

2nd Sunday of Advent 4th December 2022

Thought for the Week

In a way John the Baptist is Advent, just as, in another way, Mary is. Both, in complementary ways, prepared for the coming of Christ. Mary, as his mother, made his birth possible, his becoming one of us; she gave the Word flesh. John as his herald, would baptise him 30 years later. This was the beginning of the public life of Jesus. Mary stands for faith and obedience. 'I am the handmaid of the Lord; let what you have said be done to me'. John stands for repentance. 'repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand' - in other words change your attitudes or change how you live. With Mary, Advent begins in a village, in a home in the middle of daily life, where an Angel finds her. With John it begins in the desert, away from the world. 'The word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness'.



Jesus never comes alone. He comes with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He comes with all the figures of the Old Testament behind him. He comes surrounded by people: Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men, Simeon and Anna, and John the Baptist, later all the disciples. The coming of Christ to us is the same, 'your friends are my friends'. We are never alone, for we are part of the Church, both in this world and the world to come.

Being part of this family of God comes with responsibility. When we sin and offend God and others, we let down Christ and all his friends. The call of his friend John the Baptist rings true today as he speaks to us to REPENT. Advent is a season of hope because we can repent and not only have our sins forgiven, but be filled with the Holy Spirit, as was Mary. Reconciliation brings forgiveness and the grace to live better lives.

I invite you to go to Confession during this season of hope. The Reconciliation Service will take place on Saturday, 10 December at 10:00. There will be many priests available to help us celebrate this Sacrament. If you have not been to Confession for years - then this could be your time.

Canon David Hopgood.

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 3 – 11 Dec

Sat 03	18:00	Fr Michael Morrissey - RIP
Sun 04	09:30	Zdenka Iapachino RIP - St Mark's
	11:00	People of the Parish
Mon 05	10:00	Michael Gorman - RIP
Tues 06	18:30	Robbie O'Conner - RIP
Wed 07	10:00	Tommy Sharkey - RIP
Thur 08	09:30	Joan O'Donoghue - RIP
Fri 09	12:00	Norman Bamber - RIP
Sat 10	18:00	Joseph Keogh - RIP
Sun 11	09:30	People of the Parish - St Mark's
	11:00	Jimmy Regan - RIP

Parish Diary 3 - 11 Dec

Sat 03	10:00	First Holy Communion: Session 3, St Edward's
	13:00	Wedding - Katrina MacKay + Nick Gray
Sun 04	10:30	Tea & Coffee after Mass - St Mark's
	12:00	Parish Teas & Coffee - P/C
	12:15	Baptism Preparation - St Brigid's Room
Mon 05	18:30	Catenian Meeting - St Brigid's Room
Tue 06	17:15	Spirituality Group - Parish Centre
	18:00	Evening Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
Wed 07	09:30	Morning Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
Thur 08	09:30	Morning Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
	13:00	Mass Readings Explained - P/C
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

Father David's Diary

Tue 06	10:00	Clergy Advent Day - Douai Abbey
	17:15	Spirituality Group - Parish Centre
Wed 07	12:00	Department for Clergy - Sandhurst
Thur 08	11:00	Historic Churches - Douai Abbey
Fri 09	10:00	Leadership Meeting

Offertory

SO/DD - £ 1,848.08 Envelopes - £283.27 Loose - £561.81

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

HCPT Christmas Fair

Sunday 11 December 12:00 – 14:00 in the Parish centre. Can you help by donating any of the following - a prize for the adults' tombola or a cake for the cake stall? Prizes can be left at the Parish Centre, in the box at the back of St Mark's or given to Pat Burke.

Cakes on the day of the fair please. You can contact Pat by emailing group128@hcpt.org.uk

Thank you, we hope to see lots of people on the day, supporting the HCPT group.

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 and refreshments and mince pies will be served afterwards.

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.

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!

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>

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

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.

Coffee Morning at St Mark's

Refreshments will be served after Mass in the Parish Hall this Sunday. Come and join us!

Vocations Advent 2022

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

Deceased

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Anna Tiack (sister of Karen Salter) who died recently.