confirmation preparations in summer 2023, please register them so they can attend Flame.

The link for to the Flame website is below and you can also follow on all social media platforms. Please encourage your child to take a look! <https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>

To register or for any questions please contact Sharon at: YouthCoordinator@catholicwindsor.org

On-Line Shopping for Christmas

You can donate to the Parish for nothing! Simply download the 'Give as you Live' app using the address below and it will automatically divert your online shopping to your normal supplier. The cost to you is nil; the benefit to the Parish is huge. We already benefit from hundreds of pounds a year from the nearly 30 parishioners currently using the scheme. The retailer donates so we all win. If you sign up in November, the parish will benefit from an additional £10 per sign up! Please join us! <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/st-edwards-r-c-church>

Quire Voices

A choral nativity conducted by Sean Bui, will take place on **Sunday 4 December at 19:30**.

Venue - St Stephen & St Agnes Church, Vansittart Rd, SL4 5EA. Tickets £15.00. www.quirevoices.org.uk