

3rd Sunday of Advent 11th December 2022

Thought for the Week

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for **rejoice**, and this Sunday is the time for us to rejoice because Jesus came and died so that we may live forever with him!



Philippians tells us: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!" Some people ask, "Why are there three purple candles and one pink?" The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the colour violet is a liturgical colour that signifies a time of prayer, penance and sacrifice. Pink or rose represents joy or rejoicing and reveals a shift in the season of Advent away from repentance and toward celebration. The third Advent candle colour on the wreath is pink. It is named the shepherd candle or candle of joy. On the third Sunday of Advent we are invited to reflect on the joy we have access to, because of our faith in Jesus. One of the defining characteristics of Christ-followers is their demeanour. Let's not allow the struggles of the year to steal from the great joy we have because of Jesus. Our readings this Sunday talk of the joy we will receive with the coming of the birth of Jesus. In Isaiah, we hear "Let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it sing for joy." In the Gospel, Jesus sends this positive message back to John, who is in prison. "The Good news is proclaimed to the poor and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me".

Deacon George

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.

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.

Adoration

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

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve, Saturday 24 December
18:00 & 22:00 St Edward's

Christmas Day, Sunday 25 December
09:30 St Mark's
11:00 St Edward's

Mass Times + Intentions 10 – 18 Dec

Sat	10	18:00	Joseph Keogh - RIP
Sun	11	09:30	People of the Parish - St Mark's
		11:00	Jimmy Regan - RIP
Mon	12	10:00	Eucharistic Service
Tues	13	18:30	People of the Parish
Wed	14	10:00	Sophie Harcourt Riley - FM
Thur	15	10:00	Eucharistic Service
Fri	16	12:00	Pat Jordan - RIP
Sat	17	18:00	Brendan Cantwell
Sun	18	09:30	People of the Parish - St Mark's
		11:00	Harry & Doreen Wilson - RIP

Parish Diary 10 - 18 Dec

Sat	10	10:00	Penitential Service & Refreshments P/C
		10:00	First Holy Communion - Reconciliation St Edward's
Sun	11	09:30	Children's Liturgy - St Mark's
		11:00	Children's Liturgy - P/C
		12:00	HCPT Christmas Fair
		16:00	Holy Hour - St Edward's
Mon	12	18:30	Catenian Christmas Party - P/C
Tue	13	17:30	Mini Vinnies - P/C
		18:00	Evening Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
Wed	14	09:30	Morning Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
		18:00	First School Carol Concert - St Edward's
		19:00	Friends of First School - Refreshments P/C
		19:30	Mothers Prayers - St Brigid's Room
Thur	15	09:30	Morning Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
		13:00	Mass Readings Explained - P/C
Fri	16	19:30	Walking with Scripture - P/C
Sat	17	10:00	Advent Talk by Dr Judith Thomas - P/C
		12:00	Baptism - Keziah, Kemishen, Kira Ambassa & Sacha Mbome
Sun	18	09:30	Children's Liturgy - St Mark's
		11:00	Children's Liturgy - P/C

Catholic Windsor - website www.catholicwindsor.org

Parish Office

Patricia Brown: Parish Secretary

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Richard Flisher: Finance Manager

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Pastoral Team

Canon David Hopgood: Parish Priest

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Rev George Young: Deacon

georgeyoung@hotmail.com

Sr Teresina Fingleton CSB: Parish Sister

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

Phone: 01753 865163

Fr David's Diary

Tue 13 09:15 Christmas Assembly Middle School
12:00 Retired Priests, gathering - Winchester
Wed 14 11:00 Clergy Department Meeting
Thur 15 All Day Meeting - Bishops House Portsmouth

Offertory

SO/DD - £ 1,848.08 Envelopes - £294.29 Loose - £738.20

The Rosary

The Rosary is being said after the 12:00 Mass each Friday.

Repository

There is a selection of cards and presents available at the back of the church after Mass. Please do come and have a look.

HCPT Christmas Fair

Sunday 11 December 12:00 - 14:00 in the Parish Centre. Please come along and help raise money towards taking a group of disabled or disadvantaged children to Lourdes. Lots of stalls and **Father Christmas** will be there!

Christmas Talk

As we approach the Nativity, come along to the Christmas Talk on **Saturday 17 December at 10:00** in the Parish Centre. The Speaker is Dr Judith Thomas. It will last an hour. refreshments and mince pies will be served afterwards.

Flowers for Christmas

For those who wish, there will be a retiring collection on **Sunday 18 December** for the flowers in our churches this Christmastide. As the flowers in St Edward's will be arranged on Friday 23 December, **Adoration** that day will take place in the **Parish Centre** and finish at 14:00.

SVP Christmas Day Lunch

Please continue to let us know of anyone who is 'home alone' or in need on Christmas Day and would like to attend the lunch. We would be grateful for any financial donations towards the lunch which can be paid directly into our bank account.

The Account Name is B170321 St Edwards
Sort code 60-60-64 - Account No 46075410
(The reference B170321 represents our reference within the SVP National Finances) or give to any SVP team member.

If you are also able to email, could you let our treasurer, Roger Ellerker, treasurerb170321@svp.org.uk, know about your donation.

We also need drivers and volunteers on Christmas Day from 12:15 - 13:00 and 15:00 - 15:45.

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

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 the parish will benefit from an additional £10 per sign up! Please join us!

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/st-edwards-r-c-church>

Found

If you have lost your Sunday Missal, please contact the Parish Office.

Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal

Mini Winnies believe every child deserves a new gift at Christmas, so they would like to support the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal by collecting donations of new and unused items of the following:

0-3 years: dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, puzzles.

3-5: dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, DVDs and CDs (music and nursery rhymes), colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles.

5-9: educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), CDs & family friendly DVDs, books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords.

9-12: games and toys, stationery, DVDs, books, t-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats

13-16: books, make-up & toiletries, gloves, scarves, hats, t-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers.

If you would like to donate, we will be collecting after each Mass next weekend. **There will be collection boxes left out from this weekend for early dropping off.**

Induction loop system

St Edward's Church now has a new induction loop system for everyone who uses a hearing aid. Simply turn to the 'T' setting and enjoy the good-quality sound. Please always do so, as not doing this can result in feedback onto the system and interference on the speakers.

Signature A Cappella Singers

This ladies' choir practices every Thursday in our Parish Centre and includes some parishioners.

They will be performing for charity within the Windsor Central Station shopping area, on **Sunday 11 December** from 14:00 – 16:00.

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.

World Youth Day 2023

Four of our recently Confirmed young people will be attending **World Youth Day 2023** in Lisbon next year.

To support them we will be arranging fund raising events in the New Year. Please watch this space!

National Office for Vocation: Advent 2022 - 'As the Light grows'

Advent is a good time for us to stop and listen to hear how God is speaking with each of us.

You can follow the series each week through the Portsmouth Vocations social media channels and the NoV Website: www.ukvocation.org